

PE1781/A

Scottish Government submission of 1 May 2020

The Scottish Government believes that it is important for Scotland one day to have its own written constitution. As the briefing provided to the Committee by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre on this petition notes, in 2014 the Scottish Government published *The Scottish Independence Bill: A Consultation on an Interim Constitution for Scotland*. That set out the proposed process to establish a written constitution for an independent Scotland, if a majority had voted in favour of independence in 2014.

In the event that the people of Scotland vote for independence in a referendum in the future, an early task is likely to be the development of a written constitution, enshrining the fundamental rights and values that underpin our society and based on the principle of the sovereignty of the people of Scotland.

While the issue of a written constitution for Scotland remains important, the Scottish Government has paused work on an independence referendum in 2020 in order to focus on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In regards to the query about the need for all the constituent parts of the UK to pursue a written constitution, the Scottish Ministers believe that the governance arrangements of England, Wales and Northern Ireland are primarily a matter for the people of those countries.