

# The Route



Believe  
in Scotland

[BelieveInScotland.org](http://BelieveInScotland.org)

Believe in Scotland Statement  
2nd August 2023

to  
**Independence**

# The next UK General Election will be a Scottish Independence Election.

## Introduction

Believe in Scotland is writing to the leaders of all the Scottish independence supporting political parties (with MPs/MSPs) to suggest a path to establishing, firstly, that independence is the settled will of the Scottish people and then implementing a process that will lead to Scotland regaining its independent status. Ordinary Believe in Scotland members, the elected regional representatives on our national steering group, and all the organisers of our 141 affiliated local and national Yes Groups were invited to contribute to this proposal via a series of events starting in February this year.

This is our statement on how we believe the political parties should seek to begin the process of Scotland becoming an independent nation and the wording / structure of the mandate we believe they must seek at the next UK General Election.

## Background

The UK Government has ignored multiple election mandates from the Scottish people for a referendum on Scottish independence. This is undemocratic and against the principles of a voluntary union. This affront to democracy must not stand. Victory in a referendum is based on a majority of votes. However, victory in a General Election in Scotland is based on a majority of Scottish seats. The UK Government's blocking of the referendum proposal now means that the rules of a General Election victory apply.

## Next steps and recommended process

As a result, in the next General Election (2024/25), the pro-independence parties are seeking a mandate from the Scottish people to begin the process of dissolving the voluntary Union of 1707 which will result in Scotland becoming an independent nation. Once that mandate has been delivered and the process of independence initiated, Westminster may not pass laws that materially affect any aspect of Scotland, or Scottish life without the full approval of the Scottish Parliament.

## **A Double Majority Mandate**

A vote for a pro-independence party is a vote for Scottish independence and we will initiate the following actions based on the performance of pro-independence parties in terms of both seats and votes:

A majority of Scottish seats and votes for pro-independence parties will establish that independence is the settled will of the Scottish people. This will mandate and empower the Scottish Government to take the lead in beginning the process of Scotland regaining independent nation status, this will include the reestablishment of the Scottish Constitutional Convention.

This would include all stakeholders based in Scotland, including political parties, trade unions, charities, religious organisations and civic societies, making it fully open and representative of the people of modern Scotland.

The Convention will meet and design a framework for Scotland to become an independent nation and agree on a legally and democratically acceptable path to Scotland's independence within 4 years of this General Election. This will include finalising the written constitution based on the existing interim draft.

The Convention in partnership with the Scottish Government will then invite the UK Government to join negotiations on the terms of Scotland's independence and the establishment of mutually respectful relations. If the UK Government refuses to engage, then the Scottish Constitutional Convention will begin the process under its own auspices and through the power of the undisputed Claim of Right of the Scottish people.

The Scottish Government will be legally empowered to engage with the international community, including the EU and UN.

The Convention may decide to hold events and that may include the decision to have Scottish MPs from Westminster participate for up to a week every two months in taking the Convention to the people across Scotland, therefore spending less time at Westminster.

In travelling around Scotland, the Convention will develop a vision for a better Scotland. It will pass resolutions demonstrating the value of an independent Scotland. When the UK Government attempts to block Scotland's progress, the huge, unsustainable cost of remaining in the UK will become evident and unacceptable to all.

This is not a contentious plan; it is completely legal. It simply reconstitutes Scotland's Constitutional Convention and follows the same path to independence as Scotland followed to devolution.

### **A Single Majority Mandate**

A majority of Scottish seats for pro-independence parties (even without a majority of votes) in this first-past-the-post election is also a vote to begin the process of Scotland becoming an independent nation. As part of this process, this outcome will provide a mandate for the Scotland Act to be amended to confirm that the Scottish Government has the permanent power to hold referenda on reserved issues such as the constitution at the date of its choosing. Any future Scottish Government will therefore have the power to hold an additional referendum on Scottish independence following an electoral mandate. This would be not more often than every seven years, reflecting existing legislation in Northern Ireland.

The Supreme Court has ruled that the UK Parliament and not the Scottish Parliament has the power over the constitution and therefore has the authority to call an independence referendum. It has never been disputed that a Scottish majority of pro-independence MPs returned to Westminster on a mandate for Scotland to become an independent nation would enact the Claim of Right and empower Scotland to become an independent nation again.

Should the UK Government refuse to amend the Scotland Act as mandated by a majority of Scottish seats achieved on such a mandate, that would signal that the UK is no longer a voluntary union and that there is no way for Scotland to become independent through agreed democratic means. This would be against accepted international legal rights and effectively represent an attempt to overturn Scotland's Claim of Right, thus the UK Government's actions would signal an end to the voluntary Union.

Should the UK Government refuse to negotiate, this will mandate and empower the Scottish Government to take the lead in beginning the process of Scotland becoming an independent nation including the reestablishment of the Scottish Constitutional Convention as with the double mandate detailed above in point 1. The Scottish Constitutional Convention – a body of the people of Scotland and not of political parties – shall then seek to oblige the UK Government to comply with the will of the Scottish people.

Note: Should the UK Government decide to agree to a referendum to avoid the scenarios elaborated above, their offer must meet two conditions:

1. It must include a commitment to amend the Scotland Act to empower the Scottish Government to hold an independence referendum on the date of its choosing. This involves a permanent transfer of powers over referenda to Holyrood and rejects a temporary Section 30 agreement, which has been used to frustrate Scotland’s democratic mandates for an independence referendum.
2. Any such commitment must be forthcoming before the publication of the above mandates in the next General Election manifestos of the main pro-independence parties.

Signed

Gordon MacIntyre-Kemp

On behalf of the Believe in Scotland National Campaign Steering Group.  
2nd August 2023



Steering Group Members involved with  
The Route to Independence Statement.

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- Argyll & Bute (Chris Sagan, Vicky Fairley)
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- Angus (Alistair Ballantyne, Ruth Watson)
- Orkney (Mike Robertson)
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- Dumfries & Galloway (Ruth Ritchie)
- Glasgow (Adrian Doherty)
- Central Scotland (Deborah Sheppard)
- South Lanarkshire (Vikki Cameron)
- Ayrshire (James Dippie,)
- Grampians/Aberdeen (Alan Petrie, Andy Stuart)
- Highlands/Moray (Paedar Morgan)
- Christians for Independence (Gareth Morgan)
- National Yes Network (Sharon Trish)
- Yes4EU (David Spacey, Morag Williamson)
- Pensioners for Independence (Alan Logue, Mary McCabe)
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