

Highlands and Islands 2016 Results, Analysis And 2021 Projections



For elections to the Scottish Parliament, Scotland is divided into 8 Regions. Each Region can contain 8 to 10 Constituencies. So, everyone in Scotland gets 2 votes. A Constituency Vote and a Regional Vote. Normally people vote in both, but sometimes they only vote in one. Only voting in one does not spoil your other vote.

Constituency Vote (Vote 1 – Constituency Ballot Paper)

Constituencies	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Cons	Green	SNP %	Total	Valid Votes	Turnout %
Argyll and Bute	2,492	13,561	7,583	5,840	-	46.01	48,526	29,476	60.7
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	3,334	13,937	10,024	4,912	-	43.27	55,176	32,207	58.4
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	3,378	6,874	293	1,499	-	52.05	21,695	13,206	60.9
Inverness and Nairn	6,719	18,505	5,445	7,648	-	48.29	66,619	38,317	57.5
Moray	3,547	15,742	1,265	12,867	-	47.10	61,969	33,421	53.9
Orkney Islands	304	2,562	7,096	435	-	24.32	16,997	10,534	62.0
Shetland Islands	651	2,545	7,440	405	-	23.05	17,784	11,041	62.1
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	3,821	17,362	8,319	5,887	-	47.56	59,537	36,505	61.3
Total Seats Awarded	0	6	2	0	0	41.46	348,303	204,707	59.6

Regional Vote (Vote 2 – Regional Ballot Paper)

Regional Votes	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Cons	Green	D'Hondt Adjustment (Regional Party Totals ÷ Number of Seats Already Won + 1)
Regional Party Totals	22,894	81,600	27,223	44,693	14,781	For Round 1 (SNP - 81,600 ÷ 7 / Lib Dem - 27,223 ÷ 3)
Round 1	22,894	11,657	9,074	44,693	14,781	Cons Win Round 1 - For Round 2 (Con - 44,693 ÷ 2)
Round 2	22,894	11,657	9,074	22,347	14,781	Lab Win Round 2 - For Round 3 - (Lab - 22,894 ÷ 2)
Round 3	11,447	11,657	9,074	22,347	14,781	Cons Win Round 3 - For Round 4 (Con - 44,693 ÷ 3)
Round 4	11,447	11,657	9,074	14,898	14,781	Cons Win Round 4 - For Round 5 (Con - 44,693 ÷ 4)
Round 5	11,447	11,657	9,074	11,173	14,781	Greens Win Round 5 - For Round 6 (Green - 14,781 ÷ 2)
Round 6	11,447	11,657	9,074	11,173	7,391	SNP Win Round 6 - For Round 7 - (SNP - 81,600 ÷ 8)
Round 7	11,447	10,200	9,074	11,173	7,391	Lab Win Round 7
Total Seats Awarded	2	1	0	3	1	

(Total Votes – 348,303, Valid Votes – 205,313, Turnout – 58.95% and SNP Vote Share – 39.74%)

- The Regional Vote however is affected by how many Seats a Party wins in the Constituencies.
- Regional Seats are awarded by dividing Regional Party Totals by the Number of Seats already Won + 1 (D'Hondt System) over 7 Rounds. This might look complicated but it's really just simple adding and dividing.
- The basic premise is that if a Party does well with Constituency Seats, the System (D'Hondt) makes it very difficult for them to do well with Regional Seats.

Highlands and Islands 2016 Analysis And 2021 Projections (Cont)



What can we say about the 2016 Election Results?

- In 2016 the SNP won 6 Constituency Seats, so their Regional Vote was divided by 6 + 1 (D'Hondt) = 7 from Round 1 going forward. The Lib Dems won 2 Constituency Seats, so their Regional Vote was divided by 2 + 1 (D'Hondt) = 3.
- Despite having 'by far' the largest number of regional votes the SNP only won '1' regional seat in Highlands and Islands and they just scraped it on the latter rounds. There was no further possibility of them winning any more regional seats in the Highlands and Islands
- Unionist Parties and the Greens shared remaining 6 Regional Seats with the Labour winning the last one with 11,447 votes.

2021 Projections For Additional Independence Parties Running On The Regional Vote

What might happen if another Independence Party ran on the Regional Vote and encouraged voters to vote for them instead of the SNP?

Regional Votes	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Cons	Green	ISP	D'Hondt Adjustment (Regional Party Totals ÷ Number of Seats Already Won + 1)
Regional Party Totals	22,894	70,426	27,223	44,693	14,781	11,174	For Round 1 (SNP - 70,426 ÷ 7 / Lib Dem - 27,223 ÷ 3)
Round 1	22,894	10,060	9,074	44,693	14,781	11,174	Cons Win Round 1 - For Round 2 (Con - 44,693 ÷ 2)
Round 2	22,894	10,060	9,074	22,347	14,781	11,174	Lab Win Round 2 - For Round 3 - (Lab - 22,894 ÷ 2)
Round 3	11,447	10,060	9,074	22,347	14,781	11,174	Cons Win Round 3 - For Round 4 (Con - 44,693 ÷ 3)
Round 4	11,447	10,060	9,074	14,898	14,781	11,174	Cons Win Round 4 - For Round 5 (Con - 44,693 ÷ 4)
Round 5	11,447	10,060	9,074	11,173	14,781	11,174	Greens Win Round 5 - For Round 6 (Green - 14,781 ÷ 2)
Round 6	11,447	10,060	9,074	11,173	7,391	11,174	Lab Win Round 6 - For Round 7 - (Lab - 22,894 ÷ 3)
Round 7	7,631	10,060	9,074	11,173	7,391	11,174	ISP Wins Round 7
Total Seats Awarded	2	0	0	3	1	1	

- Current Polling projects the SNP is on 52% Constituencies (48.85% in 2016) and 44% Regional (44.65% in 2016). The difference between the SNP vote in Constituencies and Regions is historic and usual because voters have more choice to express opinion on the Regional Ballot.
- Based on current polling the SNP is again projected to win 6 Constituency Seats in the Highlands and Islands in 2021 meaning that their Regional Vote would be divided by 6 + 1 (D'Hondt) = 7. The SNP are also projected to win a regional seat again in the latter rounds of the regional count, **but this still means that over 70,000 Independence votes would not be utilised.**
- In 2016 'BothVotesSNP' did not work and given current polling it will certainly not work in 2021 either. If SNP Votes transfer to other Independence Parties, then Independence MSP's will get elected instead of Unionists.
- If all Independence voters voted for the SNP in the Constituencies, and the SNP withdrew candidates from the Regional Vote, Independence and not an individual Party would be the winner.