

*These notes relate to the Referendums (Scotland) Act 2020
(asp 2) which received Royal Assent on 29 January 2020*

REFERENDUMS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2020

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY

Power to change date of referendum if UK election on the same day

Section 3 – Power to change date of referendum if UK election on the same day

20. **Section 3** sets out that the date set for the poll at a referendum must not be the same as the date of poll for any other election or referendum held throughout Scotland. It also allows the Presiding Officer, if the Parliament is dissolved or in recess, to appoint a later date for the poll at the referendum, if the date of the poll is the same as the date of a UK election. Before doing so the Presiding Officer must consult the Electoral Commission. The new date must be no more than 6 weeks after the original date of the poll and the Presiding Officer must publish a statement giving the date.