

Welcome to the September edition of CSPP's Scotland Monitor – an essential briefing on one month of Scottish current affairs, and packed with additional key articles, data and reports. For more policy news see the "[latest news](#)" section on our website. If you have any queries about this document or the CSPP, please don't hesitate to [get in touch](#).

Scottish Independence Referendum Anniversary

Scotland marked the second anniversary of the September 2014 independence referendum amid ongoing debate about the constitutional future of the country in the context of the UK vote to leave the European Union, and the publication of new figures on Scotland's finances. The pro-independence Sunday Herald newspaper featured two contrasting visions for Scotland's future, authored by SNP leader and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, and Scottish Conservative leader and leader of the opposition in the Scottish Parliament, Ruth Davidson.

- [Nicola Sturgeon: Independence 'transcends' Brexit, oil and the economy](#) [Herald]
- [Ruth Davidson: My vision of Scotland's future in the union](#) [Herald]
- [Brexit will cost Scotland £11.2bn a year, Nicola Sturgeon warns](#) [Holyrood]
- [Scottish deficit grows to nearly £15bn as oil revenues collapse](#) [Guardian]

Scottish Government Priorities Unveiled

The Scottish Government announced its legislative plans for the coming year. These involve 14 new bills on policy areas from child poverty to land reform. Additional measures include a focus on reducing the educational attainment gap, and a £500m fund to support businesses through post-EU referendum uncertainty. The SG also announced the appointment of veteran nationalist politician Mike Russel as its "Brexit minister", who will lead Scottish input into the UK's negotiations with the EU. Meanwhile, the Fraser of Allander Institute released a study suggesting that Scotland's budget could be cut by £1.6bn over the next four years.

- [Nicola Sturgeon announces Programme for Government](#) [BBC]
- [Mike Russell study to reveal impact of Brexit on every area of life](#) [Scotsman]
- [Fraser of Allander: Scotland's budget 'could face £1.6bn cut'](#) [BBC]

Education Proposals Announced

The Scottish Government launched a consultation on the governance of schools, with a view to potentially giving additional powers to head teachers, and creating regional education boards across council areas. The proposals have raised questions over the role of local authorities in the governance of schooling. Meanwhile it was reported there has been a dramatic change in the number and profile of students in college education in Scotland

following reforms in the sector, and that record numbers of Scottish pupils gained entrance into university for the coming academic year.

- [John Swinney: Schools review to 'empower' teachers](#) [BBC]
- [Number of part-time college students down by nearly 50%](#) [STV]
- [Scotland's university admissions hit record high](#) [UCAS]

Map Reveals Areas of Deprivation

A map showing the geography of deprivation in Scotland in 2016 was published, using data from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. The visualisation of poverty in Scotland led to renewed and widespread calls for more to be done to tackle poverty and inequality.

- [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016](#) [SIMD 2016]
- [Scotland's poorest and richest areas revealed](#) [Telegraph]
- [Scotland's leaders can't say they didn't know where to look](#) [Daily Record View]

Environment

According to the latest report by the Committee on Climate Change, Scotland is leading the UK in carbon emissions reductions, with net emissions falling by 13%. According to the BBC, the committee praised the Scottish Government for generating more electricity from renewables, but said focus was needed in the transport and agriculture sectors. Meanwhile it was reported that the number of wind turbines has been growing by at least one per day over the last four years. Also recently, a study found that the state of Scotland and the UK's parks are in decline.

- [Scotland 'leads UK' on climate change](#) [BBC]
- [One new wind turbine built every day across Scotland](#) [Scotsman]
- [Future of Scotland's parks 'at tipping point'](#) [Herald]

More Parliamentarians for Scotland?

There have been a number of public suggestions that the number of MSPs in the Scottish Parliament should be increased to reflect the increased workload of enhanced devolution, and to provide greater scrutiny of the Scottish Government. The latest figure to argue this is former Liberal Democrat Deputy First Minister, Lord Wallace. His comments found support from pro-independent journalist, Lesley Riddoch.

- [Lord Wallace suggests increase in politician numbers at Holyrood](#) [Scottish Legal News]
- [Lesley Riddoch: More MSPs might be what we need](#) [Scotsman]

And Another Thing...

- [The Scottish Government announced its commitment to legislating a new Islands Bill.](#)

- [An investigation found that a fifth of bus routes have been cut since in the last decade.](#)
- [Unemployment in Scotland fell to 4.7%, compared with the UK average of 4.9%.](#)
- [Scotland welcomed its 1000th Syrian refugee, a third of the UK total.](#)
- [New health statistics show that almost two-thirds of Scots are overweight or obese.](#)

Additional Publications

Scottish Government

[Consultation on a Child Poverty Bill for Scotland](#) [Consultation - Scottish Government]

[Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education - A Governance Review](#) [Consultation – Scottish Government]

[Improving transparency in land ownership in Scotland: a consultation on controlling interests in land](#) [Consultation – Scottish Government]

[The Scottish Government's Programme For Scotland 2016-17](#) [Scottish Government]

[Mental Health in Scotland - a 10 year vision - Easy Read](#) [Health - Scottish Government]

[Scotland's Labour Market Strategy](#) [Economy – Scottish Government]

[Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016](#) [Statistics – Scottish Government]

[Government Expenditure & Revenue Scotland 2015-16](#) [Statistics - Scottish Government]

[Housing Statistics for Scotland 2016 - Key Trends Summary](#) [Statistics – Scottish Government]

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefings

[Scottish Labour Market Update - September 2016](#) [Economy - SPICe]

[Briefing - Integration of Health and Social Care](#) [Health - SPICe]

[Closing The Attainment Gap: What Can Schools Do?](#) [Education - SPICe]

Third Sector & Independent

[Mapping the Employability Landscape for People with Learning Disabilities in Scotland](#) [SCLD]

[Paying More to be Poor: The poverty premium in energy, telecommunications and finance in Scotland](#) [CAS]

[Fraser of Allander Institute: Scotland's Budget – 2016](#) [FAI]

[Reducing emissions in Scotland – 2016 progress report](#) [CCC]