Q: So, anyway, yes. Have you got any idea when you first heard that there was going to be a referendum about independence?

A: I would have said it was possibly a couple of years before or eighteen months before the actual referendum.

Q: Right, because it was it in the media, or-?

A: It must have been, yes.

Q: Do you remember the debate that was going on about what was going to be on the ballot?

A: Yes. Sort of, yes.

Q: I mean, did you have an inkling about that?

A: I thought what the SNP first proposed was totally wrong because it was skewed to people voting ‘Yes’.

Q: Do you mean the wording of the question?

A: The wording of the question, yes.

Q: Right, right.

A: I thought it was skewed to you giving a ‘Yes’ answer, that wording. I can’t quite remember it but it was very much, sort of, slanted I thought.

Q: Because they did change it in the end, didn’t they?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: What about the devo-max option?

A: I didn’t agree with that because if it had that as well as the independence, that would have split the vote into three, you know, people that were saying ‘No’ to independence, the ballot would have split down, I think.

Q: Right, right.

A: That was my impression anyway.

Q: So generally I guess you were happy with the wording of the-?

A: The eventual wording, yes.

Q: How did you feel-, I mean, did you get a sense of how Edinburgh and the surrounds kind of felt in the run up?

A: Yes. I mean, I felt that the ‘Yes’ group, the people that were voting ‘Yes’ were very, very, sort of, in your face and vocal and, sort of, loud about it and you knew all the people that were voting ‘Yes’ whereas the ‘No’ voters were all keeping quiet.

Q: Right, why do you think that was? Why didn’t they speak out?

A: Well, because they were frightened of a backlash from the ‘Yes’ people because it happened to some people that were being backlashed.

Q: In Edinburgh?

A: I think so, yes.

Q: Did you get a sense that there was a lot of different areas in Edinburgh.

A: I don’t think I can answer that in a way because I don’t-, I thought in the certain areas that I would be in, I could say, yes.

Q: Yes, sure. I mean, kind of, round where you were living, did it feel like a ‘Yes’ area or a ‘No’ area?

A: It was hard to tell. I mean, there was certainly ‘Yes’ banners and things in people’s windows and on car windows, yes, but there wasn’t a lot of them, but there wasn’t any ‘No’ banners or posters or anything.

Q: Right, right, and was it something that people were openly discussing, do you think?

A: I mean, it’s possibly obvious to you that I’m a ‘No’ voter. I found that you were scared to say anything to people until you actually discovered through something that they were maybe a ‘No’ voter as well and then you’d sort of speak to them, but I didn’t feel I could openly say I was a ‘No’ to people. I mean, I’ve got friends for a long time that are very anti-English, sort of, very pro-Scotland and so, you know, I didn’t feel I could express my opinion freely.

Q: Right, okay, but did they try and start discussions ever?

A: I suppose not discussions but it would be obvious what they were doing.

Q: Right. Is this something you have talked about within your family circle?

A: Well, I’ve only really got my brother now and he felt the same as me.

Q: He lives in Scotland as well?

A: Yes.

Q: Oh, right, okay. Was it something you ever talked about?

A: To him, yes, yes. I mean, I think we talked a lot about the worries about what would happen if Scotland did become independent and what would happen to us as British people in Scotland at that point.

Q: Yes, yes. What particularly were your worries about that?

A: Well, the financial worries, you know, I didn’t actually think Scotland had enough money to support itself really, and also just the general border issues and things like what currency we were going to have. Well, we weren’t going to be in the EU, not initially anyway, and things like that and we’d need a passport to cross to England and all this sort of thing. I’ve kind of forgotten a lot of the things that I thought at the time and also things like my banks are British banks , and also just would I have to become a Scottish citizen to remain here or could I still keep my British citizenship and things like that.

Q: How long have you lived in Scotland?

A: Since 1979.

Q: Oh right, okay, but you still identify yourself as being British?

A: Yes.

Q: Right, but do you think those messages were something that was coming up in the campaigns?

A: Not greatly, no. I mean, I think the ‘No’ campaign was voicing the problem with the money situation; what would be the Scottish currency and the EU and all this type of thing, but then the SNP were just sort of pooh-poohing it and not actually answering the questions really.

Q: Right. Did you watch any of the TV debates?

A: Not really, not many. I watched more on the news rather than-,

Q: How did you feel the media were portraying things at the time?

A: I thought they were fair but afterwards the ‘Yes’ campaign felt like people like the BBC were being very ‘No’ oriented but I haven’t noticed that, but then perhaps I wouldn’t have noticed that because I was ‘No’ orientated anyway. I suppose I was always going to vote ‘No’. Nobody’s ever going to sway me to vote ‘Yes’ so it was the only election that I’ve ever been 100% sure of what I was going to vote well in advance.

Q: Right, right. Were there any messages at all that were if not tempting but that you would agree with coming from the ‘Yes’ campaign?

A: No, not for me anyway.

Q: Fair enough, and did you read any of the newspapers, the national or the Scottish ones?

A: Not particularly. I’m not a great newspaper reader.

Q: Okay.

A: I mean, I always felt that we were better as part of a bigger country and I feel that with most counties, it would sort of-, if Scotland had broken North, it would have been too small to actually cope on its own.

Q: Do you think that the campaign was fairly run on both sides, the ‘No’ campaign and the ‘Yes’ campaign? Did they do a good job?

A: Well, I thought the ‘Yes’ campaign was much more impressive really. I thought that they were much stronger at arguing and I thought the ‘No’ campaign really didn’t take off at all. For a long time, I felt that the ‘No’ politicians weren’t putting forward their case very well, and I felt that the one person that came in and either saved the day or not was Gordon Brown because he suddenly did this very impassioned speech for the ‘No’ and he was really the first politician in the ‘No’ campaign that I felt really came over well.

Q: That was quite late in the day, wasn’t it?

A: It was very late in the day, yes.

Q: Why do you think he waited so long?

A: I have no idea. I don’t know. I think, you know, there is some anti-English, especially anti-southern English, so David Cameron, you know, being the big person to think about might have turned people the other way to vote ‘Yes’, so I think that was a danger .

Q: Because he kept himself quite quiet.

A: Yes, I think that was needed, yes.

Q: Do you think that the Labour party in general did a good job in the ‘No’ campaign?

A: Probably not. I think, as I say, Gordon Brown was very good. I suppose Alistair Darling, my understanding was he never wanted the job as being the sort of coordinator of the ‘No’ campaign. He did as well as he could in a way but there wasn’t anybody in Labour that was very strong in the opinion or it didn’t come over as that tone of Gordon Brown. I thought Ruth Davidson of the Conservatives argued better than a lot of the Labour leaders.

Q: Do you think that’s going to hurt Labour going into the general election?

A: Possibly, but I think there’s other things that are possibly going to hurt them more. I don’t know.

Q: Such as?

A: Ed Miliband. I don’t think he comes over well.

Q: Right, do you think in terms of how he carries himself?

A: Just the way he speaks, I suppose. In my view, I thought that David Miliband, his brother, would have been a much better leader. I thought it was kind of wrong that Ed stood against him.

Q: Sibling rivalry.

A: Yes, yes.

Q: Do you get an impression of how it’s gone for the SNP after the-?

A: Well, they seem to have done better since the referendum, which is surprisingly, but yes. I mean, according to them, a lot more people have joined the party and things like that.

Q: Yes, and do you get a sense of why that might be?

A: No.

Q: Okay.

A: I find it slightly odd. I mean, I do think they’re still arguing for independence. I tend to think that they should just be accepting that people have voted against it and they’re coming across as bad losers that they’re still going on and on about independence.

Q: Yes, yes. I mean, do you think-, do you have any kind of an opinion on Nicola Sturgeon now she’s taken the reigns?

A: Yes, I can’t say I particularly like her but I mean, she comes over as a good speaker, really, and quite a strong personality whereas the other party leaders in Scotland are still just kind of non-descript in a way .

Q: Even Alex Salmond?

A: Oh, no. He was quite a powerful leader, but I meant the other parties in Scotland are really just quite non-descript.

Q: I mean, do you know anything about the Labour leader in Scotland at all?

A: Jim Murphy.

Q: Yes.

A: He’s quite new.

Q: Because he is quite new, isn’t he?

A: Yes, yes. It was only last year, wasn’t it, that he got in so he’s not made an impression yet, I don’t think.

Q: Yes, yes. Do you think it’s, I guess, had a lasting impact on politics in Scotland, or might have?

A: It might have but I really don’t know. I don’t know.

Q: Do you get the impression that the SNP is kind of-, I mean, a lot of people were saying at the time that it feels that they-, I mean just looking at the polls for example, like it started pretty low in support for the ‘Yes’ vote, but then it seemed to be getting closer and closer. Do you think that was down to the SNP or just the ‘Yes’ campaign in general?

A: I think the ‘No’ campaign was so underwhelming for quite a long time in a way that people were drifting because the SNP was quite strong and perseveres in a way and more in your face. I don’t know how accurate the polls were when it came to the vote. They weren’t right, were they?

Q: I mean, are you getting worried in the run up to the election?

A: Yes, yes very.

Q: What do you think you would have done if it had been a ‘Yes’ vote?

A: I would have given it a lot of thought and I would decide whether I wanted to stay in Scotland and if I had to become a Scottish citizen then I had to become a Scottish citizen, but inside I was not going to be Scottish, but yes. Whereas, quite a few friends were talking about going back to England if it got independence.

Q: Were they also English friends?

A: Yes, yes. I suppose friends that have still got relatives in England are talking of moving away from Scotland in the event of a ‘Yes’ and would go and stay with relatives in England. So, it was a huge relief for me and I know lots of friends had sleepless nights worrying about it.

Q: Did you get up early and watch the count or anything like that?

A: Four o’clock in the morning, yes and it was very close at that point. The ‘No’ had got it by about two percentage points and that was all.

Q: Have you ever had any contact with your local MP or your MSP?

A: No.

Q: You’ve never gone to them with a letter or issue?

A: No.

Q: Do you have any kind of opinion of them? Are they any good?

A: I’d be struggling to name them, to be honest. That’s awful, isn’t it?

Q: Well, I mean you can never have an occasion to get in contact with them. Okay, that’s great. That’s actually pretty much everything. Was that alright?

A: Yes.

**[Transcript Ends 00:18:42]**