

**Scottish Independence Referendum
Thursday 18 September 2014**

Referendum Timetable

Action	Reference	Timescale	Date
The application period (for applications to be a designated organisation)	Sch 4 Para 7(6)	28 days ending with the day before the first day of the decision period	Thursday 20 March– Wednesday 16 April 2014
The decision period (for determination of applications to be a designated organisation)	Sch 4 Para 7(6)	16 days ending with the 28 th day before the first day of the referendum period	Thursday 17 April until Friday 2 May 2014
Referendum period	Sch 8	Period of 16 weeks ending with the date of the referendum	Friday 30 May – Thursday 18 September 2014
Publication of Notice of Referendum (Direction by CCO)	Sch 3 Rule 1	Not later than the 25 th day before the date of the referendum – (25 th day before the referendum is Thursday 14 August)	Wednesday 13 August
Deadline for receipt by CO of appointment of local referendum agent by permitted participant	Section 17(3)	Before noon on the 25 th day before the date of the referendum	Before noon on Thursday 14 August
Publication by CO of Notice of appointment of referendum agents	Section 17(6)	As soon as practicable after notification of the appointments	From noon on Thursday 14 August
Dispatch of poll cards (Direction by the CCO)	Sch 3 Rule 11	As soon as reasonably practicable after the publication of the Notice of Referendum	Between 14 and 15 August
“Purdah” period	Sch 4 Para 26(4)	The period of 28 days ending with the date of the referendum	From Friday 22 August until Thursday 18 September
First issue of postal ballot packs (Direction by CCO)	Sch 2 Para 22	As soon as it is practicable to do so	Between 26 and 28 August
Deadline for registration	RoPA (England and Wales) [and (Scotland) Regs 2001, Reg 29(4)]	Midnight on the 12 th day before the date of the referendum	Midnight on Tuesday 2 September
Deadline for receipt of postal and ordinary proxy vote applications	Sch 2 Paras 7(2) and 19	5pm on the 11 th day before the date of the referendum	5pm on Wednesday 3 September
Deadline for changing method of voting	Sch 2 Para 7(2) and Para 19	5pm on the 11 th day before the date of the referendum	5pm on Wednesday 3 September
Deadline for CO to give notice to referendum agents of each opening of postal voters’ boxes	Sch 2 Para 31	Not less than 48 hours’ notice in writing specifying the time and place and the number of agents that may attend.	Local variations depending on dates of opening
Deadline for receipt by CO of appointment of postal ballot agents	Sch 2 Para 20(5)	No later than the time fixed for the opening of the postal voters’ box.	Local variations depending on dates of openings.
Deadline for receipt of emergency proxy vote applications by the ERO (without attestation)	Sch 2 Para 8	Before the 5 th day before the date of the referendum	By midnight on Wednesday 10 September

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Deadline for receipt by the CO of notices of appointment of polling and counting agents	Sch 3 Rule 14(4)	No later than the 5 th day before the date of the referendum	Midnight on Thursday 11 September
Start date for applications to be made for replacement of postal ballot papers lost or not received	Sch 2 Para 29	By the 4 th day before the date of the referendum Note that after 5pm on Wednesday 17 September the replacement can only be made by hand.	From Friday 12 September until 5pm on Thursday 18 September
Day and hours of the poll	Section 1(4) & Sch 3 Rule 2	7am to 10pm on the date of the referendum	Thursday 18 September
Deadline for replacement of spoilt postal ballot packs	Sch 2 Para 28(3) and (8)	5pm on the date of the referendum. Note that after 5pm on Wednesday 17 September the replacement can only be made by hand.	5pm on Thursday 18 September
Deadline for receipt of emergency proxy applications by the ERO (attestation required)	Sch 2 Para 8(3) & (9)	5pm on the date of the referendum	5pm on Thursday 18 September
Deadline for correction by the ERO of clerical errors on the Polling List	Sch 3 Rule 26	9pm on the date of the referendum	9pm on Thursday 18 September
Start of verification and count (Direction by CCO)	Sch 3 Rule 29(1)	As soon as reasonably practicable after the close of the poll.	Between 22.01 and 23.00 on Thursday 18 September
Declaration of local totals by CO	Sch 3 Rule 35(2)(a)	When authorised by CCO	Friday 19 September
Sealing up of ballot papers and related materials	Sch 3 Rule 36	On the completion of counting	Friday 19 September
Delivery of referendum materials to proper officer of the council	Sch 3 Rule 37	After sealing the materials	Friday 19 September
Publication of local totals by CO	Sch 3 Rule 35(2)(b)	As soon as practicable	Friday 19 September
Declaration of national result by CCO	Sch 3 Rule 35(3)(a)	Following certification of national result	Friday 19 September
Publication of national result by CCO	Sch 3 Rule 35(3)(b)	As soon as practicable	Friday 19 September
Permitted period for lodging of any petition for judicial review of the number of ballot papers counted or votes cast as certified by a CO or the CCO	Section 34	The permitted period is the period of 6 weeks beginning with the day on which the CO or CCO makes the certification (or the last certification if more than one is made)	Friday 31 October 2014 (assumes certification is made on 19 September)
Last date for the delivery of returns of referendum expenses (£250,000 or under) to the Electoral Commission	Sch 4 Para 23 (3)	Within the period of 3 months beginning with the end of the referendum period	By 18 December 2014
Last date for the delivery of returns of referendum expenses (more than £250,000) to the Electoral Commission	Sch 4 Para 23 (1)&(2)	Within the period of 6 months beginning with the end of the referendum period	By 18 March 2015
Period for retention and public inspection of papers held by the proper officer	Sch 3 Rule 38	The proper officer must retain for one year all papers received	Until 19 September 2015 (assuming delivery to proper officer on 19 October 2014)

Action	Reference	Timescale	Date
Expiry of retention period when papers must be securely destroyed	Sch 3 Rule 38 (5)	After the period of one year	20 September 2015
Period for retention and public inspection of certifications (by COs and by the CCO) held by the CCO	Sch 3 Rule 39	One year	Until 19 September 2015
Period for public inspection of expenses returns held by Electoral Commission	Sch 4 Para 25	Two years from when each return is received by the Electoral Commission	Depends on date return received by Commission – earliest date 19 September 2016 and latest date 18 March 2017