

Nicola Sturgeon delays second Scottish independence referendum

The Scottish government remains committed strongly to the principle of giving Scotland a choice at the end of this process. But I want to reassure people that our proposal is not for a referendum now or before there is sufficient clarity about the options, but rather to give them a choice at the end of the Brexit process when that clarity has emerged. I'm therefore confirming today that having listened and reflected, the Scottish government will reset the plan I set out on March the 13th. We will not seek to introduce the legislation for an independence referendum immediately. Instead, we will, in good faith, redouble our efforts and put our shoulder to the wheel in seeking to influence the Brexit talks in a way that protects Scotland's interests. We will seek to build maximum support around the proposals set out in the paper that we published in December, "Scotland's place in Europe", to keep us in the single market with substantial new powers for this parliament. We will do everything we can to influence the UK in that direction. And then, at the end of this period of negotiation with the EU, likely to be around next Autumn, when the terms of Brexit will be clearer, we will come back to parliament to set out our judgement on the base we forward at that time, including our view on a precise time scale for offering people a choice over the country's future.

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