

It's GERS Day in Scotland

Published: January 12, 2026, 8:45 pm

The National posted this video by me on their channel this afternoon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPoyepjQfNc&si=uFN4XH1HAMQO6txY>

This is the transcript:

It's August, and so inevitably in Scotland we get GERS day, which is the day when the Scottish government publishes the Government Expenditure and Revenue Statement for Scotland or GERS for short, which is the complete and utter pile of nonsense that they publish every year to supposedly show the state of the public finances in Scotland when the statement in question does nothing of the sort.

Let me be clear about this. The Scottish government balances its books.

Every local authority in Scotland is required to balance its books.

Every agency whose accounts are included in the statement is required to balance its books.

In other words, the state of the public finances in Scotland is very simple, clear and straightforward. The Scottish government and its agencies balance their books. That is the only story that there is to tell.

In that case, if, according to the data produced today, the public finances in Scotland show a significant deficit, and that is what the statement does say, then the entire responsibility for this is down to the UK government in Westminster.

They are the people who are failing to balance their books for Scotland.

And, worse than that, it is my straightforward suggestion, but they do not want to balance the books for Scotland for their own, very obvious, Unionist reasons.

The address includes costs that Scotland would never occur.

Scotland would never pay for nuclear power stations which are white elephants because it has a power surplus.

Scotland would not pay for a great deal of the wasted defence expenditure of the UK, but let's Keir Starmer still pretend that he can posture on the world stage.

Scotland would not pay for HS2.

Scotland would not pour massive amounts of money into the Southeast of England.

If Scotland was an independent country, it would have the bonus from having its own capital, and that always increases GDP.

In addition, Scotland could ensure that all the profits earned in the country were taxed in the country.

And, all the interest paid in the country would similarly be taxed upon receipt by a bank or other person in the country.

And Scotland could ensure that all the VAT paid in Scotland was truly collected within Scotland.

Scotland could even take steps to ensure that the billions of pounds lost as a consequence of the failure to control the operation of small companies in Scotland would be collected in tax.

But the UK government does none of these things. As long as it can dump the cost on someone else, the Westminster government is happy to waste enormous amounts of money and blame the people of Scotland, as well as the people of the north of England, and Wales and Northern Ireland, for the losses as if they had nothing to do with the incompetence seen in London.

I could argue forever that the figures in GERS are wrong, and if you want an explanation as to why that is the case I did do a video on that subject last year for The National.

Instead, what I'm pointing out is that what the Scottish government has produced today is, in reality, a measure of the inability of the UK government to manage its finances and of its willingness to dump its costs on Scotland, wholly inappropriately.

There is nothing in today's GERS statement that in any way implies that Scotland is running a deficit of the level that is implied by the reported data, because that data

represents utterly unreasonable apportionments of costs decided upon by Westminster, which it says Scotland must bear responsibility for without having any means to control it.

And today's statement is a measure of the fact that the systems to truly reflect the income of Scotland that would be enjoyed if it were an independent country are not in existence, and the economy of Scotland is not that which it would have if it were to be independent, because things would be very different in that case.

So how can I summarise GERS? Yet again, I fall back on the acronym that I created a long time ago to describe precisely what this statement is, which is that it is CRAp, or a completely rubbish approximation to the truth.

The unionists will love this data, because they always do.

The Scottish government should be deeply embarrassed that it puts this information out as if it is of use to the people of Scotland, when it isn't.

The embarrassment is that Scotland can still not replace this information with something better, and the SNP should really be doing something about that, as I have said year in, year out.

But most of all, we should just treat this data for what it is, which is CRAp. It's rubbish. It's untruthful. It's misleading.

And what I know is, Scotland can do a lot better than this.