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The Scottish Conservatives are calling on Nicola Sturgeon to take a 2nd independence referendum off the table in her conference speech, saying it is time for her to end the chaos over the SNP's plans.

It follows a conference marked by complete confusion over the SNP's indyref2 preparations.

Nicola Sturgeon watered down her plans on a strict timetable on a referendum, fellow MPs have backed a referendum immediately, others have insisted it is better left until after 2021, while Joanna Cherry has suggested a referendum isn't required at all.

Speaking ahead of her conference speech, Scottish Conservative chief whip Maurice Golden said:

“Nicola Sturgeon led the SNP troops half way into battle, and then called halt.

“After more than a year milling around with no direction from the top, the SNP foot soldiers have used this conference for a group chat on whether and where to march next.

“When it comes to Scotland's future, everyone in the SNP has an opinion but nobody has a plan.

“All the while, Scotland's schools are going backwards, waiting times are being missed, and the economy is in the slow lane.

“Nicola Sturgeon can show leadership today by doing the right thing: and taking a second referendum off the table. The SNP army might not like it, but at least they'd know what was going on.”