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The Scottish Conservatives have slammed the SNP after their Westminster leader revealed plans to reboot the campaign for independence.

Ian Blackford denied that independence had been put on the back burner, saying “We’ve clearly got a manifesto commitment from the 2016 election that says if there is a change in circumstances there’s the question of a second referendum.”

It comes after Nicola Sturgeon promised that there would be a “forward-looking and ambitious” relaunch of the campaign, despite having said she would delay her plans after the General Election.

Scottish Conservative MSP Murdo Fraser said these comments completely destroyed any claims that the SNP would be focussing on the day job.

Scottish Conservative shadow finance secretary Murdo Fraser MSP said:

“These latest comments from the SNP prove once and for all that they will always put independence first.

“Despite voters sending them a clear message this year that they are fed up with them obsessing over independence, the SNP just aren’t listening.

“It destroys claims from Nicola Sturgeon that her priority is anything but separation, or that she would be getting back to the day job.

“People are crying out for the Scottish Government to start concentrating on improving our hospitals, schools and the economy.

“But instead we have a narrow minded administration that will stop at nothing until they have torn Scotland out of the UK.”