

SNP Leadership Timetable and Process

17 February 2023

Yesterday (Thursday 16 February) the SNP's National Executive Committee confirm the timetable for the election of the party's new leader following the resignation of Nicola Sturgeon.

The NEC further announced the postponement of the SNP's Special Conference on independence, which had been scheduled to take place on Sunday 19 March in Edinburgh.

Leadership Contest

The following timetable has been announced for the SNP leadership contest:

Nominations opened: 23:59, Thursday 16 February 2023

Nominations close: noon, Friday 24 February 2023

Ballot opens: noon, Monday 13 March 2023

Ballot closes: noon, Monday 27 March 2023

Candidates will require nominations from at least 100 members across 20 SNP branches.

Should there be more than one candidate, the contest will be decided by members of the SNP on a one-member one-vote basis, with members voting by post.

Special Conference

A Special Conference on independence was due to take place next month. In her resignation statement, Nicola Sturgeon noted that it was important for the SNP to choose its own path and recognised that not all agreed with her preference to treat the next General Election as a de facto referendum.

This conference has now been postponed and is expected to be rescheduled once the new SNP leader is in post.

Confirmation of First Minister

Once a new SNP leader has been selected, their role as First Minister will be put to a vote by the Scottish Parliament.

Any member of the Parliament can nominate a candidate for appointment. Where there is only one candidate nominated, they will be confirmed as First Minister if they secure a simple majority of votes from members of the Scottish Parliament.

The date and time of this vote will be determined by the Parliamentary Bureau.

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