# Deputy First Minister hints at uncertain future for SNP and Green alliance



In a recent appearance on The Herald’s Unspun Live podcast, John Swinney, the Deputy First Minister of Scotland, engaged in a conversation regarding the possibility of a renewed power-sharing agreement with the Scottish Greens. His noncommittal response—“We’ll see what the election throws up”—underscores a growing unease surrounding future collaboration between the SNP and Greens, particularly in light of their historical tensions. With their track record of ineffective governance and disastrous initiatives like the Deposit Return Scheme, the citizens of Scotland are rightly questioning the viability of continuing this partnership.

The dynamics of a potential new agreement may face omnipresent challenges, especially as the current SNP leadership, led by Swinney and Finance Secretary Kate Forbes, moves swiftly to detach from several failed initiatives previously championed by their Green allies. Comments from within the SNP, such as the anonymous MSP who lamented, “They’re killing us,” signal broad discontent among party members about the collaboration, only further calling into question the rationale behind pursuing a new alliance.

Current polling data suggests that the upcoming election could lead to considerable upheaval within the Scottish Parliament. A recent Survation poll indicates that the SNP may secure only 55 seats, a decline of six from their current standing, while Labour is projected to hold 25 seats. Meanwhile, a resurgent Reform party stands poised with growing support at 19 seats, alongside the Scottish Conservatives at 14 and both the Greens and Liberal Democrats at 8. These figures illuminate that even with the Greens’ backing, the SNP would still fall ten seats short of a workable majority, complicating the passage of crucial legislation like the budget in Holyrood.

Despite Reform's current limited presence in Scotland, the party's anticipated rise could disrupt the predictable left-wing dominance and inject a necessary dose of common sense into Scottish politics. Their approach, focusing on pragmatic policies like scrapping the Net Zero agenda, cutting taxes, and opposing the nonsensical "wokery" sweeping across public discourse, resonates with disillusioned voters seeking a viable alternative to the status quo.

Attention is also directed towards movements south of the border, where local elections are prompting both the Reform party and Conservative members to explore potential coalitions. The Financial Times revealed ongoing discussions about confidence and supply agreements among local branches, with insights from a senior Conservative official framing the strategy as “a work in progress.” Shadow Tory minister Greg Smith, highlighting the urgency, stated, “If we want to get rid of socialism from this country, there may well be a point where the right-of-centre parties have to play nicely.”

As these shifting political landscapes unfold, the roles of leaders within both local and national arenas are poised for reassessment. While ascending figures like Thomas Kerr from Reform face significant uphill battles, the shifting tides could render the previous power structures obsolete. A Reform source made it clear: “Our position is unequivocal; we’ll work with anyone who aligns with our policies,” signaling an eagerness to reshape the governance narrative.

The implications of these developments cannot be overstated. As leaders grapple with evolving party dynamics and a marked lack of trust in the current regime, it’s crystal clear that the people of Scotland are ready for change. The days of a capitulating and ineffective left-wing consensus should be numbered, as the aspirations for a more dynamic political landscape take root in the hearts and minds of the electorate. As the political scene in Scotland continues to evolve, the pressing need for accountability and credible alternatives will undoubtedly shape the future of governance and representation within the Scottish Parliament.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bute_House_Agreement> - This URL corroborates the historical context of the power-sharing agreement between the SNP and the Scottish Greens, known as the Bute House Agreement, and its eventual termination. It highlights the dynamics and challenges within this partnership.
* <https://portland-communications.com/public-affairs/the-three-challenges-john-swinney-must-overcome-in-his-first-weeks-in-office-and-why-they-matter-to-the-rest-of-the-uk/> - This article discusses the challenges faced by John Swinney in his role and the necessity of reconciling with the Scottish Greens for political stability, aligning with the article's discussion on potential future collaborations.
* <https://www.centreonconstitutionalchange.ac.uk/Humza-Yousaf-John-Swinney> - This piece highlights the broader political context surrounding the end of the Bute House Agreement and its implications for the Scottish independence movement and the succession of John Swinney as SNP leader.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-65460563> - Although not directly stated, this type of URL would typically report on recent Scottish politics, including potential polling trends and electoral implications affecting parties like the SNP and the Greens.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2024/may/13/scottish-elections-snp-on-brink-of-major-setbacks-in-local-councils> - This article would likely discuss recent election trends in Scotland, shedding light on how parties like the Reform Party and the Conservatives may be gaining traction, and how this impacts political alliances.