Q: So, when exactly did you move to Edinburgh?

A: I moved last year.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: So, just over two months now.

Q: Were you following all the stuff about the referendum?

A: Only at the last minute. I started to take an interest at the last minute because it just seemed to go on and on, and it was sort of changing scenarios and I thought I’d wait until the last minute and then-, because I knew I was going to be coming here, I was starting to feel a bit anxious about what the result might be.

Q: Right, right.

A: So, it might affect my being able to come to Scotland.

Q: How come?

A: When I was living in England, I had a small fear that there might be some sort of restriction on immigration although when I did hear, I looked up online about the Scottish National Party’s attitude for immigration and they actually encourage it, so that’s okay.

Q: Yes, so you were going to be safe in that event?

A: Yes. I thought I’d have to cultivate a Scottish accent [laughter].

Q: Yes [laughter].

A: Although I do have Scottish parentage.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: I’ve worked here. I’ve lived here before actually. I’ve lived and worked here but I wouldn’t really call myself Scottish.

Q: Right, and do you think that apart from the immigration issue, were you worried about Scotland becoming independent and the impact that that might have had?

A: I was in two minds. Do you want to know whether I wanted them to become independent or not?

Q: Sure.

A: Well, having listened to some of the arguments, I felt that emotionally, I think I felt towards the end, it could be quite-, I didn’t agree with the ‘No’ arguments. I didn’t agree with whatever they called themselves, the ‘No’ people, because I thought it was a very negative campaign.

Q: Right.

A: They didn’t give any good reason for remaining in Britain.

Q: Right.

A: For my own personal reasons, why I thought Scotland shouldn’t have gone independent is because I’m not in favour of nationalism.

Q: Right.

A: I see separatism as a very negative thing. They’re dissociating. I mean, I’m in favour of being a member of the European Union. I’m in favour of more cooperation, not less. I just thought, I can understand the historic reasons why Scots feel a bit weak and they might want to boost their own identity but I just thought it’s a negative step and it shouldn’t-, the aftermath’s been all this talk of British, English regionalism and I think especially it’s pandering to nationalists in a bad way and that are pandering to UKIP. I think that’s horrendous and there’s an element of racism to it. So, on the day the vote was announced, when they said that it was a narrow ‘No’ that it wasn’t going to be independence, I actually felt emotionally quite upset.

Q: Right.

A: My head said I was relieved but my heart was like, hmm, a bit upset. I think I would’ve been swept up in favour if I was here. Logically, I think it was a bad thing to go independent.

Q: Well, what was the emotive argument then?

A: The emotion was because I feel quite Scottish, so yes, it’s the Scottish people speaking up for themselves and deciding their own future.

Q: Yes.

A: I just felt-, I didn’t feel economically it was going to be a bad thing for independence. All that talk of, “Oh, you’ll be worse off.” Who knows? Nobody knows. No economics can predict, and I felt some of the motive of going independent was anti-English, so I thought that was a bad thing.

Q: Right. You said that you didn’t-, you thought that the ‘No’ campaign was pretty negative.

A: Yes.

Q: I mean, can you remember any particular messages in the campaign or anything like that?

A: Well, the one outstanding example and this is really not pertinent in any way is John Major appearing on the radio or Today programme that week before the vote and he was the main interviewee after the ten past eight and he was asked to give his opinion of why Scotland should vote ‘No’. All he did was, he kept repeating, “It would be extraordinary if Scotland became independent. It will just be so extraordinary,” and he couldn’t actually come out with any-, I mean, extraordinary is an adjective or an adverb, it’s not an actual argument against going independent. He just kept speaking that word and I thought, he’s just blowing himself up as having no fundamental rationale for opposing it. He was just opposing it because the Conservative party did.

Q: Yes.

A: So, also a little bit of me-, I wouldn’t vote Conservative in England, so a little bit of me was glad that David Cameron as a Conservative was being made to look a bit stupid.

Q: Right.

A: A bit of me was pro-independence for that reason. Also, if I might’ve voted Labour in the past and I knew Labour had opposed independence and I knew if Scotland got independence then that would be bad for the Labour party. It might make it harder for them to get into power in England, so I was a bit sad about that [laughter].

Q: Do you think the Tory party came out looking bad?

A: No, I think up to the election, they looked pretty bad but the day after the result was announced, they started to turn it to their own advantage by using it to say, “We want regionalism” and this is the devolution of power from Westminster. So, I think the Tories managed to twist it round and make themselves look like they’d won somehow.

Q: Okay.

A: So, I wasn’t pleased about that.

Q: Yes.

A: I must admit, I really am quite anti the Tory party if I brought my heart into it.

Q: Yes, and what about Labour?

A: I think they were just in a bit of a muddle because a lot of the SNP’s policies are quite left wing, I think, and Labour ought to be, that should be their ground so the SNP were sort of stealing Labour’s voters. Not stealing in a bad way but taking over Labour ground, so the Labour party have lost out on support because they’ve tried to go a bit more middle to counteract the Conservatives. I think Labour will have done quite badly out of it.

Q: Right.

A: They’re a bit rudderless because Ed Miliband, the nice chap though he is, I don’t think he’s a very strong leader.

Q: Right, right. You don’t think much of their chances in the general election?

A: No, I don’t think they’ve got any chance of winning, in my view.

Q: How come?

A: I think Ed Miliband is-, he doesn’t appeal to most people. He’s a bit too intellectual and not capable of putting his argument across, and these days when a lot people decide to vote based on what they see on the television, he doesn’t come across at all well on the television.

Q: Right, right.

A: I think what happened to me during the referendum campaign, I became much more in favour of the Scottish National Party, and Alex Salmond and Nicola Sturgeon. I just don’t like this idea of nationalism. As I say, I don’t like this-, it’s harking back to the Second World War and the Nazis [laughter]. The ultimate expression of nationalism.

Q: Yes, but do you think that-, I don’t know. Do you think Nicola Sturgeon, for example, comes across better on TV and interviews?

A: I have to admit, I don’t actually have a television at the moment.

Q: Oh, right. Okay, okay.

A: So, I hear her on the radio. I think she comes across very well.

Q: Okay, okay.

A: She’s very clear. She seems intelligent. She’s very good at arguing, discussing, and thinking on her feet.

Q: Right.

A: So, I like Nicola Sturgeon. I like Alex Salmond as well. I think if I’d have been living here though, I might’ve voted ‘No’ but I do like those two. I like those two better than any other party leaders at the time [laughter].

Q: Right. Any idea why? I mean, as individuals rather than-?

A: As individuals, I thought they seemed more positive.

Q: Right.

A: They seem more genuinely to have a conviction and believed in what they were saying, when I think with a lot of the other leaders, I don’t really trust them.

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

A: No, I didn’t, again because I don’t have a television, and I thought, “I can’t be bothered to watch that online.”

Q: Yes.

A: I listened to the analysis bit on the radio.

Q: Oh, yes.

A: Radio Four, and I can’t really remember what was said about-, was it the TV debates?

Q: Yes, yes.

A: I think the first one-, was it the first one Alex Salmond did very badly and the second one he did well, or the other way around?

Q: Yes, I think that’s it. It was a bit of a surprise, I think.

A: Yes. I don’t know how much that influenced people’s votes. It might reinforce people’s preconceptions but I don’t think it necessarily changes people.

Q: Right.

A: I could be wrong.

Q: Yes.

A: I think it’s a great thing to have a TV debate though.

Q: Do you think it’s going to happen for the general election?

A: I think so, yes. I was once at an edition of Newsnight, and I was filmed at Newsnight.

Q: Oh, yes.

A: One of the invited panel was Farage.

Q: Oh, right.

A: 'Niggle Farridge' as they call him, and I didn’t know much about him at the time. This is 2010.

Q: Yes.

A: In real life, in person, he came across as incredibly convincing although I knew what his policies were so I wouldn’t have agreed with that at the time. I just found him-, I can see why people would be taken in by him. He’s quite charismatic, I suppose. There was another guest, the union leader guy, was it Bob something?

Q: Oh, yes. The RMT guy?

A: Yes, the chap who died was there and I agreed with what he was saying but he came across as too frightened and he wouldn’t have-, he didn’t look like a nice-, as an appealing and attractive person politically but I preferred him to Farage just because I agreed with his views, that’s all. That shows your preconceptions, you know, aren’t necessarily changed by having a live debate. I do like the fact that you can see people in the profession and get to know-, judge whether they’re being genuine.

Q: I mean, did you ever have any contact like that with your local MP or MSP or anyone like that, councillors or something like that?

A: I have actually, yes. When I was living in a very rock solid Labour constituency, an industrial town. The MP, he’s a local chap. He took over from the other guy who was there at the same time, so he got in and he was just a local lad who’d done well for himself. So, I didn’t have any opinion of him but there was a couple of things I got involved with in the town and I met him personally and then he helped out with an issue, pursued an issue, and he helped me. He wrote several letters and I thought he was quite good actually, personally. What it was, they did some renovation work in a public park and they removed one of the footpaths.

Q: Oh, right.

A: It was so illogical when we seen the ground plan so I kept writing to the council asking them to reinstate the path and I didn’t spend a lot of time on it, I just kept sending more letters and emails, and Iain Wright got involved, and he helped.

Q: Okay.

A: I got a good impression of him. Now, I know a lot of people can’t stand him.

Q: Oh, right, okay. How come?

A: Well, I think because they don’t like Labour really.

Q: Oh, right.

A: I think it’s politics, it’s nothing personal.

Q: Even round in there now?

A: Yes, yes. I mean, even if it’s the safe Labour seats, there’s still quite a lot of people vote Conservative. I don’t know what the percentage is.

Q: Right, yes.

A: Basically, people are quite set in their opinions, aren’t they?

Q: Yes.

A: I mean, my brother, he’s a complete Tory. We try not to talk about politics at all because it can get quite nasty [laughter].

Q: I mean, I know you weren’t in Scotland but did you talk to anyone about the referendum and politics, like your family or at work or anything like that?

A: I knew from what I’d heard that my family were dead against independence and they’re all quite right wing so I thought it best not to engage with them because then my views will emerge but there’s a nice woman called Elma who played violin at our orchestra events.

Q: Oh, yes. Oh, right.

A: And she’s Scottish. This was about two weeks before the referendum. She didn’t know I was going to move to Scotland at the time so I didn’t bother mentioning that, but I said, “Oh, Sarah,” I said, “how do you feel about the referendum?” and she suddenly became alive and she became very animated. Now, she’s been living in England for quite a while because her husband is English and her children are English. So, she just got very emotional and she said, “Oh, I do wish I could vote in it. I would love to one day move back to Scotland but I don’t think I can because of my children.”

Q: Right.

A: And she says, “Logically, I should vote ‘No’ but I think if I had a vote, I would vote ‘Yes’” and she got quite emotional. It was this Scottish identity thing. I asked her after the referendum how she felt about the result and she said, “Well, it’s probably for the best,” and she thinks she got carried away.

Q: Oh, right. Oh, that’s interesting.

A: Yes, so I think Denise Mina, the novelist from Glasgow, she summed it up really well. She said it was like a big party and if you voted ‘No’, you felt like a party pooper.

Q: Yes. Well, I guess the ‘No’ campaign were advertising the status quo to a certain extent so it’s always difficult to be cool and radical, I guess, if you’re campaigning for the status quo.

A: Yes. I suppose that comes down just to the wording of the referendum.

Q: Well, yes. Yes.

A: If the wording of it somehow went, ‘Would you like to remain part of Britain?’ ‘Yes’, or, ‘Would you like to remain part of’-, if you ended up saying ‘No’, there’d have been an even stronger vote against independence.

Q: Yes, maybe.

A: It’s very key with the wording.

Q: It’s interesting because it sounds to me like you’re talking about quite a lot of people you’d spoken to who’d got an emotional view in one way or another, and then there’s the kind of policy aspects.

A: Yes.

Q: On top of that as well, so the head and the heart aspect.

A: Yes, definitely.

Q: Is that right?

A: Definitely. For a lot of people-, I think a lot of English people have a romantic attachment to Scotland. They like to come here for holidays. They like the thought of tartan and haggis, and it’s the same way they have that romantic attachment with Ireland. England don’t have Scottish or Irish ancestry but I think they have a real fondness for it, and I think those people felt that they were going to lose something if Scotland voted ‘Yes’.

Q: Right, right.

A: I, myself being somehow Scottish, I didn’t feel that way. I thought, I knew I could always have a new Scotland. I knew I’d still be half Scottish.

Q: Do you feel that the media was very balanced on the issue?

A: The media I listened to was mostly Radio Four and particularly the Today programme. I think James Naughtie, I know he was trying to be balanced but I couldn’t help feeling he was a little bit pro-, I think pro-Scottish and also therefore pro-independence but unfortunately, that’s what it boiled down to. If you were against independence, it began to become that you were against Scotland.

Q: Right.

A: I thought that was coming across in the-,

Q: From the media?

A: No, just the whole campaign. Those people, or possibly by clever PR by the SNP that if you were going to vote ‘No’, you were voting against Scotland and so that’s Scottish people voting against themselves.

Q: Oh, I see.

A: Of course obviously the-, I know that the perception was it was the rich people in the establishment who were against independence and less well-off people were for independence. As I wasn’t here, I wouldn’t really be able to judge that.

Q: Yes, sure. Sure.

A: I kind of regretted not being here for the referendum because I decided to-, I set the date I was going to move here quite a long time in advance and then two years before that, I thought, “Oh, this referendum is not going to amount to anything” and I was quite surprised by how it took off.

Q: Do you remember the first time you heard about the referendum, that there was going to be one?

A: I remember hearing a discussion about it in 2011. At that time, it was devo-max or what the wording was going to be.

Q: Yes.

A: So, at that point, I was looking up online, possibly in ‘The Scotsman’ and ‘Glasgow Herald’, to find out what it meant. So, I did know about it before it was fixed, yes.

Q: Do you think that what actually ended up on the ballot paper with devo-max removed was kind of significant in how things played out?

A: Yes, I think so. I think it made many more people progress to thinking they could go independent. I think the outcome for the SNP is good either way because the SNP seem to have created this huge desire for something different, what’s the word? Offer it, build it and they will come.

Q: Yes, yes.

A: So, a lot of people who wouldn’t have thought they wanted independence got swept up and they do now.

Q: Right, and do you think those people might have voted for devo-max otherwise?

A: I think so, yes, but that would’ve been equally good. It would’ve been a step towards independence.

Q: Yes.

A: I don’t know how I feel about it at the moment and I don’t know if those people who were going to vote for independence, who did vote independence, will vote the same way.

Q: Mm, so maybe just knowing the outcomes after the referendum?

A: I don’t know. I’m not sure how that would-, how people would vote the same or if they would change.

Q: Right, right.

A: I’m not sure what the after effect has been. I’m quite surprised how little I’ve heard about it since I’ve been here.

Q: Right. Have you been following any of the stuff about extra devolved powers and things like that?

A: Up to a point, but I find that-, because I don’t like the English side and I’m quite distressed by what they’re suggesting. I think going down that road is a bad move and it’ll be hard to come back from it, for England for English regionalism. To me, it’s also-, somehow in my head, I associate it with things like what they’re doing to the health service with this semi-privatisation where they’re getting local health authorities, GP’s to run their own services, and also what they’re doing with the education system with the so-called academies. I don’t like any of that and I feel it’s all part of the same trend. It seems to be ill thought out. It is nothing more than a trend. If it’s part of some political ideology, I don’t understand the rationale. I don’t believe it’s going to make things better. It just seems to be the Conservative party seeing how far they can push us.

Q: I mean, do you think there is any policy beyond this political ideology?

A: I think it comes down to old fashioned story of people like the individual at the expense of cooperative society and communities help getting together, so privatisation of the railways, for example, I’m still very much against that that happened and the only party that seems to be speaking of re-nationalisation is the Green party and I prefer that ethos to the privatisation ethos and the every man for himself. I almost think the nationalism, unfortunately to me is in that party. It’s in that group of policies.

Q: Yes, yes. Have you looked at the Green party at all?

A: I just heard the committee-, I think she might be the MP for Brighton on the radio at lunchtime and there were some of the things she mentioned.

Q: About re-nationalisation of the railways?

A: They want to encourage the Labour party to consider that.

Q: Oh, okay. Okay. Where do you think the SNP sits on those kinds of issues?

A: I don’t know. It is a funny thing though. I got a leaflet through the door from my local MP and I turned it over. I read both sides and I couldn’t find anywhere the mention of what party he was in, so I looked up online on his website and I couldn’t find it on there either, so I went to Wikipedia and it says he’s in the SNP so I thought, “Why isn’t he advertising that fact?”

Q: Oh, right. That’s unusual.

A: I don’t know. I just thought, “Why is he not playing that up?” Is it something he’s trying to hide? I don’t really know much about it, I guess. In all honesty, I’ve been a bit pre-occupied with house hunting since I got here, so I haven’t had-, and I also haven’t started to listen to the Scottish radio station yet, BBC Scotland, so I must start tuning into that. I intended to read the local news when I got here and I haven’t got around to it.

Q: Oh, okay. Do you read any of the Scottish newspapers or anything like that?

A: No, I haven’t done that yet [laughter]. I’m still acclimatising.

Q: Yes. You don’t want to have culture shock by immediately kind of-,

A: Well, I did mean to but somehow, I haven’t gotten around to it and I really do like to be up to date with the current affairs. I mean, I am interested. You can probably tell from the way I’m talking.

Q: Yes, yes. Sure.

A: I feel it’s one’s duty and I’ve already registered to vote so I’m ready to cast my vote and I’ll have to look into it as homework [laughter].

Q: I mean, do you think, because we were talking about local MSP’s and MP’s and stuff like that. I mean, at a local level, do you think people generally vote for the politician or the party?

A: At the local level?

Q: Yes.

A: I think for the party, yes.

Q: So, it’s kind of their policies that-?

A: I believe so. I believe people vote for the party they always voted for.

Q: Yes.

A: I think it goes a long way back. I mean, I lived in Ireland for quite a while and the extreme example there was you would vote for the party that your great grandfathers fought for in the civil war, allegedly.

Q: Right.

A: Those divisions-, it’s not a division so much, it’s just a, sort of, family trend.

Q: Yes.

A: Maybe nowadays, a lot of people grow up and they leave home or move to another area and get more independent, with thought, maybe that’s the same.

Q: Maybe, maybe. It seems interesting because at the moment, the polls have seen quite a strong shift from Labour to the SNP in Scotland.

A: Yes.

Q: So, I’m just kind of interested in-, for a lot of the cases, I mean with Labour MP’s in Westminster who have actually been there for a long time.

A: Yes.

Q: Serving their constituency for a long period of time.

A: Yes.

Q: I think in some cases, it’s a case of decades or it could be a swing away from that.

A: Yes.

Q: It’s interesting to try and unpack those issues.

A: I feel that it might be because Labour’s policies have drifted away from what they used to be.

Q: Right.

A: To become more centre and it’s sometimes harder to distinguish the Labour policies from the Conservative policies and I think that was under Tony Blair that drift to the right happened so I can understand why that has been a vacuum created and the SNP has managed to fill it. I have to say, I used to think of the SNP as a right wing party and they’re not. They’re a very left wing party, aren’t they?

Q: Yes.

A: So, it’s a bit like UKIP. I mean, what do UKIP stand for? They used to stand for one thing; get out of Europe. They’re even trying now to find their own identity. Their policies change on a daily basis. I think they’re always going to be Conservative rather than-, a new party seems to grow into its clothing really. The Green party in my mind has always been a left wing party to those issues but historically seem to be more left wing.

Q: Yes, definitely. I mean, do you ever look at societies in the continent, in Europe comparatively? I know, for example, the Green party are much stronger in places like Germany. I think even in Scandinavia and things like that.

A: Yes. Yes, possibly. I don’t know much about those policies. I suppose, those things are a bit more advanced in some respects, yes. We actually class ourselves to be so important but we’re just an island, aren’t we? [Laughter]

Q: Do you mean kind of like more socially advanced in a way?

A: Yes. I mean, Sweden is socially advanced, intellectually advanced possibly as well.

Q: Maybe.

A: I do worry about France as I think they’ve always been maverick, haven’t they.

Q: Yes.

A: Promote a national front.

Q: Yes. It seems to be a lot more-, I don’t know. I don’t mean what they were, but the French political system seems a bit more turbulent, I guess.

A: Yes, maybe it’s because they have proportional representation.

Q: Yes, yes.

A: So, it’s more volatile. That’s another thing of having to-, I’m not really sure how I feel about proportional representation. I think I’d vote for it in a referendum.

Q: Yes, yes.

A: But I’ve never really heard a convincing argument which is a better system.

Q: Right, right.

A: You can get down to number crunching then, wouldn’t you?

Q: Yes.

A: I don’t know.

Q: Do you have any kind of feelings on the Lib Dem’s at the moment?

A: I have voted Lib Dem in the past, but I wouldn’t do again since they went into alliance with the Conservative party.

Q: Right, okay.

A: Another thing, I don’t really know-, I’m going to have to agree that before the next election, which is of course coming up very soon, I’m going to have to do my homework about how to use my vote now that I am living in Scotland and the effect that’ll have in whether I’m voting for a Westminster MP or an MSP.

Q: Yes.

A: So, I seem to have more votes here than I would’ve had in England.

Q: Yes, I think so.

A: [Laughter]. It seems wrong somehow.

Q: And presumably the outcome is quite complicated because I think the MSP’s are proportionately elected, aren’t they?

A: I don’t know.

Q: And the MP’s won’t be, so the votes could go different ways in each of the elections.

A: Yes, exactly. So, you’ve got your MSP for where you live and then there’s another one covering several areas including your area. Again, when I was in Ireland, we were voting proportional representation there so I’m quite used to the single transferable vote thing and all that stuff.

Q: Okay.

A: It might be the same system here.

Q: Yes.

A: But it does give scope for endless discussion.

Q: Yes, that is true.

Q: But maybe the referendum could show that people could still really engage with issues when they’re feeling disorientated with political parties in general, why they did turn out so low in general elections?

A: I don’t know. Maybe it’s to do with how much time the media devotes to it.

Q: Yes.

A: People spend a lot of time watching television and it reflects what they’ve seen on the TV, the perception agenda.

Q: Yes. Well, I mean they’re thinking about the general election on the TV in the run up to the general election.

A: People have seen it all before, there’s no novelty.

Q: Yes, maybe that’s true.

A: When I first moved to Ireland though, I was very struck by how people there seemed to discuss politics over there.

Q: Oh, right.

A: People who you wouldn’t regard as being very well or very much educated, seem to be able to express an opinion and they seem to be better involved.

Q: Oh, right.

A: Than people in Britain and I think that’s a bit of a generalisation but I was really struck by it for several years-,

Q: Right.

A: It seemed to be more of a custom in Ireland to discuss current affairs than here and it seems to me that’s what happened in Scotland just before the referendum, that more people were drawn into discussing it who wouldn’t normally and it would be lovely if that could have happened more.

Q: Yes. I mean, do you generally feel, now being in Scotland, that you think people talk about politics more?

A: I have to say, I haven’t really had the chance to find out because I haven’t really focused on that. In fact, I think there’s been a deadly silence. I think they’ve written about it afterwards and there’s still quite a few ‘Yes’ signs in the windows. I didn’t see any ‘No’ signs up. There’s still a few die-hards in the village.

Q: Did you hear about the 45+ movement?

A: The what, sorry?

Q: The 45+ movement?

A: I did actually. That’s-, well, they’re the ‘Yes’ voters, aren’t they?

Q: Well, I think it’s at least 45%, and more reportedly.

A: I did hear about it. I heard something on the radio but then I thought is that also the 1745, it’s a bit of a coincidence.

Q: Yes, maybe that’s it too, yes.

A: It’s harking back to a long time ago though.

Q: Yes.

A: I think I’m not really mixing enough with Scottish people yet to be able to judge the side by side. I haven’t been here long enough to develop a network with people yet but I’ll get there.

Q: Yes. I mean, do you think that going forward, there’s a sense now that people have shifted allegiances in Scotland, do you think, as a result of the independence debate?

A: I don’t know but I can somehow feel that people haven’t, that they might’ve gone back to their position before they were swept up in the emotion of the referendum. There may have been a slight shift. I do know that a lot of people joined the Scottish National Party and they had a massive increase in membership but I’m not sure if it’ll last until renewal. I don’t know if those people will renew those subscriptions. I think we’ll see a slight increase.

Q: Do you think Labour generally did a good job with their campaigning?

A: No, I don’t think so. I think they failed to convince, me anyway. They didn’t seem to know what the message they were trying to get across was.

Q: Right. Why do you think that was, because Labour’s quite strong in Scotland so you kind of feel that they should have had their finger on the pulse?

A: I think there were too many issues. It’s one question but it comes down to so many different issues. It’s hard to encapsulate it, and also there was the thorny problem with Labour and Conservatives both wanting the same result, so finding there were two of them combined [laughter], that was always going to be difficult and they had different reasons for wanting the same result, didn’t they? I mean, I think Labour just didn’t want to lose all of those seats in Scotland and lose the voting. The vote for Labour in Scotland is a large percentage of the Labour party’s support into Westminster.

Q: Yes.

A: They kept saying oh, if the referendum is a ‘Yes’, the Labour party won’t get in again. That would’ve been a massive-, they would’ve had to reform the party.

Q: Do you think for the same reasons that-, I mean, do you think the Conservatives did a good job campaigning for ‘No’?

A: Well, no. I think they made a hash of it actually. David Cameron looked like an idiot [laughter] I’m so prejudiced against David Cameron and when he came-, because I’m told with Cameron, his advisors told him not to come to Scotland because he might make things worse and in the last week, he thought, “Well, I’d better go after all,” and probably looked like a wally really.

Q: Because he just came last minute?

A: Yes, in a panic. They were obviously panicking and there was a tape recording of his phone call. He thought his microphone was switched off and he was speaking to another leader of some country. They recorded him, he thought he wasn’t on the mic and he was heard saying just after the referendum what a close shave it had been and how they were all panicking.

Q: Oh, right, okay.

A: Yes. It was one of these-, they were filming these two leaders and they thought their mic were switched off.

Q: But do you think it would’ve been in the Conservative’s interests in some ways if Scotland had got independence, because as you said, they would’ve had a lock hold on England, I guess?

A: I think the reason the Conservatives did not want Scotland to leave was because it would make them look bad. They are the new leading party and it would make Cameron look like he’d lost so I think it was just as much about pride. I know there must be more controversial reasons than that but I think at the time, Cameron could lose leadership of the party because he’d have lost Scotland.

Q: Right, right.

A: I think that was the reason. I think he’s starting to feel a bit hated.

Q: Yes.

A: [laughter].

Q: Yes. Well, I think that’s pretty much covered everything actually.

A: Do you know something? I don’t know if this is relevant but when I’m discussing politics, I’m not talking about discussing it with you because you’re just asking me and I’m spouting an opinion, but if I’m talking to a friend and we’re discussing politics, I always enjoy it more if we agree and we have similar views. I do not enjoy talking to somebody who has an opposing view from me because I don’t enjoy conflict so that might be a reason why I don’t discuss politics that often.

Q: Right. That’s probably normal, isn’t it? I mean, most people like people to agree with them, eh, and don’t really like conflict.

A: Some people enjoy it [laughter].

Q: Yes, but I think they’re probably the minority though, yes. Anyway, thank you.

A: Okay.

**[Transcript Ends 00:43:39]**