



What you need to know about the 2016 devolved nation elections

On 5th May 2016 the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland electorate went to the polls to elect their new parliament and assemblies.

Scotland 2016

The Scottish National Party will remain in power winning 63 out of 129 seats but two short of an overall majority.

Scottish Labour has seen the biggest losses, down 13 seats to 24 seats putting them in third place behind the Scottish Conservatives who gained 16 seats taking their total to 31. Scottish Greens won six seats and the Scottish Liberal Democrats won five.

The loss of the overall majority for the SNP means that they may have to compromise on some manifesto commitments and gain support from other parties on key issues.

The use of new powers over social security and taxation will no doubt remain a contentious issue.

The SNP have already faced criticism for not increasing taxes to fund mitigation of austerity measures introduced by the UK Government - a policy which the Scottish Conservatives are unlikely to support.

There is strong support for a significant increase in the supply of affordable housing from all parties although the focus for delivery and funding methods vary. The SNP have committed to increasing affordable housing targets from 6,000 per year to 10,000 underpinned with £3 billion funding over the life of the Parliament.

Improving the energy efficiency of homes across Scotland also featured in all manifestos. The SNP and Scottish Conservatives both committed to the introduction of a Warm Homes Bill in their manifestos.



Wales 2016

Labour won 29 of the 60 seats, so will continue as the largest party in the Senedd.

Coalition negotiations are ongoing but expect Labour to continue as a minority Government for the fifth term.

Plaid Cymru shift the Conservatives into 3rd place with 12 seats. The Conservatives have 11 seats, whilst the Liberal Democrats lost all but one of their seats, although leader Kirsty Williams increased her majority by 9% to retain her assembly seat.

The major story of the night was the entrance of UKIP to the senedd with 7 seats.

Housing supply featured strongly in all of the main party Manifestos with the exception of UKIP. Labour's manifesto commitment of 20k affordable new homes is likely to be the housing supply target (and more or less meets the most recent independent assessment of housing need), and we can expect to see the Bill (prepared before the election) to end the right to buy and right to acquire in Wales vying to be the first to be presented to the new assembly.

Expect to see the consensus-based approach continue with new interventions to tackle 'land banking', improve energy efficiency and a further push on maximising community benefits in housing investment and public procurement - all featured in most of the party manifestos.

Local government reorganisation remains on the cards and may include several new counties with a mix of retained and LSVT stock.

Northern Ireland 2016

Vote counting in the Northern Ireland Assembly election began on Friday morning. The first results are expected Friday afternoon with the count expected to last two days with final seats declared on Saturday. A large degree of change is not expected.

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