

John McDonnell gets Scotland right

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John McDonnell appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe yesterday, and somewhat upset his party in Scotland.

According to [The National](#) (Scotland's only pro-independence paper):

McDonnell told LBC host Iain Dale that the issue would be for the “Scottish Parliament and the Scottish people to decide”.

He added: “They will take a view about whether they want another referendum. Nicola Sturgeon said by late next year or the beginning of 2021.

“The Scottish Parliament will come to a considered view on that and they will submit that to the Government and the English parliament itself.

“If the Scottish people decide they want a referendum that’s for them.”

He added: “We would not block something like that. We would let the Scottish people decide. That’s democracy.

“There are other views within the party but that’s our view.”

I think that the last comment is something of an understatement, and that McDonnell must have known this. Labour's Scottish leader, Richard Leonard, is one of those who he must have profoundly upset.

But, I'm often told I do not give John McDonnell enough praise: on this occasion I will do so: he got this one right. He respected Scottish democracy and it is time more English MPs did so.