

What we think about:

A second referendum on Scottish independence

The future of Scotland and the wider United Kingdom continues to dominate politics and public life. The Scottish Parliament's call for a second independence referendum is the latest stage in what appears to be a long-term debate about Scotland's place in the UK.

We respect the right of politicians on all sides to use their own and their parliaments' time to continue to debate Scottish independence. But while these debates are ongoing, the need to tackle stroke in Scotland doesn't go away.

If you live in Scotland, you are more likely to have a stroke and more likely to die as a result than if you live elsewhere in the UK. Too many hospitals are not meeting the Scottish Government's standards of care and people's recoveries are not properly monitored because there is not enough good quality data available.

With this in mind, stroke survivors and their families, as well as those at risk from stroke, need politicians to focus on improving services so that the gap in outcomes between Scotland and the rest of the UK can be closed. That is clearly more difficult when there is a long-term constitutional debate ongoing, dominating the agendas of politicians and the Scottish Parliament. We urge politicians on all sides to consider this and work with us to ensure stroke remains a priority in Scotland.

Together we can conquer stroke