

**Scottish Independence Referendum
Thursday 18 September 2014**

Referendum Timetable

| Action | Reference | Timescale | Date |
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| 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) |

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| 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 |