

A GUIDE TO YOUR RIGHTS FOR EEA/EU CITIZENS IN SCOTLAND

Factsheet 5. My Right to Vote

This factsheet provides a brief summary of your right to vote in elections in Scotland before, during and after the Brexit transition period.

What are my rights now (until 29 March 2019)?

If you are 16 or over and living in Scotland, you are eligible to vote in⁷:

- local elections, that elect local councillors in your area
- Scottish Parliament elections
- European Parliament elections

You cannot vote in UK Parliament elections, unless you are also a citizen of the UK, Republic of Ireland, Cyprus or Malta.⁸

What will my rights be during the Brexit transition period (30 March 2019 to 31 December 2020)?

- **You will remain eligible to vote in local elections and Scottish Parliament elections.**
- **You will not be eligible to vote for a UK MEP in the European Parliament elections**, because the UK will no longer take part in the European Parliament.

- If you want to vote in the European Parliament elections in May 2019, you must contact electoral authorities in the EEA/EU country where you're a citizen.⁹

What will my rights be after the transition period (after 1 January 2021)?

The Scottish Government has consulted on extending the opportunity to vote in Scotland to all those who are legally resident here, whatever their place of birth, in **local government** and **Scottish Parliament elections** and **referendum**.¹⁰

The Scottish Government will release a report, announcing the results of this consultation, in due course.

7. <https://www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk>

8. <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/faq/voting-and-registration/who-is-eligible-to-vote-at-a-uk-general-election>

9. <https://www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk/european-parliament>

10. Private correspondence July 2018. It has the power to do so under the Scotland Act 2016. Precedent for this was established in extension of the franchise in the Scottish independence referendum to EU citizens in 2014. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/11/part/1/crossheading/elections-etc/enacted>

How can I find out more?

For information about your right to vote in Scotland you can contact the Electoral Commission in Scotland by telephone 0333 103 1928, by email at infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk. Or you can read more on their website here: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/scotland>

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