Background & brief statement
Robert Kilgour was born in Edinburgh, brought up in Fife, educated at Loretto School in Musselburgh and currently divides his time between his Westminster home in London, his cottage by the sea in Fife and his main company office in Musselburgh.

Robert is a Scottish serial entrepreneur, investor and property developer and was the original founder of Four Seasons Health Care which is now the UK’s largest care home operator with over 500 homes and over 30,000 staff.

He was also the founder in 1990 of Dow Investments Plc (General Investments) and in 2004 of the Renaissance Care Group (Scottish care home operator) which currently has 12 care homes and around 750 staff throughout Scotland.

Robert is a co-founder & Director of NW Systems Group (IP video and security) and of Kingdom FM Radio – the local radio franchise holder for Fife. He has also spent time on both the CBI Scotland Council and the CBI United Kingdom SME Council.

Robert is married to his second wife Jacqueline, a financial services lawyer in London and has four grown up children from his first marriage. He has spent over twenty years actively fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support and has raised close to £2 million over this time mainly to fund projects in Scotland.

‘I am a simple, hard working Scottish businessman who is endeavouring to continue to attract investment into Scotland and to create jobs in Scotland in the same way that I have been doing for the last thirty plus years with some reasonable success. My late Father used to urge me to work hard, play hard and always put something back and I have done my best to follow this good advice during all of my adult life.

I am a very proud and passionate Scot and I am also a very proud citizen of the UK. I accept that Scotland could survive as an independent country and I certainly would not leave the country if it did become independent but I firmly believe that a ‘Yes’ vote and the independence that would follow would simply not be in the best interests of Scotland or the Scottish people.

I also firmly believe that Governments don’t create jobs – their role is to create the right climate for those of us in business to create the jobs that will then supply them with the much needed taxes that enable Governments to then choose how to allocate these collected funds across all of the essential public services that they are responsible for delivering.

I really feel, and in fact I have already found recently, that the threat of independence is a direct negative barrier to attracting investment and jobs into Scotland.

I always saw, and still see, Devolution as an ever evolving process and this is evidenced by all of the additional powers shortly to come in from the Scotland Act...
2012 and I am further strongly in favour of more fiscal powers being devolved to the Scottish Parliament in the very near future.

However, why break up something that is currently being improved and can be improved still further. I also firmly believe that the UK’s diversity is its greatest strength not its greatest weakness.’

www.dow-investments.com

Robert D Kilgour
February 2014