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An interview with Scottish Minister Yousaf by Shelly De Vito

Scottish Voice

Scottish Independence

Shelly: As a Minister for External Affairs and International Development with the Scottish government, can you tell us a bit about the Scottish government in relationship to the U.K.?

Mr. Yousaf: the lines were drawn in a piece of legislation called The Scotland Act in 1998, so therefore The Scotland Act tells us what the Scottish Parliament and therefore the Scottish government has competence over and what is left to the government in London. So, for, example, we have control over things like transport, housing, the National Health Service and some elements of the economy, energy, education, justice, rural affairs and, as I said, external affairs as well. When it comes to the economy, we are given a budget, kind of like pocket money from the United Kingdom government; we're given a set budget and then it's up to the Scottish government to decide, largely, to decide how to... how to spend that money. We can't raise our own taxes and we can't therefore raise our own revenue; we only have a set budget, which is determined by the U.K. government.

We believe that independence should happen, because all the decisions we should make about Scotland here in Scotland, and they should be made by the Scottish people.