

John Lamont MSP, Scottish Conservative chief whip said:

"Four weeks before postal ballots go out, Alex Salmond is taking the votes of people in Scotland for granted and planning back-room deals with Labour from a TV sofa in London. Even for him, this is stunning arrogance."

"Now he is talking up the prospect of a vote-by-vote deal with Labour - one Ed Miliband still refuses to rule out."

"That would mean the SNP holding a weak Labour party to ransom on every vote, every day, all with the aim of trying to weaken the United Kingdom. A year after Scotland gave a clear and unequivocal No to the SNP's separation plans, Alex Salmond would be back at the heart of Westminster trying to sow chaos with our future."

"When we've just come through a divisive referendum, this is exactly what Scotland doesn't need. We need a strong UK Government with a plan to finish the job of economic recovery, so we can secure a better future for Scotland and create more opportunities for young people."

"It's clear Labour can't do that, and it's clear Ed Miliband won't stand up to Alex Salmond. Only the Conservatives have the strength to prevent a weak SNP-Labour deal putting our future at risk."