

We don't need another divisive referendum – Kez

Commenting on the Prime Minister's remarks about any future referendum on Scotland leaving the UK, **Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale** said:

"Scottish Labour will vote against Nicola Sturgeon's demands for a second referendum on Scotland leaving the UK. Our country is divided enough – we don't need another divisive referendum.

"We need the SNP government to get on with the day job. That means focusing on jobs, growing the economy and helping family incomes.

"Scottish Labour believes that together we're stronger, and the Labour Party I lead will never support leaving the UK.

"Holding another referendum on leaving the UK is the wrong thing to do for Scotland's economy, especially when there is so much economic uncertainty from the Tories' reckless and complacent plans for a hard Brexit.

"We should not forget that we are only in this position because of the Tories' reckless Brexit gamble.

"There absolutely should not be another independence referendum until after Brexit. We have no idea what Brexit looks like, or how it will impact our economy and families in Scotland. People cannot be asked to make a decision about the future of our 300-year old Union in the dark. If there is to be another vote the people of Scotland deserve clarity on what they are being asked to vote on.

"Nicola Sturgeon should stop trying to pretend that if Scotland leaves the UK we would remain in the EU. It is clear that a separate Scotland would need to reapply for EU membership from scratch, regardless of the Brexit process.

"If after Brexit we have that clarity and the people of Scotland want a referendum on leaving the UK then it isn't the job of the UK government to stand in the way of that. But if there has to be another referendum it cannot be a stitch up by either Nicola Sturgeon or Theresa May."

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