

First Airbus Training Centre in Asia to be set up in New Delhi

Airbus is setting up a greenfield training facility at Aerocity, New Delhi, to support India's growing need

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THE SNP'S DECADE OF DIVISION

17 March 2017

With the SNP holding its Conference in Aberdeen, Labour has published a new dossier exposing the impact of a decade of division.

As this week has shown, the Nationalists always only have one thing on their mind – dragging Scotland out of the UK. That lack of focus on the day job has resulted in a failure to manage Scotland's schools and hospitals, invest in our police, and deliver for working families across the country.

You can read *A Decade of Division* by clicking on the image below.



Scottish Labour will vote against the SNP's plan for another divisive referendum on leaving the UK. We believe that together we're stronger.

Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale said:

"The SNP has overseen a decade of division.

"Where Nicola Sturgeon should have been governing, she has instead divided.

"Where she should have been fixing the mess her party has made of our schools, she has instead stoked grievance.

"In ten years of SNP rule, our valued public services have been ignored and neglected in the Nationalists' pursuit of independence at any cost.

"Nicola Sturgeon's only tangible achievement in government has been passing on Tory austerity to Scotland.

"There is a better way. Scottish Labour believes together we're stronger.

"Instead of spending the coming years continuing to stoke division, the SNP need to do the job it was elected to – govern the country."

Aberdeen City Council leader Jenny Laing said:

"In Aberdeen and the north-east we have felt the brunt of SNP austerity and division.

"Our council is the lowest funded in the country, while NHS Grampian has been persistently starved of cash.

"The SNP's business rates bombshell will send many local firms to the wall.

"For years, Nationalist ministers have let down Aberdeen. Our life-saving major trauma centre – promised in 2014 – has now been delayed for years.

"While the SNP was happy to tout our oil and gas industry during its doomed separation drive, action has been lacklustre at best since the oil price drop.

"Labour in Aberdeen will fight against the unwanted SNP plans for a second independence referendum that would be even more damaging for jobs and businesses."

If you agree that together we're stronger as part of the UK, sign our pledge at www.togetherstronger.scot

[News story: Army's future is secure in Brecon](#)

Sir Michael confirmed that the Brecon Infantry Battle School will remain open, providing world-class training to 3,500 infantry soldiers each year who are preparing to become future Army leaders.

During the visit he also announced that the Regimental Museum of The Royal Welsh is likely to remain in its current location for at least a decade as

the Ministry of Defence discusses a long-term lease for the site.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

Brecon has a long Army history. The Infantry Battle School and Sennybridge Training Area will stay and continue to be a vital location for training and exercises for thousands of soldiers every year.

Today was an opportunity to review our plans for the Barracks and Regimental Museum with Chris Davies and others to ensure that we help attract jobs and investment when we leave the Barracks by 2027

With a brigade headquarters and combat units continuing to be based in Wales, Wales' long term future as a key defence location is secure.

The Armed Forces has a strong connection to Wales, and the Defence Secretary also revealed figures showing that Defence spent £870 million with Welsh industry in 2015/16, amounting to around £280 per person and supporting 5,250 jobs. Wales is also home to one of the Army's major UK training areas at Sennybridge, which is used for various exercises throughout the year.

As part of the MOD's Better Defence Estate strategy, Brecon Barracks will be released, opening up a prime town centre site for redevelopment with the potential to bring economic opportunities and job creation to the area. By selling sites such as these, the MOD is investing £4 billion over 10 years to provide accommodation and facilities better suited to our modern Armed Forces and their families.

160 Brigade will continue to be based out of Wales, as well as the RAF's fast jet pilot training school at RAF Valley. Around 2180 regulars are based across the country plus a thousand of MOD civilian staff, demonstrating Defence's continued long-term commitment to Wales.

Sir Michael's announcements came as he met Rangers and Riflemen from 160th Infantry Brigade and presented two members of the Royal Irish Regiment with St Patrick's Day shamrocks.

News story: Closer partnerships needed to fight serious and organised crime

Ben Wallace, speaking to an audience of law enforcement and public and private sector representatives at the Home Office's Serious and Organised Crime Conference in Birmingham, said officers needed to share more

intelligence with local government representatives in an effort to tackle crime bosses.

The Minister underlined how multi-agency partnerships around the country could help to dismantle serious and organised crime groups, with effective joint working already taking place between local authorities, police forces and sectors within the Government Agency Intelligence Network, such as HMRC and the Environment Agency.

But he called for the level of information sharing and collaboration to be taken to new heights.

The Security Minister said:

We know that crime bosses will look to exploit any avenue that they can tap into in order to make massive profits or launder their dirty money.

Our own research indicates organised crime groups are now looking to benefit from public sector contracts and we must do everything possible to clamp down on this abuse.

That's why I'm asking each police force around the country to work more closely than ever with local authorities and other important partners in their patch – sharing information on known crime groups, identifying attempts to profit from public sector contracts and closing down bogus suppliers.

The Security Minister referred to a Home Office pilot which saw local authorities and police forces in seven areas collaborate to examine the extent to which major crime groups are looking to exploit public sector contracts.

This pilot not only identified the areas particularly at risk of being targeted by crime groups, but also demonstrated how effective partnerships between local authorities and forces could be in disrupting those involved.

Ben Wallace referenced the work as he asked forces to carry out more detailed assessments of the crime groups operating in their area and to share these with local authorities so links can be found with suppliers who bid for public procurement contracts.

The Minister explained this level of information sharing could significantly improve the fight against serious and organised crime.