

#GE2019 Finance Secretary warns of risk to public services in budget delay

MACKAY: UK BUDGET CHAOS POSES RISK TO SCOTTISH PUBLIC SERVICES

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay has warned that the uncertainty over the next UK Government budget as well as continued Brexit uncertainty are “imperilling Scotland’s public services”.

He announced this week that the Scottish budget will be delayed until after Christmas, as there will be no UK budget by then to allow the Scottish Parliament to look carefully at the proposals.

Mr Mackay has written to both prospective Chancellors seeking clarity on the timing of the next UK budget.

Ahead of a campaign visit to Blantyre today, where he will launch a package of policies to protect consumers, Derek Mackay said: “Scotland needs to escape Brexit and the chaos engulfing Westminster that is imperilling Scotland’s public services.

“From day one of the Brexit process, Scotland’s Parliament has been entirely disrespected by Westminster.

“The complete uncertainty around our budget, caused by the collapse of government at Westminster, shows this more than ever.

“We still face the nightmare scenario of a No Deal Brexit that could cause enormous damage to jobs and household budgets.

“We need to lock Boris Johnson out of Downing Street, escape Brexit and put Scotland’s future in Scotland’s hands.

“Only the SNP can beat the Tories in Scotland.”

We spotted the Minister yesterday on the High Street just after former First Minister Alex Salmond had entered the High Court there.



Derek Mackay walking up the High Street past the media on Thursday morning