

Letters

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Tattoo in open and sensible talks with police on charges

It was disappointing to read Brian Ferguson's article "Edinburgh Tattoo chief's fury over soaring cost for police" (News, 16 July), which portrayed the issue of police charging at events and festivals in Scotland to be such a binary issue – industry versus the police. This is not the case. Concerns over the rising costs of police charging have been raised by many events and festival organisers across Scotland. These views have been voiced repeatedly at the Events & Festivals Industry Group, where the industry has been asking for an open and sensible discussion with policy-makers.

Brigadier David Allfrey of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, who also chairs the Events & Festivals Industry Group, together with others on the group have been working behind the scenes with Police Scotland and EventScotland to better understand the charges for some time. Knowing how much work has been done and the care and tact which has been taken over the subject, the article was unhelpful in its tone and no doubt the subsequent stimulation of views on the subject. There is no individual or collective "fury" from the industry, simply the posing of a resolute and intelligent question.

Event organisers want more than anything for their events

to be successful, inclusive and safe and recognise that there may be a requirement for police officers to be present. However, these events also need to be financially viable. Police charging is just one of a number of costs which are rising steeply and increasingly organisers are faced with the dilemma of raising prices, cutting costs or not operating. The sector is simply asking for an open dialogue with relevant parties on police charging to better understand the approach, ensure fair charging across the sector and ensure the safety and security of those attending events.

We welcome continued open dialogue with the Scottish Government and Police Scotland on the issue of police charging at events and festivals in Scotland and the efforts that are made by all public and private partners to ensure that Scotland's events and festivals sector remains one of our key tourism assets and economic drivers.

Marc Crothall, chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance

Nationalist hypocrisy to challenge DUP deal

Surely it's beyond ironic that the SNP Holyrood government is to launch a formal dispute process over the UK government's deal with the DUP?

SNP Finance Secretary, Derek Mackay, glossing over

generous Scottish City deals, complains it's not fair and that, under Barnett Formula principles, Scotland, as well as Northern Ireland, should receive an additional payout from the UK.

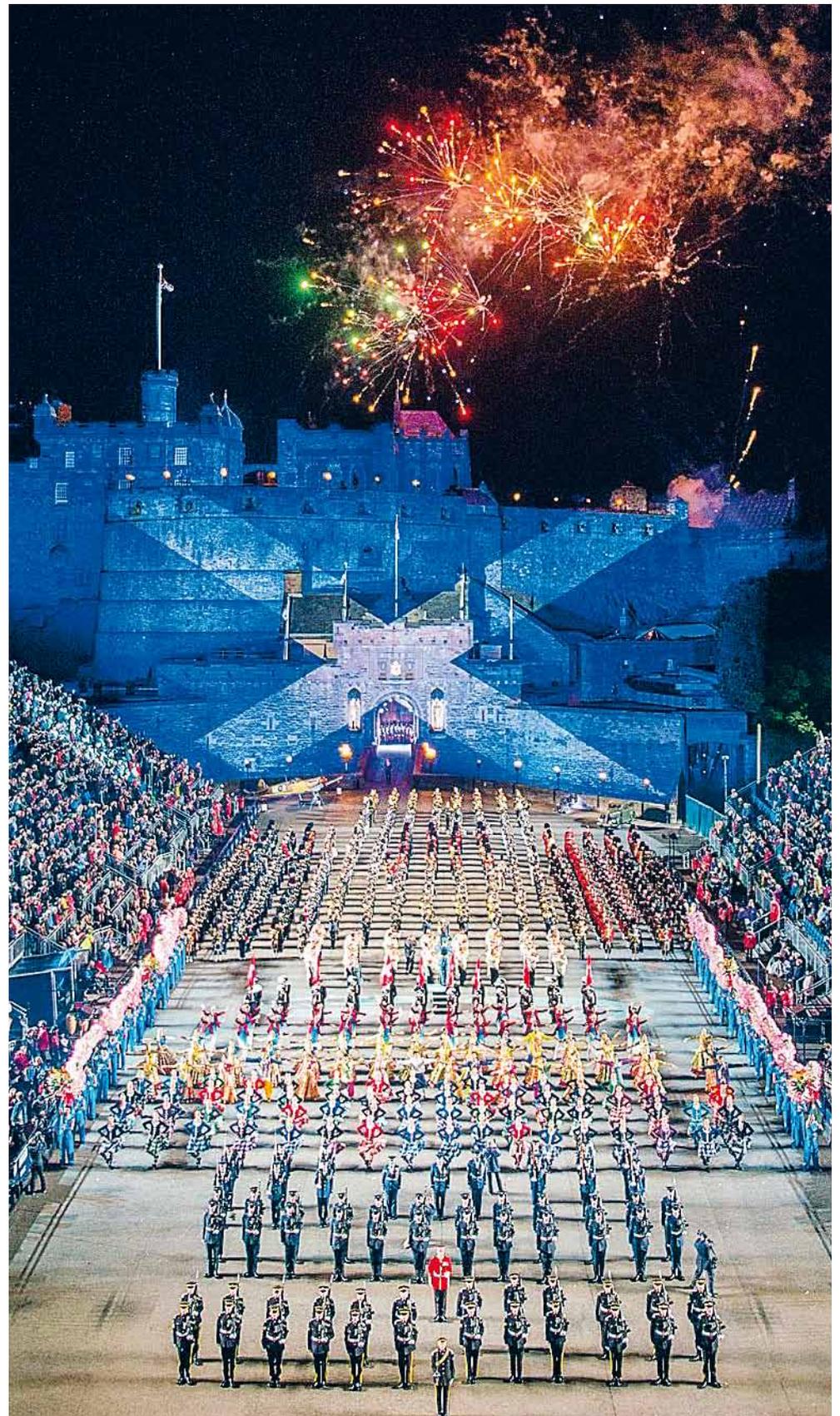
Let us remember the SNP is the party that strives to separate Scotland from the rest of the UK. It's the party therefore that implicitly rejects the sharing of resources across the UK so that the entire UK benefits from the massive tax generating power of London and the southeast of England. Under the Barnett Formula, post-oil boom Scotland's public services are better funded than England's.

So now the SNP seizes the opportunity to turn the Barnett Formula into a grievance. Seemingly the nationalists now believe the economic benefits provided by the UK are crucially important to us. More SNP double standards?

Martin Redfern, Edinburgh

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

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The Tattoo recognises the importance of safety and security to its success. Photograph: Ian Georgeson

Online Forum

Debate at www.scotlandonsunday.com

Our story last week on claims by a law expert that the Brexit Bill would struggle to deliver EU withdrawal prompted plenty of online comments

This is the clearest assessment of the Westminster stance I have read in the UK press. I wonder if May reads *Scotland on Sunday*.

Berlin Calling

What a complete and utter fiasco. John Major's 1993 prophecy may yet be the Tory party's epitaph: "Mark my

words, Europe is the wolf that will eventually devour the Tory party." You perhaps got it slightly wrong, John. What you perhaps should have added after "Tory party" are the words "and the UK along with it."

George Kelly

15 weeks after triggering Article 50 the UK government

has yet to resolve the basic issue of the rights UK and EU citizens living in each other's jurisdiction.

Kampung Highlander

Only the payments of their inflated salaries is done on time within the EU.

Duke of Highland Perthshire

Four months on and they

have achieved diddly. When ex-cabinet secretaries are speaking out, it's code for deep disquiet within the serving senior civil servants. This will be the equivalent of the Little Big Horn, with the useless PM leading us into an ambush of our own making.

theyego

Ummm... Labour are pro-

Brexit, too – you do know that, don't you?

Bunny Hugger

Too many laws, rules and regulations. Anyone need my copy of the 25 A4 pages covering the import of timber products to the EU? It keeps thousands of lawyers busy – wonderful isn't it?

armstronggermany