

SECTION 2

CHRONOLOGY OF DEVOLUTION

JUNE 1978 - JUNE 1979*

- 1978
- Lords Report Stage of Scotland Bill begins.
- 7 June Main amendments inserted: Assembly committees required to reflect party balance; purchase grants for libraries, museums and art galleries reserved; requirement for fourteen days' interval followed by second vote if Bill not affecting Scotland carried by Commons only because of votes of Scottish MPs; new Government clause on Orkney and Shetland to replace "Grimond amendment".
- 20 June Report Stage concluded.
- 29 June Unopposed third reading.
- 4 July Commons timetable motion for consideration of Lords amendments.
- 6 July Consideration began. Alternative member voting system defeated.
- 26 July Consideration concluded. Government defeated on committee balance, second vote in Commons and reservation of forestry.
- 27 July Lords accepted Commons amendments.
- 31 July Royal Assent.
- 1 Nov Referendum date announced.
- 1979
- 1 March Referendum held. Of those who voted, 51.6% voted "Yes" and 48.4% voted "No". Of the total electorate, 32.9% voted "Yes", 30.8% voted "No" and 36.3% did not vote.
- 22 March Statement to Commons by Prime Minister Callaghan, declining to set date for vote on order to repeal Scotland Act and calling for all-party consultations. Motion of no-confidence put down by SNP.
- 28 March Government defeated on Conservative motion of no-confidence.
- 20 June Commons passed repeal order for Scotland Act by 301 votes to 206. Of the Scottish MPs, forty-three voted against repeal, nineteen in favour and nine were absent. Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, offered all-party talks to consider "the scope for improving the handling of Scottish business in Parliament".

*The chronology of devolution 1885-1978 (May) was included in *The Scottish Government Yearbook 1979*.