《白金汉宫表态 英女王对公投保持中立》

Any suggestion that the Queen would wish to influence the Scottish referendum campaign is "categorically wrong", Buckingham Palace has said.

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The comments follow press reports that Her Majesty was concerned about the prospect of Scottish independence.

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It also follows a statement from First Minister Alex Salmond, who said the Queen "will be proud" to be the monarch of an independent Scotland.

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The Palace insisted the referendum was "a matter for the people of Scotland".

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A spokesman said: "The sovereign's constitutional impartiality is an established principle of our democracy and one which the Queen has demonstrated throughout her reign.

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"As such the monarch is above politics and those in political office have a duty to ensure that this remains the case.

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"Any suggestion that the Queen would wish to influence the outcome of the current referendum campaign is categorically wrong.

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"Her Majesty is firmly of the view that this is a matter for the people of Scotland."

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The BBC's royal correspondent Peter Hunt said he understands that the comments were made in response to calls for the Queen to speak out in favour of the union and not in response to Mr Salmond's remarks.

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