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- Swinney claims North Sea oil was merely an independence 'bonus'

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Oil was never the basis for the Scottish economy, but merely a bonus, the Deputy First Minister claimed today.

The admission exposes a split at the top of the SNP in the same week its top financial adviser Andrew Wilson said the complete opposite, and that the nationalists had depended on oil revenues for their financial projections.

Today at First Minister's Questions, Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson challenged Mr Swinney – who was standing in for Nicola Sturgeon – on the contradiction.

However, he refused to explain the differences in opinion, and also dodged the issue of a fresh SNP drive for separation.

It was reported this morning that Nicola Sturgeon regards the autumn of 2018 as the "common sense" time for a referendum re-run.

This is despite repeated polls showing people don't want it, and little movement in polls Ms Sturgeon said would need to shift significantly before she called another referendum.

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said:

"It may have been a new face in the First Minister's seat, but the bluster was the same as ever.

"We now have a very stark contradiction at the heart of the SNP.

"Its chief financial adviser says oil was the basis on which a separate Scotland would have been built.

"But the Deputy First Minister says it was merely planned as a bonus.

"They can't both be right, and this contradiction exposes that the entire economic prospectus on which the SNP based its case for independence was bogus.

"Nicola Sturgeon thinks it's 'common sense' to have another divisive and unwanted referendum next year.

“But most Scots don’t want to go back to that division and uncertainty, and most think this irresponsible talk will only damage Scotland’s economy further.

“That’s the kind of common sense the SNP should be deploying.”

SNP strategy chief Andrew Wilson said oil was in fact the “basis” for his party’s independence plans in 2014. This is despite John Swinney previously saying it wasn’t the basis, but “a bonus”:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2017/03/never-mind-indyref2-snp-must-own-up-to-the-lies-of-indyref1/>

Nicola Sturgeon said today 2018 would be the “common sense” time for another referendum:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/09/nicola-sturgeon-autumn-2018-common-sense-time-second-independence/>

[National Statistics: UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2015](#)

Each statistical table breaks down information by key areas, such as species and landing port. They are presented according to the chapter of the report they relate to.

The following underlying data sets provide full information on landings, both quantity and values, by vessel length (such as 10 metres and under and over 10 metre vessels), gear grouping and species.

Summary of changes to tables

The statistical tables in both the United Kingdom Sea Fisheries Statistics publication itself and accompanying tables may differ slightly from year to year. This summary details changes to the tables since 2006.

Pre-release access list

The pre-release access order 2008 restricts who can see official statistics before they’re published. Ministers and officials are provided with early access for the sole purpose of being able to respond completely when questions arise at the time of release. In line with the Release Practices Protocol, early pre-access is provided no earlier than 24 hours before release.

News story: 'Forward Ladies' entrepreneur Etta Cohen honored

Etta Cohen founded '[Forward Ladies](#)' in 1999. She began her organisation by meeting with locally employed women and women who had founded their own businesses. 'Forward Ladies' now supports more than 1,300 business women across the country and hosts more than 300 events a year.

The honour has been given as the world recognises International Women's Day on 8 March, where the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women is celebrated.

Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility Margot James said:

This honour is a tribute to Etta's outstanding commitment to raising the profile of women in the work place.

As the world celebrates International Women's Day this week, it's important to remember how much more successful our economy is thanks to the increased contribution of women.

We need more women making decisions at the top of business, and people like Etta have the drive and vision to help make that happen.

The name 'Forward Ladies' was suggested for Etta's group because it reflects her determination to develop and encourage women from all levels of professional life. She has worked tirelessly to organise training days, talks from inspirational business speakers and networking events to grow her organisation into the success it is today.

Now with a small team behind her, the sustainable business supports 13,000 business woman and runs more than 350 events a year from trade missions to networking events.

She also promotes diversity and equality at both regional and national levels working closely with key government agencies. 'Forward Ladies' operates across 10 UK regions and believes that women from all cultures should play in the building of future prosperity. Etta sits on a range of boards across different industries, notably the Yorkshire Asian Business Association (YABA).

The ceremony was conducted this week at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

An OBE is a Queen's honour given to an individual for a major local role in any activity such as business, charity or the public sector. OBE stands for Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

National Statistics: UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2014

Each statistical table breaks down information by key areas, such as species and landing port. They are presented according to the chapter of the report they relate to.

UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2014 Charts A1.12 – A1.18 were published using incomplete data. This error has been amended and updated charts are available in this corrigendum to the 2014 publication. The error affected only charts A1.12 – A1.18 (pages 125 – 131) in Appendix 1 of UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2014.

The following underlying data sets provide full information on landings, both quantity and values, by vessel length (such as 10 metres and under and over 10 metre vessels), gear grouping and species.

Summary of changes to tables

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National Statistics: UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2013

Each statistical table breaks down information by key areas, such as species and landing port. They are presented according to the chapter of the report they relate to.

The following underlying data sets provide full information on landings, both quantity and values, by vessel length (such as 10 metres and under and over 10 metre vessels), gear grouping and species.

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