# Scottish National Party faces criticism over unspent EU funding amidst declining support and shifting political landscape



The Scottish National Party (SNP) is under scrutiny following claims that Scotland may have to return approximately £450 million of unspent European Union (EU) funding. The funds, part of the EU's structural and investment programs, were allocated to Scotland over the past six years for projects targeting poverty alleviation and economic development. It is reported that 28 percent of the funds remain unspent as the deadline approaches.

Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross criticized the SNP, calling the situation "negligence on an unforgivable scale," while Scottish Labour deputy leader Jackie Baillie termed it a "dereliction of duty." Both highlighted the missed opportunity to invest in vital infrastructure and services.

A spokeswoman for the Scottish Government argued that final expenditure figures will not be known until 2025 and that efforts are ongoing to maximize reimbursement from the European Commission. Meanwhile, recent polling data indicates a potential shift in political power in Scotland, with the SNP's support declining as John Swinney launches the party's election campaign. Labour is poised to lead with 36 percent of voter support, potentially altering the political landscape.