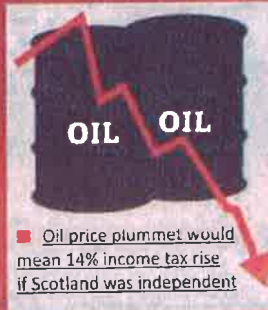
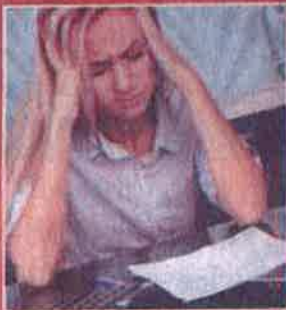


THE PRICE TO PAY FOR INDEPENDENCE?

- Thousands of college places lost
- Hospitals in bed shortage crisis
- Cancer treatment targets missed



When the SNP dropped everything to campaign for independence, they took their eye off the ball and local services suffered.

Thousands of college places were lost, the NHS in Scotland faced a bed shortage crisis and targets for cancer treatment were missed.

Despite losing the referendum, the SNP are still refusing to take 'No' for an

answer, and are continuing their campaign.

Instead of listening to the will of the Scottish people, they are trying to gain independence by the back door - by winning every single MP seat in Scotland.

The Liberal Democrats are leading the way on getting more powers for the Scottish Parliament, but are also fully focussed on improving local services.

Local Liberal Democrat MP Alistair Carmichael said,

"Despite Scotland voting 'NO' in the referendum, it's clear that many local people would like to see more powers for a stronger Scottish Parliament.

"I am proud that we are leading the way on this, but it should not come at the expense of neglecting day-to-day services.

"Local services are being severely damaged by the SNP's 'independence at all costs' attitude."

VAT Relief for the RNLI



Local Liberal Democrat, Alistair Carmichael, has welcomed news that as from April search and rescue charities such as the Lifeboats will no longer have to pay VAT.

Alistair commented, "I have campaigned for this change since I was first elected to parliament and it is great to see it being delivered. I served for three years as a member of the RNLI National Council and learned a great deal there about how this tremendous organisation works.

"I met the crew of the Stromness boat a few days after they had rescued the Spanish fishing vessel, *O Genita*. Having seen video of the conditions in which they went out my already high admiration for them went through the roof."



Alistair says, "Thank you"

Alistair Carmichael has thanked everyone who returned his recent survey form.

He said, "I have had a massive response to my recent constituency-wide survey. I am grateful to everyone who took the time and trouble to reply.

"I hope to get replies sent to everyone in the next week or

two. There is a lot of work involved in a constituency-wide survey of this sort but it helps me to keep in touch with local opinion and to keep local people informed about my work."

If you haven't had a chance to complete Alistair's survey yet, you still can online at:

bit.ly/OrkneySurvey or bit.ly/ShetlandSurvey

It's Alistair or the SNP in Orkney & Shetland

The local choice in May will be between Alistair Carmichael, a hard-working local MP who stands up for our communities, and a Nationalist who will take his orders from Edinburgh.



Picture: Neil Gowrie, 2008/03/20
 Photo: Paul Anderson
 Photo: Paul Anderson
 Photo: Paul Anderson



Orkney and Shetland Shortchanged By the SNP

Northern Isles excluded from cheap fares

Islanders Demand Fair Ferry Fares - **NOW**

Local people in Orkney and Shetland have reacted angrily to SNP ministers excluding the Northern Isles from help to bring down the cost of lifeline ferry fares. The nationalists' "Road Equivalent Tariff" scheme cuts ferry fares on Scotland's west coast and Firth of Clyde but not for Orkney and Shetland.

Liberal Democrat candidate, Alistair Carmichael, said, "SNP ministers are boasting that nationalist policy means ferry fares to the Firth of Clyde islands and Inner Hebrides will be cut by 44% for passengers and 55% for cars."

"They point to the obvious benefits this will have for local businesses – especially in tourism."

"For once I think they might be right. But tourism is also important to Orkney and Shetland. It has to be wrong that taxpayers' money is being used to favour one place against another. It is simple discrimination."

Local MSPs Liam McArthur and Tavish Scott have condemned the discrimination in the Scottish Parliament.

Liam McArthur MSP said, "When Liberal Democrats in the previous Scottish Government cut the cost of air fares through the Air Discount Scheme it helped all island communities. The SNP, however, are happy to play one island off against another and hold the Northern Isles to ransom. Is this really how the nationalists think an Islands Minister should behave?"

Tavish Scott added, "Local people can see this two-faced transport policy for what it is. The nationalists come up with all sorts of crazy figures suggesting we would pay more because of our longer distances. Yet their own figures show this to be untrue. The principle is simple. If they wanted to cut our fares they could, but they don't."



Alistair Carmichael collecting signatures for his fair fares petition

Fair Fares Now! Sign the petition today:

We, the undersigned, demand fair funding for ferry services to the Northern Isles

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Your Name: _____ | Your Name: _____ | Your Name: _____ |
| Your Address: _____ | Your Address: _____ | Your Address: _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Your email: _____ | Your email: _____ | Your email: _____ |

Return to: Alistair Carmichael, 39 Albert Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1HP

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What the **Liberal Democrats** will do for you and your family.



£1,200 back in your pocket

In 2010 the Liberal Democrat manifesto promised to raise the amount of money that working people could earn before paying tax from £6,500 to £10,000.

The tax-free allowance is actually now £10,600. Three million of our lowest paid workers now pay no tax at all. In the next parliament we want to raise that figure still further to £12,000.

Liberal Democrat Minister, Vince Cable, recently announced an inflation-busting increase in the level of the minimum wage for the second year running. From October it will be £6.70 per hour – up from £6.31 in 2013.

By raising the minimum wage and cutting tax we aim to give most help to low paid workers.



Biggest ever rise in state pension

Since 2010 pensions have been guaranteed to rise in line with average earnings, inflation or by a minimum of 2.5%.

As a result of this "triple lock" we delivered the largest ever increase in the state pension.

Alistair Carmichael said, "The Conservatives broke the link between the state pension and earnings in the 1980s. The Labour Party had thirteen years to restore it but did not. In fact, one year they increased it by a miserly 75p. This shows the difference that Liberal Democrats have made in government. I would now like to see the "triple lock" written in to law."



Money for the NHS our top priority

The coalition government has protected spending on health so that it has gone up each year in line with inflation.

Despite this, experts estimate that an extra £8 billion is needed in the next parliament across the UK. Liberal Democrats are the only party that has committed to putting that money AND who have said how they will pay for it.

Alistair Carmichael said, "Now that we have a strong and growing economy we can look at spending on public services that need more money. Health is our top priority. I am particularly keen to see money go into mental health services."

SNP MPs to be gagged

Nationalist MPs elected on May 7th will not be allowed to say what they think if it disagrees with their party bosses. The recent SNP conference overwhelmingly approved new rules that forbid MPs from "publicly criticising a group decision, policy or another member of the group". They will be obliged to "abide by and support the SNP policies".

Alistair Carmichael said, "No other party in the Commons controls its MPs to this extent. An MP should always be free to stand up for their constituents – even if it goes against the party line. I once resigned from my party's front bench to do it."

"If I had followed this approach in the last parliament then the Shetland Coastguard Station would have closed."

SNP accused of gagging own MPs "like Stalin"

Scotsman, 30th March 2015



I'd govern like a true Tory if it wasn't for the LibDems
Exclusive Cameron interview PAGE 11

"Philip Hammond, when Transport Secretary, was 'angry' to be summoned to a meeting with the Lib Dem Chief Whip Alistair Carmichael and told to abandon plans to make cuts to the coastguard service. He was told that stopping the cuts, which would have affected Mr Carmichael's Orkney and Shetland constituency, had become a 'Coalition matter'.

"[The] plan, to cut the number of full-time coastguard stations in Scotland, was abandoned in 2011 at the behest of Mr Carmichael.

Mr Hammond was called to a meeting by the then Government Chief Whip, Patrick McLoughlin, and Mr Carmichael to be told to abandon the plans.

The source said: "Hammond was told the running of Shetland's coastguards was a 'Coalition matter' and he should scrap it. He was angry about that."

Mail on Sunday, 2nd June 2012

The Choice for us on May 7th

Alistair Carmichael

- ✓ Won a lower rate of fuel duty for local motorists - saving you 5p per litre every time you fill up.
- ✓ Won the battle to keep Shetland Coastguard Station open.
- ✓ Won the battle to keep the Emergency Tug based in Orkney.
- ✓ Won Treasury help to end Shetland's historic housing debt - keeping rents down for SIC tenants.

OR

A Nationalist who will take his orders from Edinburgh.

- ✗ Excluded Orkney and Shetland from cheaper ferry fares
- ✗ Ended Air Discount Scheme for local businesses
- ✗ Established a single Scottish Police Force - ending local accountability and massively increasing the use of stop and search powers
- ✗ Underfunded local NHS services by £1.6million a year

Vote for Alistair Carmichael on Thursday May 7th

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Letter from Westminster

12/11/2010, by Shetland Times, in Features

The members' tea room in the House of Commons has been buzzing this week in a way that I have not seen for some time.

What, I hear you ask, has stirred up our nation's legislators in this way? You might think it would be spending cuts or maybe the closure of RAF bases or maybe even changes to benefit rules. No. The thing that seems to have animated parliament this week is the decision of an election court at the end of last week that Labour MP Phil Woolas ran such a dishonest campaign in the May election that he was guilty of illegal practice under the Representation of The People Act 1983.

The election result was void and that there will have to be a by-election. Mr Woolas had distributed leaflets during the campaign stating that his Liberal Democrat opponent sought to woo the support of Islamic fundamentalists who supported the use of violence. It was brutal stuff.

We have had some vigorous debates in the isles over the years but by and large they have focused on the issues and not been personalised. It is a political tradition that we should be careful to preserve.

It is, I am told, the first time in 99 years that a court has returned a verdict of this sort. That in itself should give you some idea of how extravagant (and damaging) some of the claims made by Mr Woolas were.

The buzz in the tearoom, however, is that this judgment is an unjustifiable interference in the political process by the courts. A politician, the argument seems to go, should be allowed to make whatever outrageous and untruthful claim that he or she wants about an opponent.

It is a thoroughly depressing argument to listen to. Everyone knows that politics is a robust trade, especially in an election campaign. No-one would expect candidates to spend their time highlighting their opponents' virtues but to suggest any smear is justifiable must be wrong.

Most worryingly it betrays an attitude that I had hoped would have been eradicated by the expenses scandals of the last parliament – namely that different rules should apply to MPs than apply to the rest of the population. If Tesco tried to smear the Co-op in the same way it would soon be in trouble. Why should politics be different?

Harriet Harman must be wondering when she will next be able to open her mouth without upsetting someone. A couple of weeks ago she had to apologise for referring to my colleague Danny Alexander as a "ginger rodent". She might have thought she was on safer ground disowning Mr Woolas and his activities, but no. She has been faced by what is described by insiders as a "mutinous reaction" by Labour MPs. There is talk of them all chipping in to a fighting fund to help pay for their former colleague's legal fees.

The right to freedom of speech is a fundamental one but it does bring a responsibility with it to tell the truth. The right to smear an opponent is not one we should be defending.

*Allstair Carmichael MP*TAGS: [Letter from Westminster](#)

Nicola Sturgeon on Twitter: ".@simon_telegraph your story is categorically, 100%, untrue...which I'd have told you if you'd asked me at an..."

Simon Johnson @simon_telegraph · Apr 3
EXCLUSIVE by me and @peterdominiczak Sturgeon tells senior diplomat she wants Cameron to "remain" in Downing Street bit.ly/1D1tiCF

206 44

Nicola Sturgeon @NicolaSturgeon [Follow](#)

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1:47 p.m. - 3 Apr 2015

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..#TelegraphTellTruthAndShameTheDevil

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Ben @sportmankayaker · Apr 3
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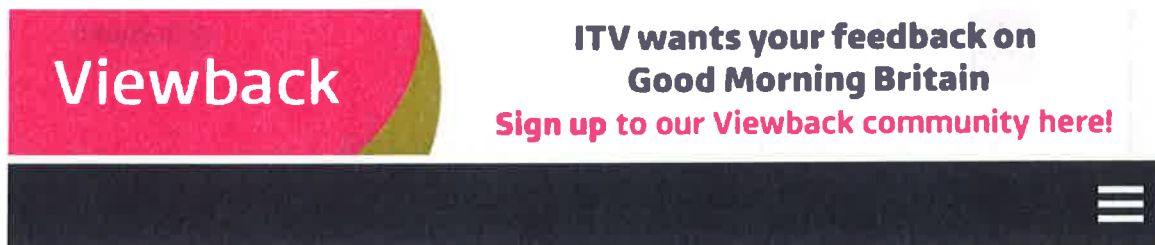
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French ambassador: Sturgeon did not discuss PM 'preference' - ITV News

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Sturgeon hits back over leaked 'PM preference' memo row

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has hit back at Scottish Secretary Alistair Carmichael over the leaked memo row, saying he should "question his whole approach to politics" if he thinks dirty tricks are a normal part of election campaigns.

Cabinet Secretary Sir Jeremy Heywood has ordered an inquiry into how the note - which claims Sturgeon told French ambassador Sylvie Bermann that she would prefer to see Conservatives remain in power after the election - got into the public domain.

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1. 4 April 2015 at 12:51am

French ambassador: Sturgeon did not discuss PM 'preference'

A spokesman for the French Ambassador has told ITV News that the SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon did not "touch on her personal political preferences with regards to the future Prime Minister" during a meeting in February.



French ambassador: Nicola Sturgeon 'did not touch on her personal political preference for PM'.
Credit: PA

While the ambassador and First Minister, some time ago, discussed the political situation, Ms Sturgeon did not touch on her personal political preferences with regards to the future Prime Minister.

– *Spokesman for the French Ambassador*
Last updated Thu 16 Apr 2015

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[Sturgeon hits back over leaked 'PM preference' memo row](#)

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French ambassador: Sturgeon did not discuss PM 'preference' - ITV News

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Depending on what newspaper you read this morning these are the two titles being given to the leader of the SNP Nicola Sturgeon.



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[Sturgeon denies reports she wants Cameron to remain PM](#)

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has denied reports that she told the French Ambassador she'd rather see David Cameron win the general election.

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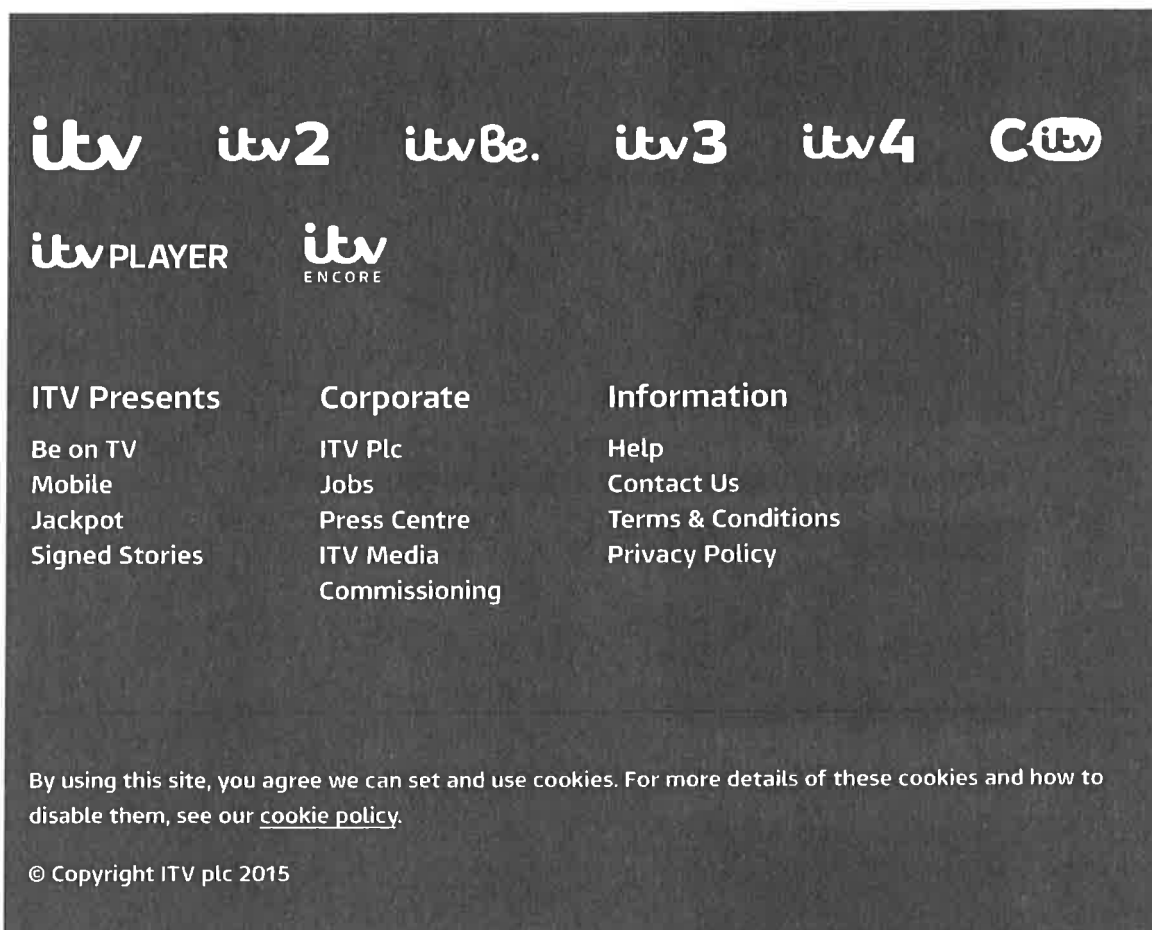


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Latest weather: Another wet day ahead for many

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The Choice for us on May 7th

Alistair Carmichael

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Vote for Alistair Carmichael on Thursday May 7th

IN THE ELECTION COURT**DOCUMENT 5.20**

to

APPENDIX to NOTE of ARGUMENT for the PETITIONERS

IN THE PETITION

under the Representation of the People Act 1983

of

(FIRST) TIMOTHY MORRISON, 5 Springfield Crescent, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3AS; (SECOND) EUPHEMIA (ALSO KNOWN AS PHEMIE) MATHESON, residing at 88-90 Dundas Street, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3DA; (THIRD) FIONA GRAHAME, Roselea Cottage, Lyking Road, Sandwick, Orkney, KW16 3HY; and (FOURTH) CAROLYN ANN WELLING, 41 Graham Place, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3BY,

PETITIONERS

against

ALISTAIR CARMICHAEL MP, 14 Palace Road, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1PA, as the member whose election or return is complained of,

FIRST RESPONDENT

and

ALISTAIR BUCHAN, Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY, as the returning officer,

SECOND RESPONDENT

in respect of

The election for the Orkney and Shetland County United Kingdom Parliamentary Constituency held on 7 May 2015

- 5.20. Channel 4 news, 'Carmichael: Sturgeon leak could have come from anywhere in government': <http://news.channel4.com/election2015/04/05/update-931>

intimated 31/8/15

P558/15

IN THE ELECTION COURT

**NOTE OF ARGUMENT
FOR THE PETITIONERS**

under the Representation of the People Act 1983

of

TIMOTHY DENIS MORRISON & ORS,

PETITIONERS

against

ALISTAIR CARMICHAEL MP & ORS,

RESPONDENTS



2015

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