

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.

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What are my rights now (until Brexit Day*)?

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 – these are scheduled for 23rd May 2019.

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 (Brexit Day* 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 announced a proposal to bring the Electoral Franchise Bill in the 2018/19 legislative session to protect the right of EU citizens to vote.

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>

For information about the European Parliament elections, see: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/elections>

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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>

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* If the draft withdrawal agreement between EU and UK is approved by the UK Parliament or an alternative deal is agreed by 31 October 2019, a specific date will be designated as Brexit Day. If 'no deal' is agreed by 31 October 2019, the 31 October will be Brexit Day.

