

John Swinney will not stand in leadership contest

John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and interim Finance Minister has announced that he will not stand in the upcoming contest to choose a new SNP Leader.

Mr Swinney was leader for four years between 2000 and 2004 standing aside in favour of Alex Salmond in 2004. He has served as Education Minister and Finance Secretary and was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery in 2021.



fbpic- Scottish Parliament Holyrood. John Swinney MSP Deputy First Minister and Education Secretary Ministerial Statement: Update on Education Recovery today at the Covid-19 social distancing Scottish Parliament, Holyrood Edinburgh. Scotland Lockdown Coronavirus. Scotland Scottish politics Schools Scottish Education. Poolphoto Tuesday 23 June 2020. Picture FRASER BREMNER

This is Mr Swinney's statement issued this evening:

JOHN SWINNEY MSP

I am deeply grateful to the many people who have encouraged me to stand as Leader of the Scottish National Party. I have thought carefully about whether I should stand and have had to be sure whatever I do is right for my family, the Scottish National Party and our country.

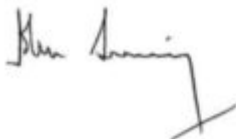
For the best part of the last 40 years, I have had the privilege of being at the very heart of formulating the strategy of the SNP. From a very poor starting point in the 1980s, I am proud to have played my part in building the SNP into a successful party of Government in Scotland with an impressive electoral record.

The refusal however of the U.K. Government to respect the democratic wishes of the people of Scotland to have a Referendum on Independence, requires the SNP to consider carefully, and in my view with a fresh perspective, how to pursue our aims. To create the space for that fresh perspective to emerge, I have decided not to be a candidate for leadership in the SNP.

At this critical moment, I believe there must be an open debate within the SNP about our direction. I encourage those who stand for election to bring forward perspectives that anchor the SNP in the mainstream of Scottish politics which is an absolutely critical requirement for the future success of our cause.

For my part, I will continue to do what I have done since I was 15, and that is to contribute constructively to advance the interests of the SNP, Scotland and the cause of Scottish independence.

Yours for Scotland,



John Swinney MSP
