



How did we get here? Agreeing the powers of the Scottish Parliament

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Key Themes

- ❑ Scotland in the UK
- ❑ How constitutional change is agreed:
 - Referendums
 - Commissions
 - Parties
 - UK Parliament
- ❑ The Scottish Parliament's powers
- ❑ Constitutional options for future

Scotland in the UK before 1999



'The Union occupied a position of such unchallenged dominance in Scottish life between about 1750 and 1970 that there was no need to make a vigorous case on its behalf

(Colin Kidd, 2008).

Scotland and the UK after 1999



UK (Westminster) Parliament



Scottish Parliament



National Assembly for Wales (Senedd)



Northern Ireland Assembly (Stormont)

Scottish Parliament referendum 1997

→ Scotland Act 1998

Scotland is united. Churches, trade unions, voluntary organisations and political parties all AGREE.

Our Scottish Parliament:

- a strong voice for Scotland
- better schools, better hospitals
- a better economy
- a new, modern democracy
- decisions made for Scotland in Scotland

**YES
YES**

**Take this chance for a better Scotland.
Your vote can make the difference.**

**Thursday, September 11th
- Referendum Day**

I AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A
SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

I DO NOT AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A
SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

I AGREE THAT A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT SHOULD
HAVE TAX-VARYING POWERS

I DO NOT AGREE THAT A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
SHOULD HAVE TAX-VARYING POWERS

THINK  TWICE

**THINK TWICE
OR
PAY THE PRICE**

On 11th September

NO X NO X

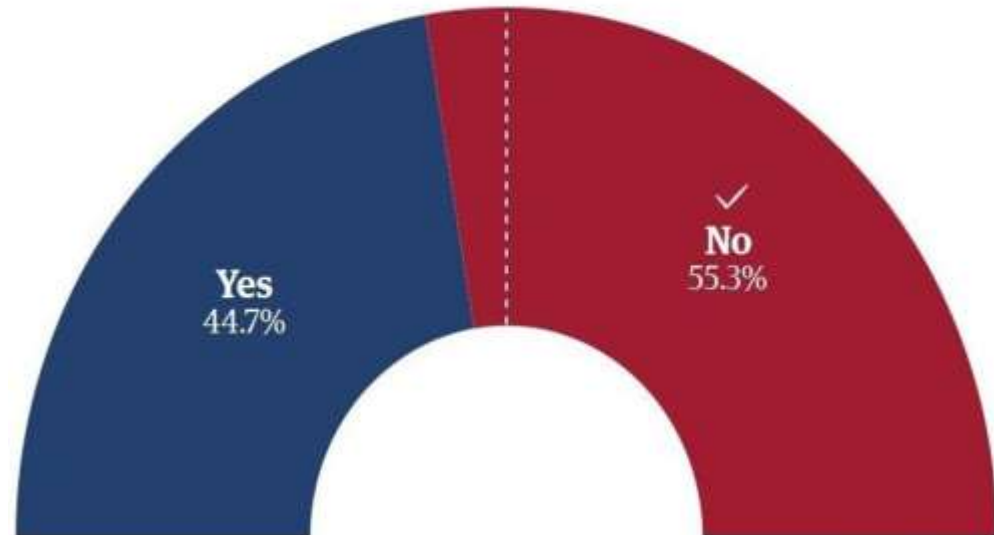
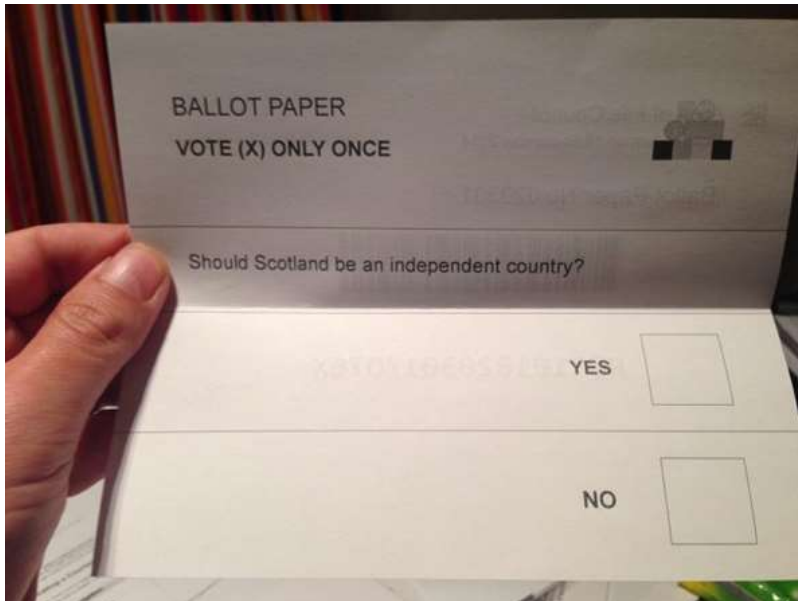
Independence Referendum 2014



*“we will continue to work together constructively **in the light of the outcome, whatever it is**, in the best interests of the people of Scotland and of the rest of the United Kingdom”*

Edinburgh Agreement, 2012

Final result with 32 of 32 councils declared



Turnout	Yes	No
84.6%	1617,989	2,001,926

The Calman Commission → Scotland Act 2012



- ❑ The Calman Commission was set up to review powers of Scottish Parliament, especially 'fiscal accountability'
- ❑ The Commission also had remit of securing the position of Scotland within the United Kingdom.



THE VOW

The people of Scotland want to know that all three main parties will deliver change for Scotland.

WE ARE AGREED THAT:

The Scottish Parliament is permanent and extensive new powers for the Parliament will be delivered by the process and to the timetable agreed and announced by our three parties, starting on 19th September.

And it is our hope that the people of Scotland will be engaged directly as each party works to improve the way we are governed in the UK in the years ahead.

We agree that the UK exists to ensure opportunity and security for all by sharing our resources equitably across all four nations to secure the defence, prosperity and welfare of every citizen.

And because of the continuation of the Barnett allocation for resources, and the powers of the Scottish Parliament to raise revenue, we can state categorically that the final say on how much is spent on the NHS will be a matter for the Scottish Parliament.

We believe that the arguments that so powerfully make the case for staying together in the UK should underpin our future as a country. We will honour those principles and values not only before the referendum but after.

People want to see change. A No vote will deliver faster, safer and better change than separation.

David Cameron *Ed Miliband* *Nigel Farage*



Smith Commission → Scotland Act 2016



□ The Referendum campaign ‘Vow’:

- “permanent and extensive new powers”
- “faster, safer, better change than separation”



Making Change Happen in Law



Scottish Parliament's powers =
all areas not reserved to UK Parliament



Powers of the UK Parliament ('reserved') & the Scottish Parliament ('devolved')

RESERVED

Defence
Welfare
Macro Economic policy
Constitution
Foreign Affairs
Immigration
Broadcasting
Energy Regulation

DEVOLVED

Health
Justice
Education
Agriculture & Environment
Fire & Rescue
Transport
Culture & Arts
Sport
Some tax
Some social security



Evolution of Scottish Tax Powers

(source: Scottish Parliament Information Centre)

Approximate proportion of devolved expenditure

Scotland Act
1998

10%

Business Rates
£1,920m
Council Tax
£2,000m

Scotland Act
2012

22%

Scottish Rate of Income
Tax (SRIT)
£4,450m
Scottish Landfill Tax
£150m
Land and Buildings
Transactions Tax (LBTT)
£480m

Scotland Act
2016

50%

Aggregates Levy
£50m
Air Passenger Duty
£310m
VAT
£5,370m
Income Tax
£11,200m

Key Constitutional options

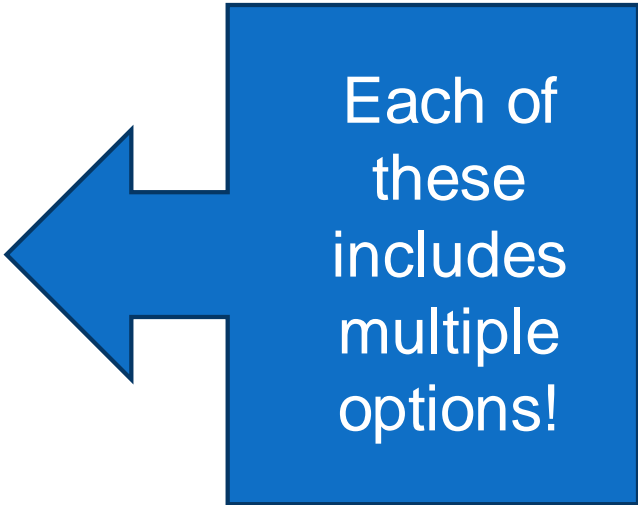
Status Quo (Scotland Act 2016) – no change?

But Brexit changes context of how parliament can exercise its powers

More devolution for Scotland

Federalism for the UK

Scottish Independence



Each of these includes multiple options!

Notes

Images courtesy of:

- The Scottish Political Archive, University of Stirling
- The Westminster Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly
- The Scotsman, the Daily Record



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