



Salmond reveals 'three Plan Bs', but ParcelHero warns of increased taxes and costs if Scotland fails to retain the pound

International couriers ParcelHero warn of border delays, increased costs and taxes for businesses delivering into Scotland

Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond, stated in last night's televised debate that he had 'three plan Bs for the price of one', should an independent Scotland fail in its bid to retain the pound sterling. However, international couriers ParcelHero - based on its experience trading with countries inside and outside the European Union - warns of a potential 'perfect storm' if Scotland votes 'Yes' but fails to gain European Union membership and retain the pound.

A ParcelHero White Paper '*What happens to Scotland's trade borders if it votes 'Yes' to Independence*' details how the consequences of a newly Independent Scotland failing in its bid to join the EU and retain the pound could result in: the impositions of Customs charges, excise duty and import VAT; the cost of postal and courier delivery increasing by over 15% and new currency exchange costs for business and visitors

The White Paper examines a number of issues and challenges facing a newly independent Scotland. These include the full cost of its declared policy of re-nationalising the Royal Mail in Scotland and spiralling postal charges should the Government be unable to subsidise charges to the remote Highlands and Islands. In addition failing to join the EU means increased bureaucracy and possible extra duties and taxes; a resulting burden on Scotland's Customs and Excise departments leading to a backlog of trade, and could even result in the cost of staple imported goods rising by 35% or more if Scotland is excluded from the EU and adopts non-EU member Norway's tax model

ParcelHero founder and MD Roger Sumner-Rivers says:

'ParcelHero is entirely neutral on the subject of Scottish Independence; however right now there is a clear impasse: the UK government states Scotland will likely not be able to adopt the Pound Sterling, and the EU have stated there are absolutely no assurances Scotland will be guaranteed EU membership. In this 'perfect storm' scenario, we foresee significant issues with the cost of goods and services, along with customs and taxes, which could impact on Scottish citizens and those businesses wishing to deliver into Scotland.'

Roger continues: 'Should the vote be a 'Yes' on September 18th, the European Union and the UK must immediately engage with the Scottish Government to ensure costs do not spiral for businesses or Scotland's rural communities.'

Read the full report at <http://news.parcelhero.com/parcel-talk/scottish-yes-vote-could-increase-costs-for-residents-and-business-warns-parcelhero/>

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