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Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of “grandstanding” in London over Brexit, in the hope of drawing attention away from her civil war with predecessor Alex Salmond.

The First Minister arrived at Westminster this morning following last night’s Brexit vote in the House of Commons.

As well as again banging the drum for independence, she insisted her job was not on the line over the Salmond scandal, despite her now facing a specially set-up Holyrood probe and an investigation under the ministerial code.

And in a bizarre series of interviews where she stood against a backdrop of listless SNP MPs, she insisted Scotland’s interests would “only be protected with independence”.

Scottish Conservative chief whip Maurice Golden said:

“Once again, we see Nicola Sturgeon playing her usual political games today.

“Before people were even out of bed this morning, she was seeking to use last night’s vote to bang on about independence.

“Then she hot-footed it to Westminster, clearing calculating that grandstanding in Westminster might help distract people from her role in the Alex Salmond scandal.

“Finally, after accusing others of being delusional, she then insisted her job is not on the line over the affair. It is the First Minister who appears increasingly detached from reality.

“No wonder the SNP MPs ordered to line up behind her in Westminster looked so fed up.

“Nicola Sturgeon also needs to explain exactly why she needed to be in London today. Was she there as First Minister? If so, why should the taxpayer stump up for a SNP media stunt?

“The First Minister is losing the plot. More and more, people are asking why on earth we should put up with it?”