

Acc.11497

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Inventory

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Records of Democracy for Scotland

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Democracy for Scotland/The Vigil Papers

GB 223 Acc. 11497

Papers relating to the Democracy for Scotland Campaign

1992-1997

7 Sections

The Democracy for Scotland campaign began after the Scottish referendum held in 1979 failed to achieve the number of votes required to give Scotland devolved powers. The campaign began in 1992 and went on until a further referendum was held in Scotland in 1997. The campaign was based around a vigil which was erected in Edinburgh's Calton Hill across the road from the Scottish office. The vigil was manned by strong supporters of Scottish independence. The Democracy for Scotland campaign was a non-party political movement that was run by volunteers. When the vigil first started the volunteers were forced to sleep outdoors no matter what the weather was; however, Rock promoters 'Regular Music' helped to fund a Portakabin allowing the volunteers to have a permanent residence. The campaign employed many tactics to gain support including the uses of marches and rallies. A key example of this is the march for Scottish democracy held in Edinburgh on 12th December 1992 which was attended by approximately 30,000 people. The campaign then went on to organise further events such as the 'destiny marches' which occurred across the country. The campaign also collaborated with various other groups such as the Recall committee, which called for the recall of the Scottish parliament. The campaign ended with a yes vote in the 1997 referendum which led to the opening of the Scottish Assembly.

The material consists of a variety of material relating to the Democracy for Scotland Campaign. The papers cover the various tactics and strategies employed by the campaign as well as highlighting the many groups they were also involved in. A large portion of the material covers the various committees that the group was involved in and the achievements they made. An interesting part of this collection is the diaries found in files 6 and 7. Some of the diaries contain handwritten notes by volunteers and workers who manned the vigil on Calton Hill.

No further accruals are expected

The papers arrived in no specific order therefore the following arrangement has been imposed:

- 1-5 Campaign Papers, 1992-1997
- 6-16 Vigil Diaries, 1992-1997
- 17 Coalition for Scottish Democracy, 1992-1994

18-19 Correspondence, 1993-1997

20-23 Recall Group, 1993-1995

24-26 Committees, 1992-1997

27-29 Miscellaneous, 1991-1997

Access to files 4 and 5 is restricted due to data protection reasons.

All material is in English.

A Full inventory list is available upon request. An electronic copy is also available through the National Library of Scotland catalogues online webpage.

The originals of the material are located in the National Library of Scotland Manuscripts division.

Collection and Series level descriptions compiled based on ISAD (G) regulations.

Presented, August 1997 and May 1998

1-5 Campaign Papers, 1992-1997

- 1 Publicity and propaganda employed by the Vigil group. File contains pamphlets, posters and songs as well as administrative details regarding the group such as their constitution and their campaign aims, 1992-1997.
- 2 Campaign strategies used by the Democracy for Scotland group including posters, maps and photographs regarding the Destiny Marches and Midsummer bonfires held, 1993.
- 3 Posters and publications relating to the Declaration of Calton Hill, 1993.
- 4 Democracy for Scotland membership list giving their details along with a note of any donations made, undated. [*Access Restricted due to Data Protection Reasons*].
- 5 File contains the various petitions produced by the Democracy for Scotland campaign in support of the recall of the Scottish Parliament, undated. [*Access Restricted due to Data Protection Reasons*].

6-16 Vigil Diaries, 1992- 1997

Rota Books of the Vigil Campaign 1992-1997:

- 6 Rota Book, 1992

- 7 Rota Book, 1994
- 8 Rota Book, 1995
- 9 Rota Book, 1997
- 10 Rota book, 1997

Vigil Diaries kept by the volunteers of the Vigil movement:

- 11 Volume six, c.1982
- 12 Volume seven, c.1983
- 13 Volume nine, c. 1984
- 14 Volume twelve, c.1985
- 15 Volume fourteen, c.1995-1996
- 16 Diary, 1997

17 Coalition for Scottish Democracy, 1992-1994

- 17 Papers relating to the coalition for Scottish Democracy group, which include correspondence, notes taken at the various committee meetings and strategy papers for the foundation of a Scottish senate.

18-19 Correspondence, 1993-1997

- 18 Correspondence of the Democracy for Scotland Group with various councils regarding mini vigils and rallies in support for the group, 1994-1995.
- 19 Miscellaneous Correspondence between members of the Democracy for Scotland group as well as correspondence regarding events to celebrate the anniversaries of the vigil, 1993-1997.

20-23 Recall Group, 1993-1995

- 20 Publications of the Recall group, including posters and leaflets promoting the group's aims as well as rallies and meetings, 1993-1995.
- 21 Committee meeting notes with typed notes of the recall group meetings, 1993.
- 22 Correspondence relating to the recall group, including correspondence between MP's and members of the recall group, information about the history

of Scotland as well as correspondence regarding the recall of the Scottish parliament, c.1993-1994.

- 23 Miscellaneous papers regarding the Recall Committee, including press releases, draft polling cards, strategy papers as well as handwritten notes regarding expenses, 1993-1994.

24-26 Committees, 1992-1997

- 24 Papers relating to the Organising committee, including committee meeting notes, posters, leaflets and correspondence relating to the initiative to recall the Scottish parliament, 1992-1993.
- 25 Papers relating to the Coordinating committee, including handwritten notes of the meetings of the coordinating committee as well as lists of office holders of the coordinating committee.
- 26 Papers relating to the meetings of the vigil groups, including typed and handwritten notes taken at committee meetings as well as minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Democracy for Scotland group as well as agendas for future meetings, 1993-1994 (Folder One- 1992-1993, Folder Two 1994-1997).

27-29 Miscellaneous Papers, 1991-1997

- 27 Items relating to the publicity of the Democracy for Scotland Group including press cuttings and publications regarding the attempts to recall the Scottish parliament, 1991-1995.
- 28 Copy of the 'White Paper' which was published on the 24th July 1997. The paper allowed for a Scottish Parliament as well as a Welsh Assembly.
- 29 Miscellaneous documents including, duplicate posters and documents as well as a report by the Scotland United referendum working party. File also includes details of the remit of each of the office holders in the Democracy for Scotland campaign, 1992-1997.