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## SO DO WE NOW WANT INDEPENDENCE?

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010

with

John Curtice, Rachel Ormston & Susan Reid

The SNP came to power in the expectation that, if it could provide Scotland with two or three years of popular, effective devolved government, people in Scotland would be persuaded of the merits of independence. Now the Scottish government is due to present its proposal for an independence referendum to the Scottish Parliament. Meanwhile the unionist parties have to decide whether to implement the recommendations of the Calman commission on the financing of the Scottish Parliament. At this seminar the latest information from ScotCen's Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) survey on people's attitudes towards the constitutional debate will be unveiled. SSA is the only survey to have tracked the attitudes of the people in Scotland towards the country's various constitutional options on a consistent basis ever since the beginning of devolution. Its latest findings will provide authoritative evidence on whether the experience of SNP government has indeed changed the national mood.

The seminar will address three key questions:

- Have attitudes towards the Union and independence changed?
- What do people think would happen if Scotland were to become independent?
- How do people think the Scottish Parliament should be funded?

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Rachel Ormston is a Research Director at ScotCen and co-director of SSA.

Susan Reid is a Senior Researcher at ScotCen and co-director of SSA.

### PROGRAMME

9.30	Registration and Coffee
10.00	Introduction
10.10	Trends in attitudes towards the Union and independence: Presentation and Discussion
11.00	Expectations of independence: Presentation and Discussion
11.50	Funding the Scottish Parliament: Presentation and Discussion
12.30	Concluding Discussion
13.00	Buffet Lunch

### VENUE

The seminar will be held in the Raeburn Room, Old College, University of Edinburgh, South Bridge.

### BOOKING

The cost for attendance is £30 plus 17.5% VAT = ££35.25