Name of petitioner
David Robertson

Petition title
Future Independence Referendum

Petition summary
Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government not to seek a second independence referendum until after 2020.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition
Written to my MSPs, constituency and regional.

Petition background information
The Scottish People took part in a long and valuable, passionate and at times divisive referendum in 2014 in order to determine whether Scotland should become independent of the United Kingdom. By a clear majority we voted to remain – 2,001,926 (55.3%) to 1,617,989 (44.7%) on a turnout of 85%. Since then we have had another referendum on whether the UK should remain within the EU which was also divisive within Scotland, with 1,661,191 of the electorate in Scotland (62%) voting for the UK to remain and 1,018,332 (38%) voting to leave on a turnout of 67.2%. We were promised at the time of the first Independence referendum that this would be a 'once in a generation/lifetime' referendum and yet we are now faced with the real prospect of a repeat within four years. Whatever our views on Scottish Independence (I have friends and family supporting me with this petition who have a broad range of views, some who wish independence within or outwith the EU, others who wish to remain within the UK) we believe that a referendum within the next four years would be harmful to the people of Scotland for the following reasons:

1) We live in a time of great political upheaval and flux and believe that another referendum will only add to that.

2) There are significant problems within Scotland (education, the NHS, the economy) that need the full attention of the Scottish parliament. We cannot afford to be distracted by another lengthy, divisive and bitter campaign.

3) We were promised that this would be a once in a generation referendum and we simply ask that that promise is kept.

4) Until the Brexit negotiations are complete there will be both uncertainty about what we might be leaving, and even more uncertainty about where we might be going. It is
not wise to seek split apart the United Kingdom at the same time as the United Kingdom, including Scotland, is leaving the EU.

Unique web address
http://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/FutureIndyRef

Related information for petition
I have set up a separate website in support of this petition - please feel free to use and share it - [http://futureindyref.weebly.com/](http://futureindyref.weebly.com/)

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament’s website to collect signatures online?
YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?
0

Closing date for collecting signatures online
06 / 04 / 2017

Comments to stimulate online discussion
Do you agree that any further independence referendum should be delayed until Brexit negotiations are complete, to remove any uncertainty about what we might be leaving and where we might be going?

Would you prefer to see our elected representatives addressing the significant problems that already exist within Scotland (education, economy, NHS) before entering into another lengthy and potentially divisive campaign?