

*These notes relate to the Scottish Elections (Dates) Act 2016  
(asp 13) which received Royal Assent on 30 March 2016*

# SCOTTISH ELECTIONS (DATES) ACT 2016

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

#### *Date of general election for Scottish Parliament*

4. **Section 1** of the Act provides that the ordinary general election for the Scottish Parliament which is scheduled to take place on 7 May 2020 will instead be scheduled to take place on 6 May 2021. Subsequent ordinary general elections will be scheduled to be held on the first Thursday in May in the fourth calendar year after the May 2021 general election.
5. The provisions in the Scotland Act 1998 which relate to setting and varying the date of ordinary and extraordinary general elections are unaffected by this change, i.e. section 1 of the Act retains the power for the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament to propose another date within a month of the election scheduled for 6 May 2021 (in section 2(5) of the Scotland Act 1998) and allows section 3(3) of the Scotland Act 1998 to operate so that an extraordinary general election within the six months before 6 May 2021 will result in cancellation of the 6 May poll.