



Our Ref: SR/DB/SB

Mr N Sharratt,  
Assistant Clerk,  
Public Petitions Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

13<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

Dear Ned,

Response to Petition PE1541

I am writing to convey the views of more than 35,000 Scottish football fans surveyed by the Scottish FA on the petition *calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to officially recognise Flower of Scotland as Scotland's national anthem*.

We, at the Scottish FA, considered that it would be more productive and representative to ask our official Scotland Supporters Club members, of which there are 35,000, as well as our social media audience, in excess of 500,000 on the Scottish FA Twitter and Scotland National Team Facebook accounts, for their views.

Please see attached a media release and survey analysis that illustrates the feedback to the survey.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart M Regan  
Chief Executive



Immediate release

## Narrow victory for Flower of Scotland in Official Anthem poll

The majority of Scotland supporters are in favour of Flower of Scotland being officially recognised as the country's national anthem.

The Scottish FA was asked to provide football's view by the Scottish Parliamentary Petition Committee and the decision to ask the fans was met with an overwhelming 35,000 responses in 48 hours.

Of those polled across our Scotland Supporters Club membership, and a social media audience in excess of 500,000, 56% were in favour of the Scottish Government officially recognising the anthem, with 44% opposed to the formalisation.

The poll was circulated to 35,000 SSC members as well as through the Scottish FA's Official Twitter account and Scotland National Team Facebook page.

Interestingly, there was a marked difference between SSC respondents and the social media view. While 65% of the 23,000 social media responses were in favour of official recognition, 60% of the 12,606 SSC respondents were not in favour.

The Scottish FA also gave fans the opportunity to suggest alternatives to Flower of Scotland, which has proven hugely popular in the sporting arena and has been performed at Hampden Park by the likes of Amy Macdonald, Nina Nesbitt, Julie Fowlis, Donnie Munro and last year's X Factor runner-up, Nicholas McDonald.

Caledonia, the Dougie MacLean classic, figured prominently along with Scotland the Brave as suggested alternatives but there was also significant support for the creation of a new anthem, with notable mentions, also, for the Proclaimers favourite, 500 Miles, and the United Kingdom's National Anthem, God Save The Queen.

The feedback will be submitted to the Parliamentary Petition Committee today.

Scottish FA spokesperson: "The response to the committee's enquiry has been incredible. The easy option would have been to gauge the Board's view but the wider consultation not only demonstrates the passion and engagement of our 35,000 Supporters Club members but also highlights the power of social media.

"While the majority of responses were in favour of Flower of Scotland being officially recognised by the Scottish Government, there is also plenty food for thought in the feedback analysis.

"There is clearly an appetite among a section of supporters to give consideration to a new anthem. Scotland the Brave retains an affinity among an element of the supporters with the popularity of The Proclaimers' crowd-pleaser endures." **ENDS**

Scottish FA  
National Anthem Poll data



This document was created by  
Darryl Broadfoot  
Head of Communications



## Scottish FA National Anthem Vote Social and wider vote

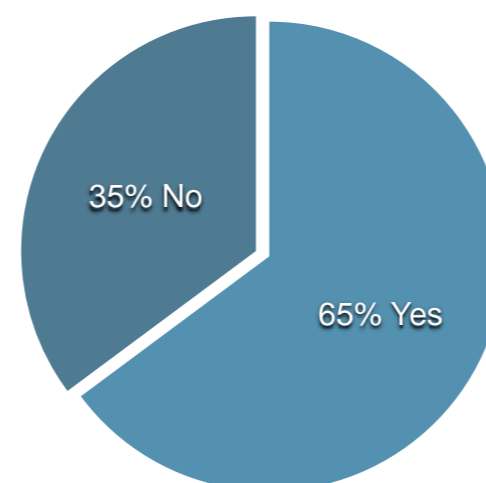
The following poll was released to social media channels including Facebook and Twitter.

Responses from social media 22,669

### Question 1.

Should Flower of Scotland be recognised by the Scottish Government as the official national anthem?

Choices	% of Responses	Number of Reponses
Yes	64.83%	14,697
No	35.17%	7,972



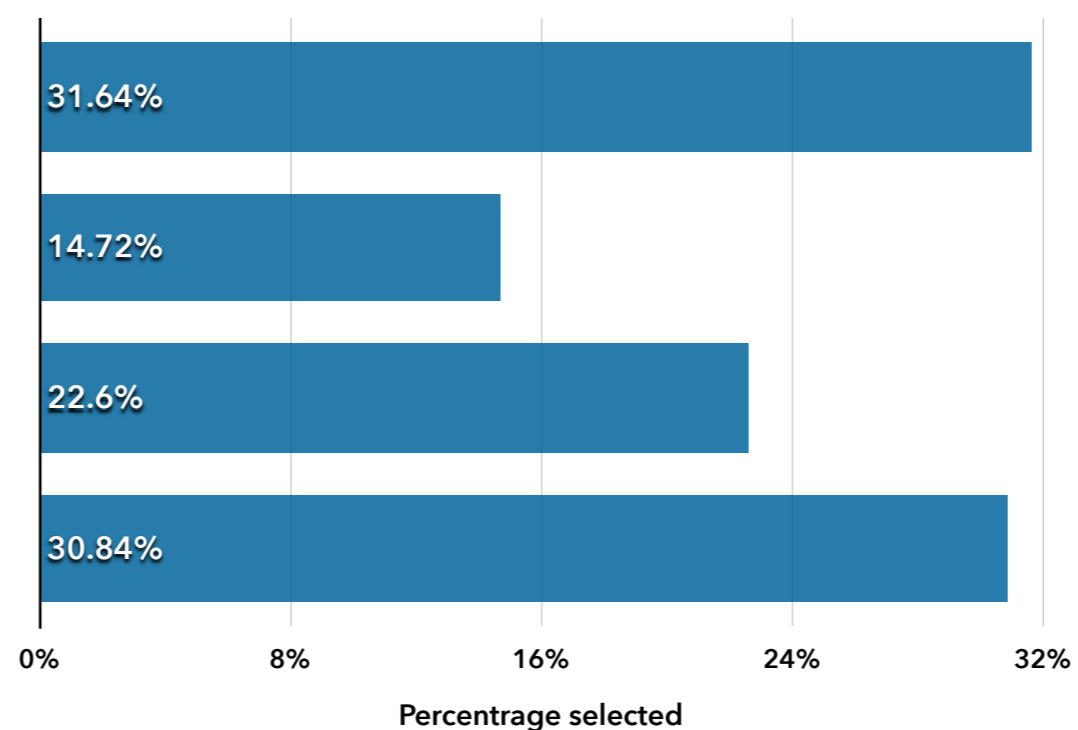
### Question 2.

If you answered 'no' to Q1, which of the following do you believe should be the official national anthem?

	% of Responses	Number of Reponses
Caledonia	31.64%	2,426
Highland Cathedral	14.72%	1,122
Scotland the Brave	22.60%	1,722
Other	30.84%	2,350

With other, popular suggestions were

- 500 miles
- A new national anthem
- A mans a man
- God save the Queen
- Freedom come all ye





## Scottish FA National Anthem Vote SSC Members.

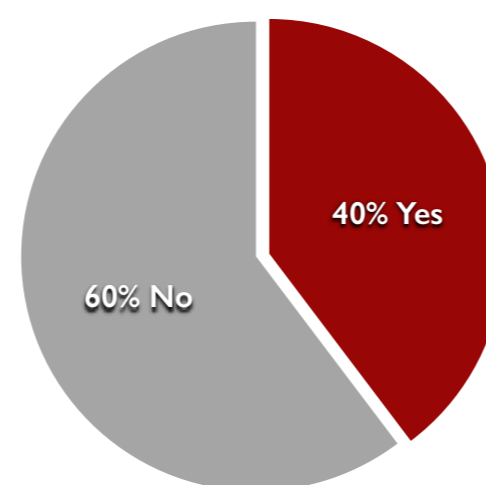
The following poll was released to the Scottish Supporters Club database.

Total emails sent	35,000
Responses for SSC	12,606
Response rate	36%

### Question 1.

Should Flower of Scotland be recognised by the Scottish Government as the official national anthem?

Choices	% of Responses	Number of Reponses
Yes	39.70%	5,004
No	60.30%	7,602



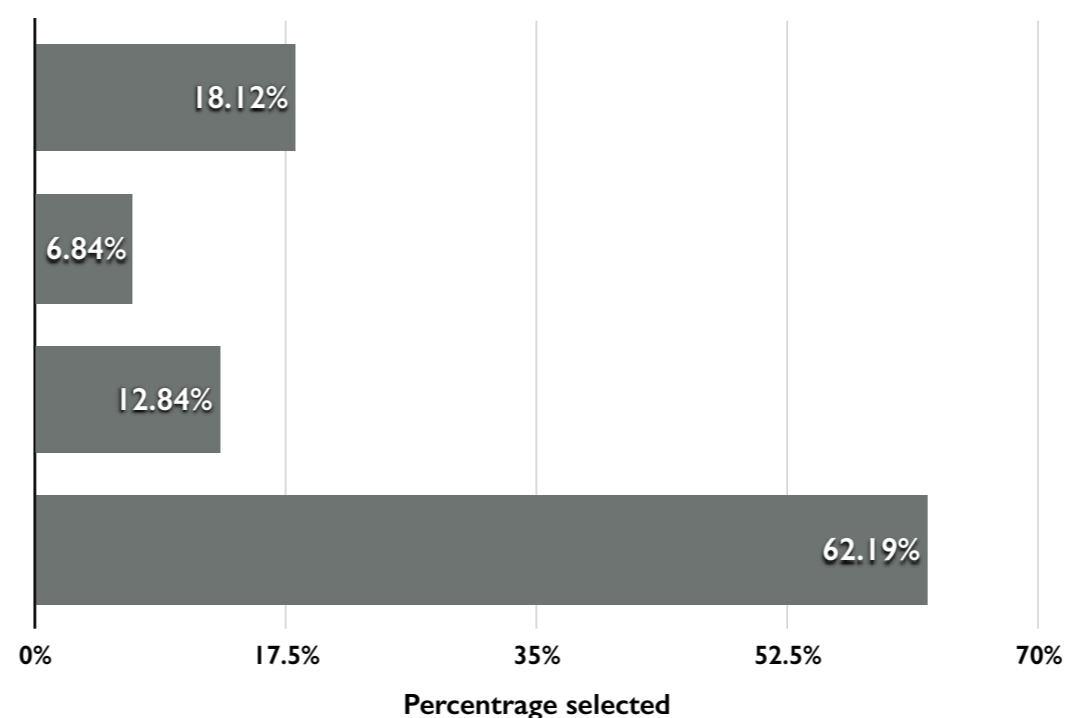
### Question 2.

If you answered 'no' to Q1, which of the following do you believe should be the official national anthem?

	% of Responses	Number of Reponses
Caledonia	18.12%	1,409
Highland Cathedral	6.84%	532
Scotland the Brave	12.84%	998
Other	62.19%	4,835

Within other, popular suggestions were

- 500 miles
- A new national anthem
- A mans a man
- God save the Queen





## Scottish FA National Anthem Vote Total Poll Response

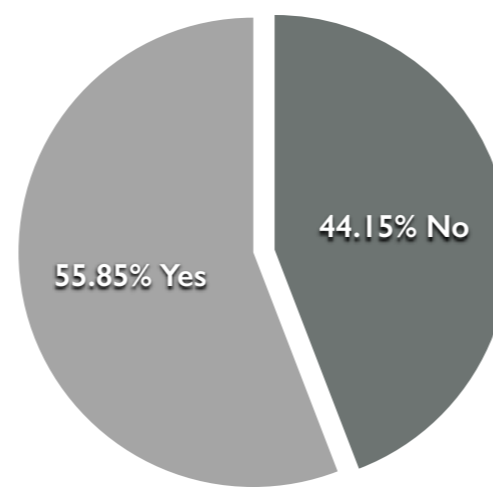
The following results are combined from both SSC and Social Polls.

Social & Wider Audience	22,669
Scottish Supporters Club	12,606
<b>Response Totals</b>	<b>35,275</b>

### Question 1.

Should Flower of Scotland be recognised by the Scottish Government as the official national anthem?

Choices	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Yes	55.85%	19,701
No	44.15%	15,574



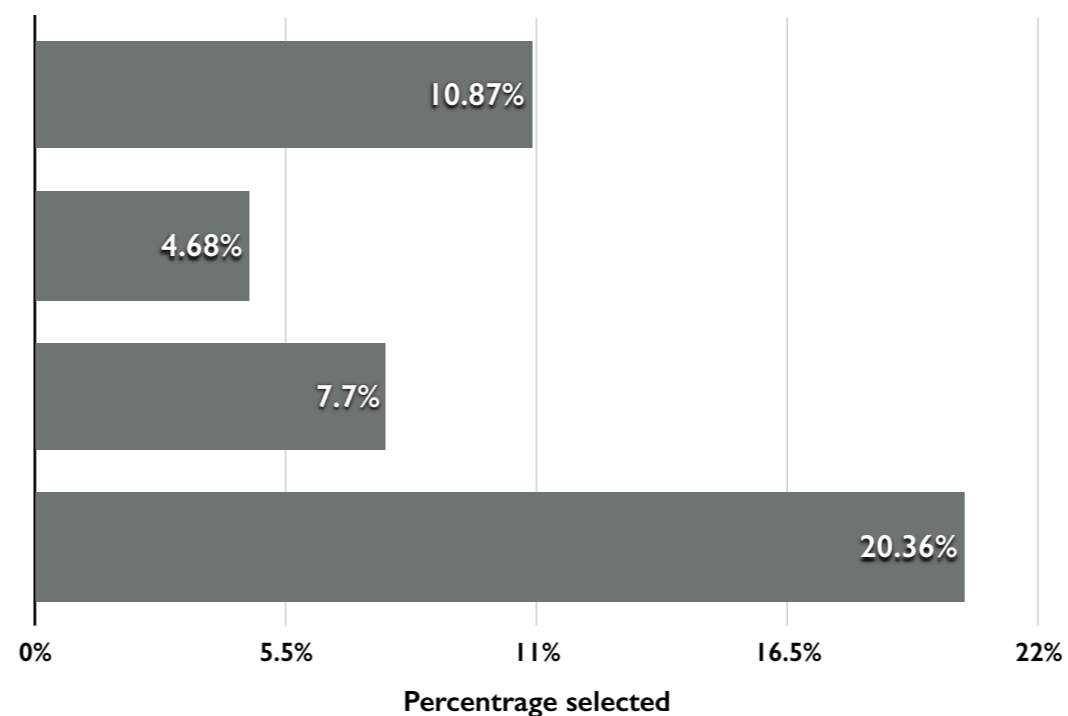
### Question 2.

If you answered 'no' to Q1, which of the following do you believe should be the official national anthem?

	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Caledonia	10.87%	3,835
Highland Cathedral	4.68%	1,654
Scotland the Brave	7.7%	2,720
Other	20.36%	7,365

Within other, popular suggestions were

- 500 miles
- A new national anthem
- A man's a man
- God save the Queen



### Summary.

Overall the Anthem Poll offered insight into opinions on the existing national anthem.

There is still a desire for 'Flower of Scotland' to be recognised as the official anthem, however there is growing evidence to suggest that Scotland might be ready for a new anthem.