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Nicola Sturgeon's decision to hold another independence referendum has been branded "utterly irresponsible" by Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson.

Earlier today the First Minister announced she wanted to hold a second independence referendum next year.

This is despite previously saying she would only do so if the majority of Scots wanted another vote, and that it was a "once in a generation" decision.

Repeated polling has shown not only opposition to independence, but widespread objection to another referendum.

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said:

"Nicola Sturgeon has today given up acting as First Minister for all of Scotland.

"People have said time and again they do not want to go back to the division of a second referendum.

"Nicola Sturgeon promised the 2014 referendum would be 'once in a generation'.

"Today she has ignored the majority in Scotland who do not want a referendum and has decided instead to double down on division and uncertainty.

"The First Minister's proposal offers Scotland the worst of all worlds. Her timetable would force people to vote blind on the biggest political decision a country could face.

"This is utterly irresponsible and has been taken by the First Minister purely for partisan political reasons.

"Both No and Yes voters have been urging her to put this to one side – but because of her own rash decision to use Brexit in a bid to lever support for independence, she has ignored them completely.

"Quite simply, today the First Minister has failed in her job to act in the

interests of all of us.”