



The **Freedom of Information** team are going to have a well deserved break for a few weeks before starting on the Holyrood Scottish Elections. I would personally like to thank everyone involved, **Ann MacMillan, Donna Lindsey, Alan McPhail (RIP), John McHarg, Peter A Bell, Gordon MacIntyre-Kemp, Martyn Day, Raibeart MacPhàrlain, Hamish Shearer and Darren MacMillan.** For all your articles, your posting to Facebook, Twitter, Seen and Telt, your patience and your spell checking even though Nichola instead of Nicola sneaked through I think we did well. Thank You to the subscribers, way too many to mention. And, a huge thank you to everyone who Downloaded, Printed and Delivered the Bulletin, you are the real stars.

**Let's get one thing straight,** neither SNP nor the Scottish voters handed victory to the Tories as Labour, Lib Dems and the press suggest. England voted Tory and like all elections before this, bar a couple, England has always decided on what Government we have in the UK. Even if every seat in Scotland had been won by the Labour Scotland Branch, they would still have been short by 40 seats and the Tories would still have had a Majority.

Conservative	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	DUP	Other
331	232	56	8	8	15

Thursday 7 May, 2015 will go down in history as the day Scotland stood up and declared that they are here and they have a voice. Not one person believed for a second that Thursdays rout of Labour in Scotland and the Lib-Dems would be so decisive.

Some huge names fell to the SNP through the early hours of Friday morning;

Douglas Alexander Labours Shadow Foreign Secretary and Campaign Strategist holding a 16,614 majority from 2010 lost to Mhairi Black by 5,684 votes a massive swing of 26.9%, Black a 20 year old student of politics is the youngest MP since 1667. Black is a passionate, erudite, and a great orator she will definitely shake up the Westminster establishment and wont shy away from the hard graft ahead.

Charles Kennedy ex Lib Dem leader and former youngest Parliamentarian (23) lost his previously safe Ross, Skye and Lochaber seat to former SNP National Treasurer Ian Blackford by 5,124 votes a swing of 24.9%. Kennedy who held the seat for 32 years described the defeat as "night of the long Skean Dhus".

Jim Murphy, former Scotland Secretary, now Labour Scotland Branch Manager lost his safe East Renfrewshire to Kirsten Oswald by 3,763 votes a 24.2% swing. Murphy vowed to stay on as branch manager and fight for the upcoming 2016 Scottish Parliament elections, but elsewhere Labour candidates were calling for his resignation, Ian Davidson stating that Jims position was "untenable". Kirsten Oswald has professional interests in employee engagement, and equalities. Kirsten joined in June 2014, she was an active Yes campaigner, and was on the committee of her local Women for Independence group, where she was responsible for foodbank collections. She is very involved in community work, as a community councillor, parent councillor.

Willie Bain Labour Glasgow North East, widely regarded as labours safest seat in the UK, lost to Anne McLaughlin with a huge record breaking swing of 39.3%.. Anne who appeared in a fantastic photo in the National (hope you are all buying Scotland's newspaper) that depicted the whole SNP movement in one image (see right).



Kenny Selbie, who took over from the retired Gordon Brown in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath lost to the SNPs Roger Mullin by 9,974 votes a massive swing of 34.6%. Roger is an Honorary Professor at the University of Stirling where he teaches postgraduates *Applied Decision Theory, The Political Environment, and Organisation Change.* He has undertaken 27 international assignments for the United Nations and governments in many parts of the world..... The list goes on and on all over Scotland.

Danus Skene in Orkney and Shetland had a mountain to climb but he nearly made it, losing by only 800 votes to Alistair Carmichael Lib Dem. Neill Hay Edinburgh South suffered because of tactical voting and the Tweetgate scandal but still only lost out by 2637 votes to Ian Murray Labour. And, finally Emma Harper lost Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale by 798 votes to Tory and new Scottish Secretary David Mundell.

All in all a great night for the SNP and a great night for Scotland, but what effect will 56 MPs have against a Tory majority? That is a difficult question to answer, but we can say this David Cameron and the Tory Party are the one really in the spotlight here. How does he hold the union together whilst appeasing the Scots is the real question that should be asked. Does he ride rough shod over the Elected Scottish members, like he and Labour have done by appointing Scottish Secretaries, or does he listen and deliver the promises made in the Independence referendum which may just cause revolt in England? Whatever way he chooses is fraught with dangers for both us in Scotland and for Cameron in Government, with the SNP on our side I fancy our chances more.

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**Well we didn't have to wait long for the pontificating and pointing from Westminster to begin.** Less than a week in fact. So what now from the Tory elite? What will they do? What will they try to do?

Already we have heard the ramblings of Cameron. He has dictated to the people of Scotland that there shall not be a second referendum. Excuse me if I seem a little dumb, but isn't that up to Scotland and not some Eton-educated little rich boy?

Another instance of a Tory government trying to force its ideals onto Scotland without consulting those who live here ... poll tax revisited methinks. Thankfully we are now well represented within Westminster and Nicola has replied to this - time for a quote from Nicola: "The Prime Minister has no right to rule out a second referendum." Go Nicola!!!!

Next we have the Smith report and the so called VOW from the unionist parties. Personally I think they can stick their vow where the sun don't shine, but I'm not in parliament. Cameron will try to shaft Scotland on this issue as well.

Nicola is calling for more powers than the VOW promised. Cameron has reputedly told her that this isn't going to happen. The man is deluded. Can he not recognise that the SNP have 56 members of parliament and they are not going to sit on their hands while he attempts to lord it over us? By the end of his next year in office he will be on his knees offering us the world! (Well mebbe no but it's worth hoping for.)

Cameron thinks that because we are part of the Union he can control Scotland. This may have been the case over the past 20 years when Scotland didn't have a voice in Westminster but that has now changed. After the Indy referendum, Scotland became very politically aware - or as the Tories etc would have everyone believe - we are fervently nationalist; and we all go around wearing kilts blowing on our bagpipes shouting out FREEEEDOM at every opportunity.

There are many policies which the Tories are going to try and introduce and it is down to us to fight them tooth and nail. These are a few of the proposed changes: • Abolition of the Human Rights Act • 12 Billion pounds of Welfare cuts • Reintroduction of fox hunting (the posh boys want their games back).

What planet is this man on that he thinks he can abolish Human Rights? Is he then going to move onto reinventing the highland clearances? As much as I like sheep, I prefer to see people living in the highlands.

Then we come to the £12 billion in welfare cuts - something that the Tories would not confirm or even tell us where the cuts were to be. If you're unemployed or disabled or a single mum, be prepared to be hit hard. For as per usual, the poorest in the country are going to suffer.

I expect to see new workfare plans where council jobs have been cut. They will then use the unemployed on workfare to do the jobs - 30 hours a week for 70 odd quid that brings the minimum wage for workfare down just over 2 quid an hour. What will this achieve? The creation of more poverty and people stuck in a vicious circle of being stuck on benefits with no jobs and no future. It's like we are going back in time to the Thatcher years when Maggie deemed it her own personal mission to bring the Unions, the working classes and Scotland to their knees.

The SNP are going to have to battle austerity and cuts but I doubt if the other unionist parties will be helping us out with this. They don't care about Scotland. All they care about is getting one over on the SNP. That's not the way forward, and being educated people they should realise this. But no. Westminster has degenerated into an establishment that is anti-Scottish, and democracy is hanging on by its fingertips.

I usually refer to a general election as the only time we are listened to in a 5 year period. Tony Blair was proof of this. Millions on the streets saying no war and they didn't listen. Now they will listen! The SNP will make them listen and this is only the beginning. Next step 2016 with the Holyrood elections. How many unionists can we put on the dole? All of them hopefully. But I think that's being a tad ambitious.

I would like to finish by congratulating Scotland's 56, wish it was 59 but ach you canna be too greedy. Or can you? *Hamish Shearer*

**Meet the 56** - Richard Arkless-Dumfries and Galloway, [Hannah Bardell-Livingston](#), Mhairi Black-Paisley and Renfrewshire South, [Ian Blackford-Ross](#), Skye & Lochaber, Kirsty Blackman-Aberdeen North, [Phil Boswell-Coatbridge](#), [Chryston and Bellshill](#), Deidre Brock-Edinburgh North & Leith, [Alan Brown-Kilmarnock and Loudoun](#), Lisa Cameron-East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow, [Douglas Chapman-Dunfermline and West Fife](#), Joanna Cherry-Edinburgh South West, [Ronnie Cowan-Inverclyde](#), Alex Salmond-Gordon, [Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh-Ochil and South Perthshire](#), Martin Docherty-West Dunbartonshire, [Stuart Donaldson-West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine](#), Marion Fellows-Motherwell and Wishaw, [Margaret Ferrier-Rutherglen and Hamilton West](#), Stephen Gethins-North East Fife, [Patricia Gibson-North Ayrshire and Arran](#), Patrick Grady-Glasgow North, [Peter Grant-Glenrothes](#), Neil Gray-Airdrie & Shotts, [Drew Hendry-Inverness](#), [Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey](#), Stewart Hosie-Dundee East, [George Kerevan-East Lothian](#), Calum Kerr-Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk, [Chris Law-Dundee West](#), Angus MacNeil-Na h-Eileanan an Iar, [Callum McCaig-Aberdeen South](#), Stewart McDonald-Glasgow South, [Stuart McDonald-Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East](#), Natalie McGarry-Glasgow East, [Anne McLaughlin Glasgow North East](#), John McNally-Falkirk, [Carol Monaghan-Glasgow North West](#), Paul Monaghan-Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, [Roger Mullin-Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath](#), Gavin Newlands-Paisley and Renfrewshire North, [John Nicolson-East Dunbartonshire](#), Brendan O'Hara-Argyll and Bute, [Kirsten Oswald-East Renfrewshire](#), Steven Paterson-Stirling, [Angus Robertson-Moray](#), Tommy Sheppard-Edinburgh East, [Chris Stephens-Glasgow South West](#), [Owen Thompson-Midlothian](#), Michelle Thomson-Edinburgh West, [Alison Thewliss-Glasgow Central](#), Mike Weir-Angus, [Corri Wilson-Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock](#), Eilidh Whiteford-Banff and Buchan, [Philippa Whitford-Central Ayrshire](#), Pete Wishart-Perth and North Perthshire, [Martyn Day-Linlithgow & East Falkirk](#), Angela Crawley-Lanark & Hamilton East