

**By Nat Butcher** *our Political Correspondent*



**The campaign for a No vote in the oft-threatened referendum on Scottish independence, which may take place in 2014 - but which ought to be held sooner rather than later, if at all – has successfully lobbied to be given more control over the vote.**

This exciting news follows the success of this channel in gaining the right to decide on the wording of the referendum question itself.

BBC Scotlandshire demanded the authority to decide the wording of the question to be asked of the Scottish people after our own viewer poll received more votes than the UK government consultation. The decision to award this power to the channel was taken by the House of Lords on Tuesday during a debate on whose referendum it is anyway.

Scottish Lord, Baron Forsyth of Drumminitintaeyerheid, who led the debate in their Lordship's House, made the argument that the Scottish government should be allowed only very limited powers over the referendum in case a dangerous precedent be set, which could lead to Scots demanding a say in all sorts of things.

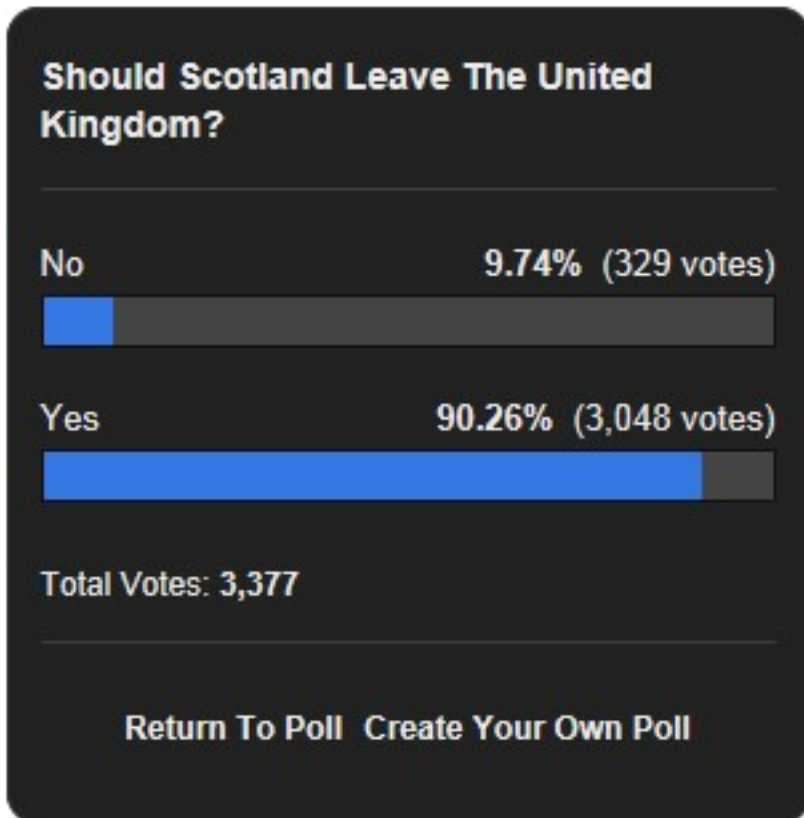
In his proposition of the motion, he said: "King Alex Salmond may have gained a mandate to hold a referendum by winning an outright majority in a proportional parliament, but that only gives him the right to ask the question. The wording of the question is still in the gift of this house, and I propose that competence in this area be awarded to BBC Scotland due to their excellent record of unbiased reporting.

However," he went on, "I would like to place on record my formal objection to being described as a 'Scottish Lord', just two paragraphs above. I have spent most of my adult life distancing myself from anything Scottish. I hate Scotland, and the Scots, and everything about that region.

"Did I not make that point clearly enough when I brought in the poll tax? Did you people not get the message when I closed down your industry. Did you not listen to my contributions to the debate on the Scotland bill?

"Along with my colleagues, the noble Lords Foulkes, Steel, McConnell and Wallace, I have finally achieved the status of an honorary English gentleman and I will thank you all to remember that," adding "for am I not the Duke of Earl?"

# Have your say ahead of the referendum



---

## Related Articles

---

### Comments

Due to the huge number of complaints, comments are no longer banned on BBC Scotlandshire News pages.

{comment}

**Comments or no comments, it's still OUR job to tell YOU what to think - NOT the other way around.**