



## Scotland the referendum and devolution: Selected timeline

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This Note gives a selected timeline of events and significant publications leading up to the referendum in Scotland on 18 September 2014 and to some of the planned follow-up events.

A shorter version of this timeline can also be found on the [Scotland, the referendum and independence](#) pages on the UK Parliament website.

Further details on the result of the referendum can be found in House of Commons Library publication [Scottish independence referendum 2014](#), RP14/50, 30 September 2014 and on proposals for further devolution in [Scotland: Devolution proposals](#) SN/PC/06987, 24 September 2014. Details on devolution agreed and in progress can be found in [The Scotland Act 2012: Devolution of tax powers to the Scottish Parliament](#), SN/BT/05984, 10 October 2014.

Other timelines have been compiled by a number of organisations. Sources for these can be found in the second part of this Note.

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## 1 Timeline

Date	Event	Organisation
1707	<a href="#">Act of Union</a>	
1886	Creation of Scotland Office, as department of UK Government	UK Government
1886	Scottish Home Rule Association founded.	
1900	Labour Party founded, with support for Home Rule for Scotland and Wales.	Labour Party
1934	Establishment of Scottish National Party.	Scottish National Party
1945	SNP wins first seat in Parliament (Motherwell), at by-election	Scottish National Party
November 1973	Royal Commission on the Constitution (Kilbrandon Commission) final report (Cmnd 5460), recommends devolved legislatures for Scotland and Wales.	UK Government
1978	<i>Scotland Act 1978</i> , giving effect to referendum on devolution.	UK Government
1 March 1979	Referendum on devolution.	
1989	Establishment of Scottish Constitutional Convention	Scottish Constitutional Convention.
30 November 1995	Publication of <i>Scotland's Parliament: Scotland's Right</i> , final report of Scottish Constitutional Convention.	Scottish Constitutional Convention
1 May 1997	Election of Labour Government, with manifesto commitment to elected Scottish Parliament, based on Constitutional Convention	Labour Party

Date	Event	Organisation
11 September 1997	Referendum on devolution.	
1998	<a href="#">Scotland Act</a> passed, devolved power to Scottish Parliament.	UK Parliament Scottish Parliament
12 May 1999	Scottish Parliament opens	Scottish Parliament
25 March 2008	<a href="#">Commission on Scottish Devolution</a> established, Chair Sir Kenneth Calman	UK Government
15 June 2009	<a href="#">Serving Scotland Better</a> , Calman Commission Final Report published.	Calman Commission
30 November 2009	<a href="#">Your Scotland, Your Voice : A national conversation</a> published to respond to Calman and make further proposals.	Scottish Government
2011	SNP win majority of seats in Scottish Parliament, with <a href="#">manifesto commitment</a> to seek independence by referendum.	Scottish Parliament Scottish National Party
10 January 2012	<a href="#">Scotland's Constitutional Future consultation paper (Cm 8203)</a>	UK Government
25 January 2012	<a href="#">Your Scotland, Your Referendum Consultation paper</a> published.	Scottish Government
1 May 2012	<a href="#">Scotland Act 2012</a> receives Royal Assent	UK Parliament
25 May 2012	Launch of <a href="#">Yes Scotland</a> campaign for Yes vote.	<a href="#">Yes Scotland</a> Scottish National Party
26 June 2012	Launch of <a href="#">Better Together</a> campaign for No vote.	<a href="#">Better Together</a> Labour Party, Conservative Party and Liberal Democrats.
15 October 2012	<a href="#">Edinburgh Agreement</a> signed	UK Government and Scottish Government
October 2012	<a href="#">Federalism, the best future for Scotland</a> proposals on further devolution published.	Scottish Liberal Democrats, Home Rule and Community Rule Commission.
15 January 2013	Section 30 order confirmed. Authority to hold referendum	House of Commons

Date	Event	Organisation
	transferred to Scottish Parliament. ( <a href="#">HC Deb 556 c742-840</a> )	
16 January 2013	Section 30 Order confirmed in Lords. ( <a href="#">HL Deb 742, c694-756</a> )	House of Lords
30 January 2013	<a href="#">Report on wording of referendum question</a> published.	Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission recommends the question should be altered to: <b>“Should Scotland be an independent country? Yes / No”</b> Advice accepted by both Governments.
5 February 2013	<a href="#">Scotland’s Future: from the referendum to independence and a written constitution</a> report published	Scottish Government
12 March 2013	<a href="#">Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Bill</a> SP Bill 24 Session 4 (2013) introduced.	Scottish Government Scottish Parliament
21 March 2013	<a href="#">Referendum date announced</a>	Scottish Government
21 March 2013	<a href="#">Scottish Independence Referendum Bill</a> SP Bill 25 Session 4 (2013) Introduced.	Scottish Government Scottish Parliament
13 May 2013	Launch of <a href="#">United with Labour Campaign</a>	Scottish Labour Party
7 August 2013	<a href="#">Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Bill</a> receives Royal Assent.	Scottish Parliament
26 November 2013	Scottish Government white paper <a href="#">Scotland’s Future: Your Guide to an independent Scotland</a> published.	Scottish Government
17 December 2013	<a href="#">Scottish Independence Referendum Bill</a> receives Royal Assent.	Scottish Parliament
23 April 2014	Better Together and Yes Scotland designated as lead campaigners for Referendum	Electoral Commission
30 May 2014	Start of regulated referendum period, with spending limits on campaigners, under <a href="#">Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013</a> .	Electoral Commission

Date	Event	Organisation
2 June 2014	<b>Report of Commission on future governance of Scotland</b> (Strathclyde Commission) published.	Scottish Conservative Party
16 June 2014	Statement on further powers for Scottish Parliament.	Scottish Conservative, Scottish Labour and Scottish Lib Dem leaders (Repeated by UK Party leaders 5 Aug 2014)
22 August 2014	Start of 28 day “pre-vote period” of restriction on publications relating to the referendum.	
16 September 2014	Statement of undertakings headlined “The Vow”, published in <i>Daily Record</i> .	UK Conservative, Labour and Lib Dem Party leaders.
<b>18 September 2014</b>	<b>Referendum vote in Scotland.</b>	
19 September 2014	Establishment of Smith Commission (led by Lord Smith of Kelvin)	UK Government
30 September	<a href="#">Members of Smith Commission nominated by Parties</a>	Smith Commission
10 October 2014	<a href="#">More powers for the Scottish Parliament</a> proposals published.	Scottish Government
13 October 2014	<a href="#">Parties’ proposals on further devolution</a> (Conservative, Labour & Lib Dem) published (Cm 8946)	UK Government
14 October 2014	Commons debate on Devolution (Scotland Referendum). ( <a href="#">HC Deb 14 Oct 2014, col 168-271</a> )	UK Parliament
16 October 2014	Commons adjournment debate on devolution (Gordon Brown). ( <a href="#">HC Deb 16 Oct 2014, col 555-564</a> )	UK Parliament
29 October 2014	Lords debate on the Scotland referendum ( <a href="#">HL Deb 29 Oct 2014, col 1201-1298</a> )	UK Parliament
By 30 November 2014	Smith Commission to publish Heads of Agreement and recommendations on further	Smith Commission

Date	Event	Organisation
	devolution to Scottish Parliament.	
By 25 January 2015	Draft Bill to UK Parliament on further devolution of powers to Scottish Parliament.	UK Government (informed by Smith Commission)
April 2015	Additional tax raising and borrowing powers devolve to Scottish Parliament, under <i>Scotland Act 2012</i> .	Scottish Parliament
7 May 2015	Elections to UK Parliament	UK Parliament
After 7 May 2015	Publication of Scotland Bill on further devolution.	UK Government
5 May 2016	Elections to Scottish Parliament	Scottish Parliament

## 2 Other timelines

Other timelines were compiled by a number of organisations in the run-up to the referendum. The Scottish Government timeline can be accessed on their website at [Scotland's Referendum Timeline](#). BBC News Scotland published [Timeline: Scotland's Road to Independence](#).

The Scottish Government's timeline on constitutional reform, looking backwards and forwards from the Referendum, can be accessed on their website at [Topics: Constitutional Reform](#).

Another timeline, with a longer view of [Scotland's Constitutional History](#), can be found on the official Scotland.org website, published by the Scottish Government and other official bodies.

After the referendum, BBC News Scotland prepared an outline timeline in early October 2014, as part of [Scotland Votes No: What happens now?](#)

The Scottish Constitutional Futures Forum, (an academics grouping), have [The Independence Referendum: Timeline of Events](#), which includes the preparation and aftermath of the vote. This is interactive and being updated as events arise.

Newspapers have offered their selection of events in these articles:

The Herald Scotland, [From treaties to referendums: Scotland's political timeline](#), 2 May 2012.

Scotsman, [Scottish independence: timeline to referendum](#), 17 July 2013.

Reuters, [Timeline: history of Scotland's bids for independence](#), 4 February 2014.

Daily Record, [Yes it's Indy Lite](#), 11 October 2014.