# Nicola Sturgeon warns Nigel Farage and Reform UK threaten Scotland and Wales devolution



Former SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has ignited controversy by asserting that Nigel Farage and his party, Reform UK, present a significant threat to the future of devolution in Scotland and Wales. Sturgeon has voiced her concerns about Farage's potential influence in Westminster, suggesting that, should he achieve a position of power, he would aim to dismantle the devolved parliaments in both nations. Her comments reflect a deep-seated anxiety regarding the evolving political landscape, especially in the wake of elections that have previously seen a rise in populist sentiment.

Sturgeon’s warnings are echoed by current First Minister John Swinney, who has described the possibility of Reform UK members entering the Scottish Parliament as a troubling development. In an interview with the Daily Record, Swinney expressed that their presence would legitimise opponents of devolution, stating, “What it would do is bring right into the heart of the Parliament opponents of devolution.” This sentiment is fortified by the prevailing view among SNP leaders that any success for Reform could directly undermine the Scottish Parliament’s authority and future.

At a recent event in Wales for the pro-independence campaign, Yes Cymru, Sturgeon further elaborated on her fears regarding the erosion of Scotland’s political autonomy, insisting that figures like Farage inherently challenge the very existence of the Scottish Parliament. "The Tories, I think, are very hostile now to devolution," she remarked. "And that’s before you factor in the possibility… that Nigel Farage will be in Number 10 after the next general election." This rhetoric underscores the palpable tension between Unionist ambitions and the aspirations for Scottish independence, particularly against the backdrop of a landscape that increasingly favours populist politics.

Critics have pointed out that such fears may be somewhat exaggerated. Reform UK has publicly refuted Sturgeon’s claims, asserting that their agenda is focused on combating “nasty nationalism” rather than seeking the abolition of devolved institutions. This rebuttal suggests that there is a disconnect between the narrative being portrayed by Sturgeon and the party's official stance, which seeks to frame themselves as defenders of unity rather than disruptors of parliamentary structures. Recent developments, including the UK Supreme Court's ruling that blocked Scotland from unilaterally holding a second independence referendum, have only intensified these discussions, highlighting the tensions at the core of the Union's political fabric.

Moreover, Sturgeon has faced significant challenges during her tenure, with internal dissent within the SNP over issues such as the controversial gender reform bill, which has raised questions about women’s rights and legislative transparency. These internal issues suggest that Sturgeon’s grip on her party may be more precarious than it has been historically, complicating her efforts to unify against external threats like Reform UK.

Faced with these realities, the question remains whether Sturgeon’s alarm over Reform UK will resonate with the Scottish electorate or if it will be perceived as a political manoeuvre aimed at consolidating her party’s standing amidst mounting pressures both internal and external. As Scotland approaches a pivotal political period, the debates surrounding devolution and independence will likely intensify, with Sturgeon and the SNP at the forefront, grappling with both emerging threats and the challenges of governance.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061044/unhinged-nicola-sturgeon-takes-aim), [[2]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-on-copying-nigel-farages-reform-the-road-to-ruin-and-cosying-up-to-donald-trump-4989599)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061044/unhinged-nicola-sturgeon-takes-aim), [[4]](https://www.politico.eu/article/top-uk-court-rules-against-nicola-sturgeons-plan-second-scotland-independence-referendum/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-uk-single-market-plan-will-cripple-scottish-parliament-2966397), [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/07/03/how-nicola-sturgeon-turned-scotland-failed-state/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-humiliated-one-mps-29056167), [[7]](https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-suffers-rebellion-snp-28797844)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061044/unhinged-nicola-sturgeon-takes-aim> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-on-copying-nigel-farages-reform-the-road-to-ruin-and-cosying-up-to-donald-trump-4989599> - Nicola Sturgeon has cautioned against emulating Nigel Farage's Reform UK, warning that such a strategy would lead to failure. She criticised leaders like Keir Starmer for attempting to mirror Reform UK's approach, stating it would offer voters a 'pale imitation' and drive them to support the original party. Sturgeon emphasised the importance of standing firm in one's beliefs and not succumbing to populist tactics, highlighting the dangers of aligning with figures like Donald Trump.
3. <https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-humiliated-one-mps-29056167> - Nicola Sturgeon faced criticism after SNP MP Lisa Cameron urged UK Secretary of State Alister Jack to intervene in the gender self-identification bill. Cameron's action highlighted significant concerns among constituents regarding the bill's impact on women's rights. Critics accused Sturgeon of rushing the legislation through Parliament, leaving the UK Government with little choice but to block it, leading to embarrassment within the SNP.
4. <https://www.politico.eu/article/top-uk-court-rules-against-nicola-sturgeons-plan-second-scotland-independence-referendum/> - The UK Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the Scottish government cannot hold an independence referendum without Westminster's consent, dealing a blow to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's efforts. The court's decision prevents the Scottish Parliament from legislating for a referendum on Scottish independence, challenging Sturgeon's strategy to organise a poll without UK government approval.
5. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-uk-single-market-plan-will-cripple-scottish-parliament-2966397> - Nicola Sturgeon criticised the UK's Internal Market Bill, describing it as an 'abomination' that would 'cripple devolution'. She argued that the bill's mutual recognition of standards could undermine Scottish laws on food safety and environmental protections, potentially leading to lower standards and affecting Scotland's ability to legislate effectively in these areas.
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/07/03/how-nicola-sturgeon-turned-scotland-failed-state/> - An analysis of Nicola Sturgeon's tenure as First Minister, highlighting challenges such as domestic policy failures and scandals. The article discusses her push for a second independence referendum and the complexities of navigating Scottish politics, including the need to balance domestic issues with the pursuit of independence.
7. <https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-suffers-rebellion-snp-28797844> - Nicola Sturgeon faced internal dissent within the SNP as some members expressed concerns over the controversial gender reform bill. Critics argued that the bill could have unintended consequences and that the legislative process lacked openness and healthy debate, leading to a rebellion from within her own party.