

Mundell: Holyrood can flourish, but not under the SNP

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The Scottish Parliament can never fulfil its potential to improve the lives of Scots as long as the SNP is in government, David Mundell said today.

Ahead of Holyrood's 20th anniversary, the Secretary of State for Scotland said the nationalists – as well as previous Labour and Liberal Democrat administrations – have failed to maximise the benefits of devolution.

Addressing the Scottish Conservative conference in Aberdeen, he said only a Ruth Davidson-led Scottish Government can change the everyday lives of voters for the better.

He will say:

“Successive Scottish Governments have failed to realise the potential of the Scottish Parliament.

“First there was the uninspiring and managerial Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition.

“Now we have the SNP, which has been in government for the past 12 years.

“The aspirations of the Scottish Parliament have been left unfulfilled by an SNP government that is obsessed with independence.

“Nicola Sturgeon's answer to the challenges of today is to blame Westminster and demand more powers.

“The Scottish Parliament has great potential to deliver distinct Scottish solutions to the challenges that we face here in Scotland, while ensuring that we continue to share resources to tackle issues that the whole UK faces.

“That could be happening right now.

“Yet the Scottish Parliament is never going to achieve that potential under the SNP.

“It is never going to achieve that potential while politics in Scotland is stuck on an endless indyref loop.”