

Dear 2030

Young people's messages to the future



Introduction

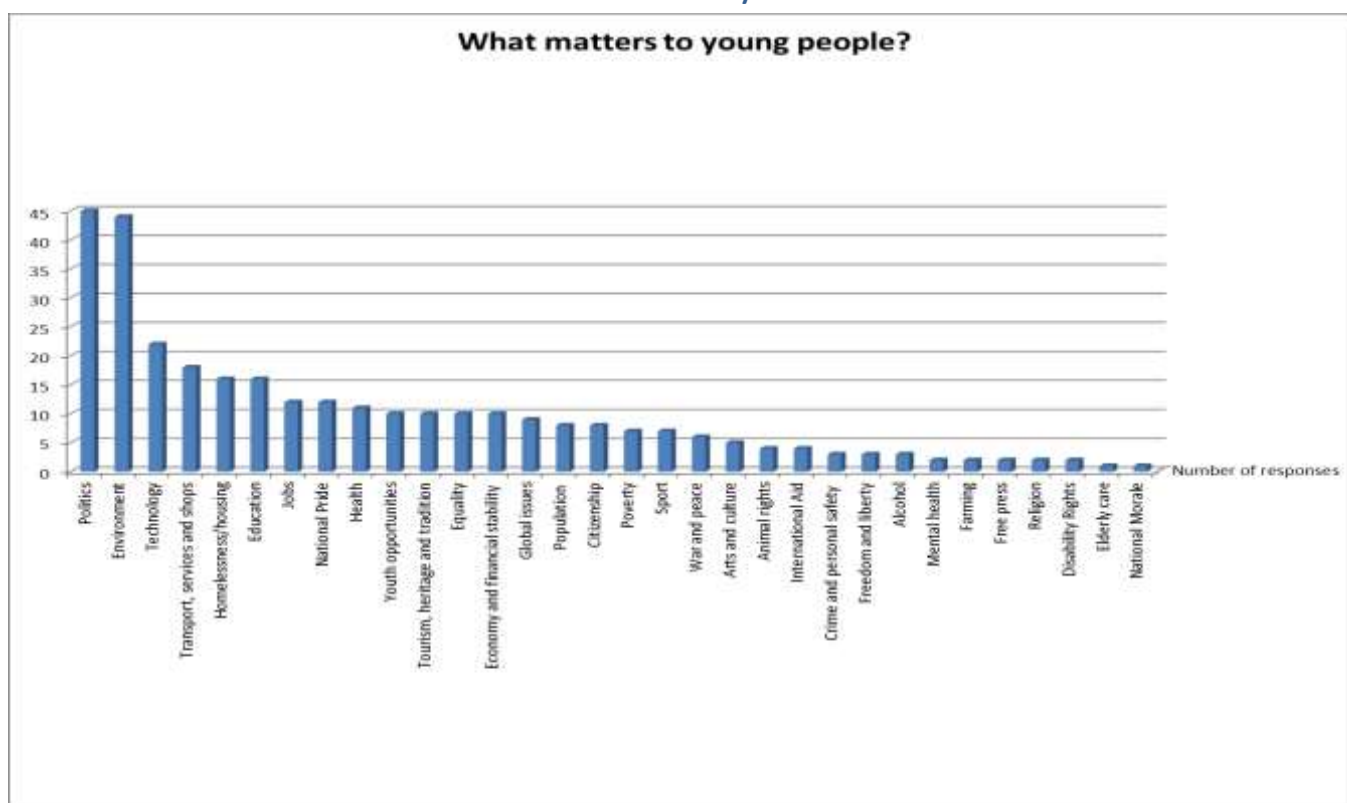
Between 10 March and 25 April 2017, young people from across Scotland were invited to write messages to the future as part of Scotland's Futures Forum Scotland 2030 Programme. The postcards they wrote were an extremely diverse collection: funny, moving, serious, witty, inspirational and aspirational in equal measure. The report below draws together the responses and provides some analysis of what they show.

Background

The idea for a 'Dear 2030' postcard was developed by Futures Fellows Nicola Martin and Eleanore Widger in collaboration with Young Scot, who promoted the task via social media as part of their Rewards scheme. Respondents were all Young Scot Rewards members. Young Scot Rewards is open to all young people aged 11-25 in Scotland. This was a self-selecting survey, with all respondents receiving Young Scot Reward points for taking part.

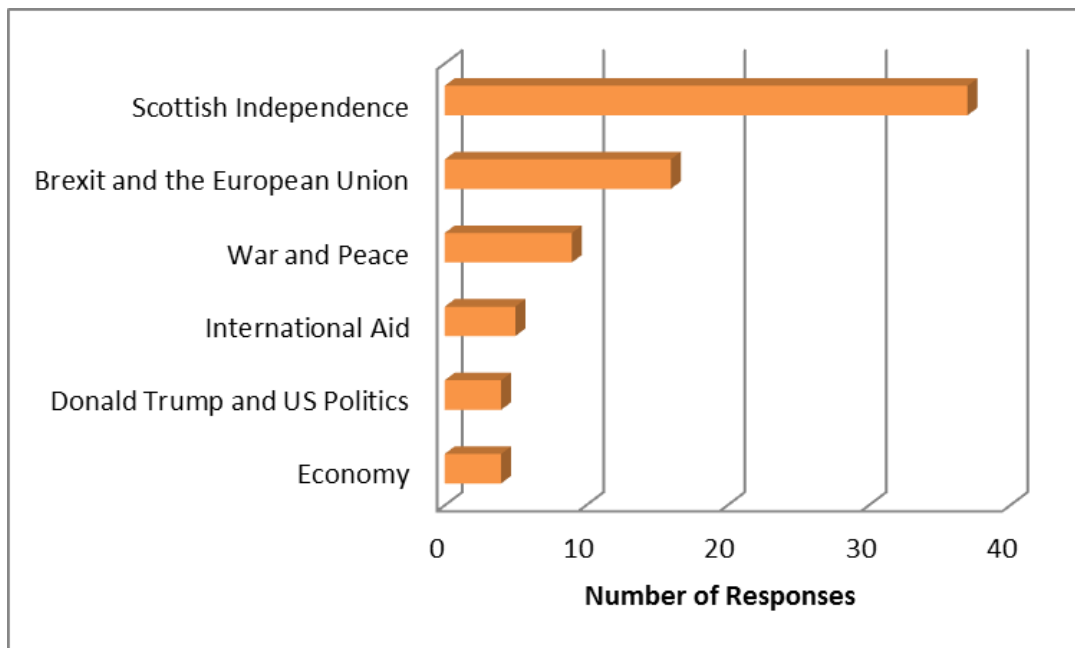
A total of 101 young people responded from 24 out of 32 local authority areas. Respondents were aged between 11 and 25, with most 12-14 and currently in school; 62% identified as female, 35% as male, whilst 3% preferred not to answer.

Summary



The two topics most frequently discussed in the postcards were politics and the environment, which were mentioned in 45 and 44 responses respectively. The graph above shows the large number of topics and issues that were mentioned by young people across Scotland: providing a snapshot of the issues that are important to them currently and those they think will be important in the future. The majority of the postcards mentioned at least two topics although several mentioned a number of topics.

Politics and Global Issues



Politics was the most commonly cited topic within the responses, with 45 young people mentioning at least one of the above issues. The issue of Scottish Independence, or further devolution of powers, was an emotive and somewhat divisive topic. The majority of postcards highlighted a clear preference either for Scotland to be independent or not by 2030. Although the issue is clearly of great importance to young people of all ages throughout Scotland, the fact that the Scottish Parliament voted in favour of a second independence referendum during the time the survey was online perhaps helps to explain why it featured in so many responses.

The recent 'Brexit' vote, or Scotland's place within the European Union, featured in sixteen postcards, with many of those who discussed the topic questioning what the effects of Britain leaving the EU might be by 2030 or whether the country may have re-joined by that time. Whilst a number of responses expressed a personal belief about the vote to leave the EU, the majority focused on the consequences of the vote.

Issues of war, peace and international aid were discussed in a total of thirteen postcards, all of which expressed hope for a more peaceful global future. Two responses specifically expressed concerns about the possibility of nuclear warfare by 2030 whilst all five responses related to international aid wished for Scotland to do more to help other countries.

Whilst most postcards engaged directly with a specific political issue, a few considered the topic more abstractly: questioning the role that the young people of the future might play in political decision making and wondering how Scottish, British, and world politics might have changed by 2030. Neither age nor gender appeared to affect interest in politics and responses came from almost all local authority areas represented in the task, suggesting that young people across Scotland actively consider politics when considering the future.

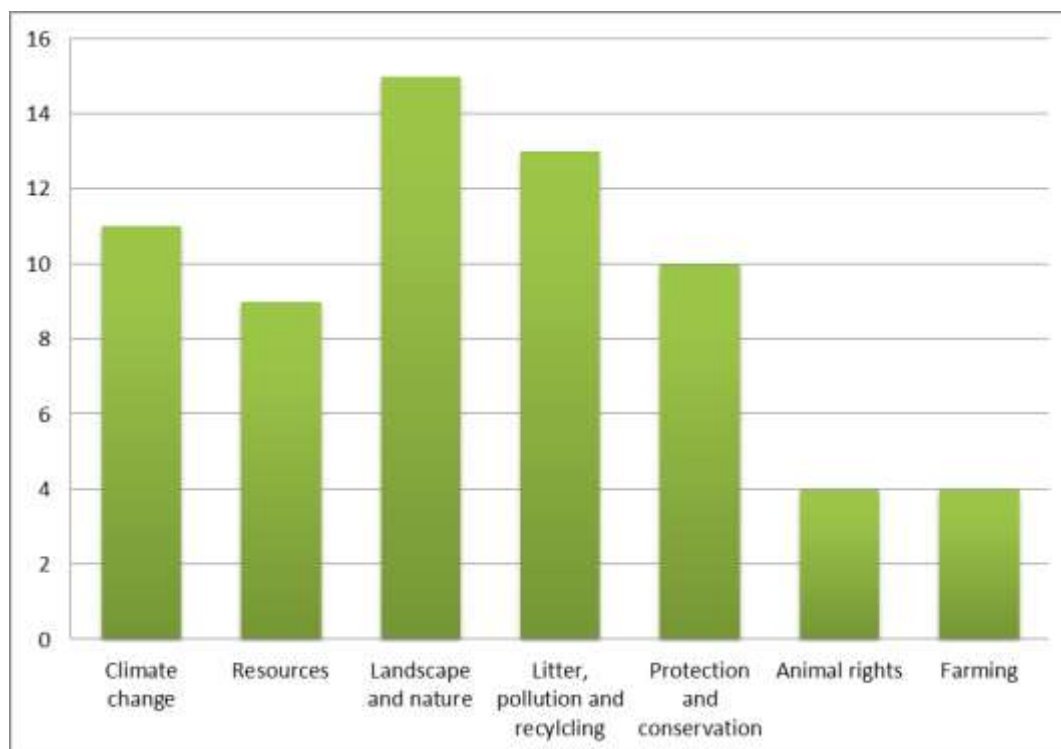
Environment

The environment was an important topic for our respondents, second only to politics. Nearly half referred to global and/or local environmental issues (44 out of 101). Litter was an emotive issue, with several respondents expressing dismay at what they saw as the extent of the problem, and suggesting that this is an issue which directly affects young people in Scotland. Many are clearly well aware of climate change and advocated renewable energy, clean transport, more recycling and less reliance on oil. Key concerns for several included pollution, carbon emissions and environmental toxins, although some progress was seen to have been made in their reduction, which respondents strongly supported.

Generally the attitude towards the environment was one of concern, with wildlife and landscape identified as being vulnerable to degradation as we approach 2030. A few were unconcerned for the future in relation to the quality and beauty of Scotland's landscapes, but more urged for their protection, suggesting an implicit awareness of possible threats. It is clear that, for many respondents, landscape and quality green spaces are an important part of Scottish identity.

A handful of respondents demonstrated a nuanced understanding of environmental issues; for instance, one made a connection between sustainable farming and a self-sufficient economy. A few explicitly called for better treatment of animals as an environmental and ethical imperative. However, this subtlety was relatively rare, possibly reflecting the nature of the Dear 2030 task, or possibly suggesting a lack of complexity in understandings of environmental issues among young people in Scotland.

The graph below groups responses under the most frequently mentioned themes:



Technology

Inventions and developments predicted in the postcards included...

Sustainable life on Mars
Can we colonise Mars? Or perhaps the Moon?

Flying cars or drones
The most popular suggestion was that cars will be in the air, not on the ground

Animal translators
Might we know what the animals around us are thinking?

Robots
What will the robots of 2030 look like? And what will they be capable of?

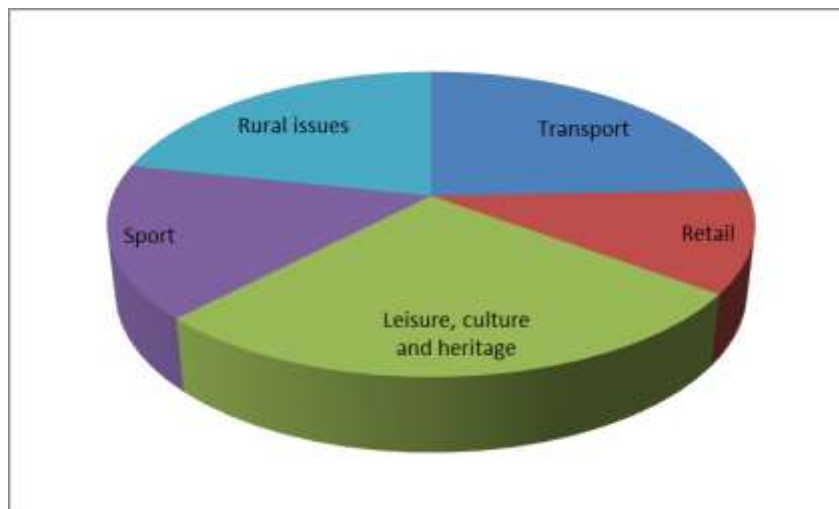
3D Printers
Will they become as common as smartphones?

Technology was the third largest topic of interest amongst respondents, with almost a quarter (22) of respondents mentioning technology or technological development in their postcard. In general, the snapshot provided by the task suggests that young people have a very positive overall attitude towards technology.

Most responses expressed keen interest and excitement at the thought of new inventions and the role that technology might play in the world by 2030. Various inventions or developments were suggested and a number of postcards questioned how technology would be affecting the world or expressed confidence that it would play an important role in the future of both Scotland and the wider world.

However, a couple of responses did highlight a negative aspect of technology: specifically the reduction of social interactions as a result of technology. Concerns about automation reducing employment opportunities or artificial intelligence representing a threat to humanity were entirely absent from the responses. This could potentially suggest that such issues are not at the forefront of the minds of young people in Scotland or the absence of such considerations could be a result of the open nature of the task.

Transport, Services and Leisure, Arts and Culture



There were a diverse range of views displayed in the postcards regarding issues of transport, services and leisure, arts, culture and sport. Whilst some expressed general contentedness with Scotland in the present and the services and opportunities in their local areas, many, particularly those in more rural communities, suggested that there was a real need for better infrastructure and investment in shops, parks, museums and youth clubs throughout Scotland.

The discussion of the challenges facing Scotland with regards to issues of transportation, leisure and services, and arts, culture, heritage and sport was interspersed with suggestions of the steps that Scotland could take to overcome the issues identified.

Housing, Employment and Poverty

Twenty nine postcards mention one or more issue related to housing, homelessness, employment or poverty in Scotland or globally. There were many links made between these issues and postcards that tackled one of the issues often tackled others as well. In particular, housing and homelessness were explicitly linked by a number of postcards, with many emphasising a need to ensure housing is made available to all of those who need it. Other postcards questioned or predicted what the housing market might look like in the future: one suggested that house prices will likely continue to climb ever higher whilst others questioned whether council houses might no longer exist.

Many of those who discussed poverty were ambitious in their hopes for both Scotland and the wider world by 2030: not only wishing for the eradication of poverty but actively believing that it is an achievable goal.

Society and Citizenship

The responses suggest that citizenship is very important to young people in Scotland. Several used the word 'citizen' to describe people in Scotland, identifying what they saw to be both their rights (to political representation; to live in an equal, sustainable society) and their responsibilities (to demonstrate kindness and respect to others and to the environment; to recycle).

This was linked in some of the responses to a sense of global citizenship, with one respondent stating explicitly that they believed Scotland should accept more refugees. Only one mentioned border control or had a negative perception of immigration, suggesting either that young people have a broadly liberal view of these issues or that they do not perceive them to be major challenges facing Scotland.

Population in general, however, was raised as an issue of concern. A total of three respondents explicitly mentioned population, with two citing population increase as a potential problem for Scotland in the future, and one noting the dramatic projected global population increase (although this respondent underestimated current UN projections for 2030 by approximately 1.5 billion). The respondents did not clearly identify reasons why they perceived population increase to pose a challenge to future societies; for example they did not mention mass population movement, resource scarcity or possible conflicts over resources, suggesting that whilst they are concerned about this issue they are not fully aware of all the implications.

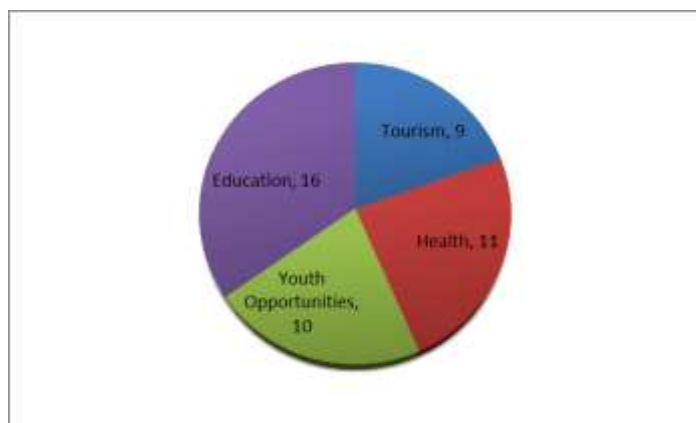
Several mentioned current barriers and challenges to a fair, peaceful society, with sexism and gender inequality mentioned three times, specifically gaps in pay and opportunities, and racism mentioned three times. Of those who mentioned diversity and inclusion all were in favour of either maintaining or improving what they perceive to be Scotland's current levels.

One respondent wrote about the importance of defending freedom of expression through fostering independent artists, emphasising their role in critiquing and shaping society.

Generally, comments about these issues were framed as hopes for society in 2030 rather than descriptions of how respondents see Scottish society currently, suggesting that there is some way to go before Scotland meets these young people's expectations in terms of equality, diversity and a shared sense of citizenship.

On the other hand, many expressed a sense of national pride. Two pointed out stereotypes or misconceptions about Scotland which seemed to diminish their sense of pride, but overall the responses demonstrate a broad appreciation for Scotland's culture, heritage, sporting achievement and landscape.

Other Responses



Sixteen postcards mentioned education, with a wide variety of responses to this issue. The most common responses were an emphasis on the importance of free education at all levels which was mentioned by seven respondents and improvements or modifications to the education system which were mentioned by six. Further, in the postcards that mentioned youth opportunities a majority suggested that there was a need for more training and job opportunities for young people, suggesting that this area is one in which young people would like to see investment.

The nine responses which mentioned tourism were very positive about the benefits of increased tourism to the economy and all wished for tourism to Scotland to increase by 2030. Surprisingly few responses mentioned health but in those that did obesity and cancer proved to be the issues most young people were concerned about, each featuring in three postcards.

A number of issues that had been expected to be raised in the postcards were either only mentioned by a couple of respondents or else were not discussed at all. These included

Mental Health Care Crime and Safety Disability Rights
 Elderly Care Farming Terrorism
 Homophobia Children's rights Caring responsibilities

Whilst these are clearly very important societal issues, they are clearly not issues that are at the forefront of the minds of most young people. Whilst particularly important to those who are affected by any of these issues, they are perhaps of less direct and daily relevance to others and this helps to explain why they were mentioned less often than issues such as the environment and politics, which constantly surround all young people.

The fact that terrorism was not mentioned by any respondents, despite the London terror attack taking place during the time the task was online, suggests that it is not an issue that young people in Scotland are particularly worried about in their everyday lives presently or for the future. This is particularly interesting due to the fact that the issue receives much attention from the press, from political parties and in the news channels.

Personal aspirations

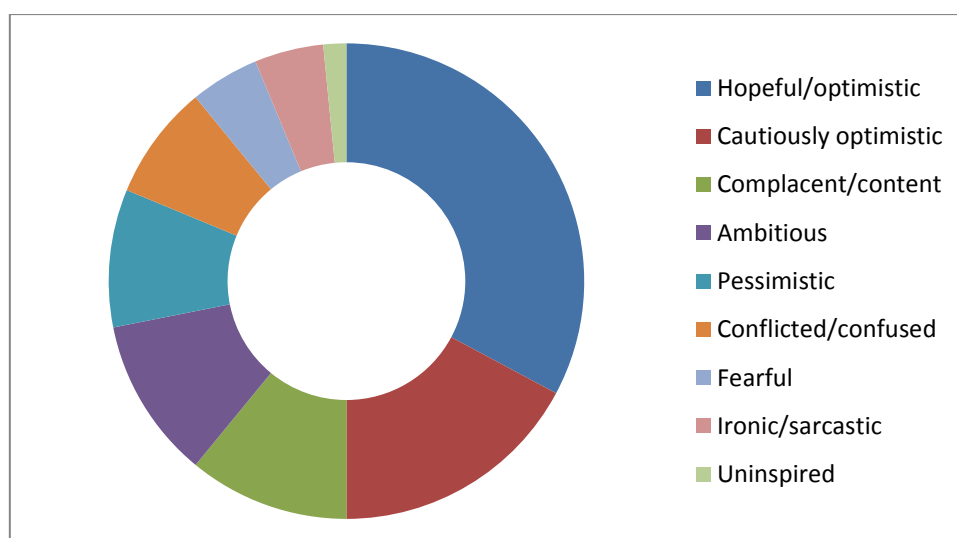
Relatively few respondents included their personal hopes and aspirations for 2030. This is perhaps due to the nature of the task, which invited consideration of societal and cultural aspirations as well. It also perhaps reflects the young age of most of the respondents, who may not have developed clear ideas about their own futures.

Of those who did mention personal aspirations, educational achievement and employment were most frequently identified, although a few mentioned holidays, leisure activities, living abroad and raising families. The phrase 'stable job' appeared multiple times, suggesting this is a priority and implying concern about employment opportunities in the future.

Attitudes towards the future

The responses reflected a variety of attitudes towards the future, which range from fear and pessimism to confidence and optimism. The most common mood or attitude was one of cautious optimism. Many other responses expressed hopefulness or idealism, which in some cases, however, implicitly criticised the current state of things from the respondent's point of view. In contrast, a few were unconcerned, either suggesting things would be fine or that they didn't think any changes were necessary. A number appeared confused or unclear about their feelings, voicing fears and hopes simultaneously. Interestingly, several responded to the task by posing questions to a hypothetical future, expressing curiosity and a certain anxiety, and a few responded with sarcasm, offering ironically pessimistic views of the future.

The diagram shows the proportion of respondents who expressed each attitude (where an attitude or mood was explicitly expressed). Evidently, around two thirds of those respondents who clearly expressed a particular mood or attitude have some positive feelings towards the future.



What comes next?

Overall, the young people who took part in the Dear 2030 postcard survey responded with energy and passion, revealing their hopes and fears, identifying positive and negative aspects of Scotland's culture and society and offering thought-provoking visions of the future. They were clearly keen to engage in discussion about a wide range of issues affecting Scotland's future, and their insights prove that their contributions can be extremely useful.

As a snapshot of young people's views, the Dear 2030 postcard survey represents a starting point for further enquiry rather than a comprehensive study. For example, there were some topics on which Dear 2030 respondents showed a lack of interest or awareness; investigation into the reasons for this could elucidate areas of education which could be improved in order to better equip young people with the information and understanding they need to meet their future opportunities and challenges.

A larger and more detailed survey, co-designed with a representative group of young people and targeted towards hard to reach groups, would be a valuable next step in broadening and deepening understandings of young people's attitudes towards the future, as well as encouraging participation in public debate.

It is hoped that the views expressed by young people in response to the Dear 2030 task, and presented here, will trigger reflection among policy makers on what needs to be done in order to build the kind of future that will serve the generations reaching adulthood in 2030 and beyond.

30 postcards for 2030

The following pages present 30 of the most thought-provoking postcard responses received.

Dear Scotland, I hope that Scotland is either part of the UK or part of the EU. I also hope that Scotland is running on clean, renewable energy. In 2030 I would like to have graduated from University and be a doctor or a pharmacologist. I hope that Scotland's sports teams have developed and compete well at every sporting event. I can't wait to see what Scotland is like in 2030 and that some of my hopes will come true.

Male, 14, Angus

Dear Prime minister can you start up a campaign for Scotland to be independent and give young children more opportunities to learn and develop to become responsible proud citizens of our country Scotland. Dear government for adults under the age of 24 to make it less money to buy a house. Please give us a future to look forward to

Male, 11, North Lanarkshire

My wishes and aspirations for Scotland is to become more aware of needs for more public transportation in the Highlands and Islands, people to be kinder and fairer to one another and that we get more recognition for Scottish history and industries and not just the accent, the kilt and music.

Female, 14, Argyll and Bute

I have just turned 16 and in 2017 I have become aware of many things. We are living in a society that is scared. Scared of our neighbours, scared for our health and scared for our children. Why must it be like this? In 2030 I will be 29 and I dream of a cheerful, bright and happy place to live, somewhere my children will flourish. I dream of a colourful society that enjoys the company of its neighbours. We can be proud of our heritage but enjoy a new culture of togetherness, where we are happy to be people living a healthy life in a glorious wee Country. In 2030 I hope that we have all come to appreciate how wonderful and full our lands are and work to protect the prosperity of our lands. Our country is lush, we have water and fertile soil. Now in 2017 we are blessed, so by 2030 I hope we have come to realise this!

I dream of a Country that can actually provide for itself as we can at the moment, but don't... We are plentiful and capable yet choose to be lazy or take the cheap option and import. But, we are clever and able and by 2030 I hope Scots can be resourceful again. Having found ourselves, we can grow our own, make our own and look after our own. Standing free and proud we can keep our Country shining bright full of happy people who appreciate what we have and the liberties we have been blessed with.

So most of all by 2030, when I am a mum and have my own responsibilities, I want to be free, I want Scotland to be free. Free from fear of its neighbours, fear for our health and fear for my children.

Female, 16, Scottish Borders

Hi, I think that Scotland should be a nice place to be in 2030, there should be enough homes and enough jobs for anyone who needs one. People should not have to wait for months to get a council flat, they should be able to get a home very easily.

Scotland should be a place that people want to be. I think that there should be more green places with more parks and more places for people to do sport. There should be more kids clubs and art clubs for all and people should not have to pay much to get into them.

Female, 12, Glasgow

Scotland should be a happy and diverse place by 2030.

They should hope to be using full renewable energy and to have a very diverse culture.

Scotland should try to include its heritage while trying to modernize itself.

I think that we should try to keep using renewable energy and encourage citizens to recycle as much as they possibly can.

Female, 15, South Lanarkshire

I haven't the most urban or economically developed sense of what I consider important in my home country, but I have my own personal dreams and aspirations: such as they are. I should mention, I am a student of modern art at one of Scotland's numbered institutes for such creative educations exclusively. I see a lot of art and design ideas put forward by ambitious and optimistic students, often these are incredible works, building designs, textile patternations, paintings of eloquence hitherto undreamt of by the working men of my father's generation. I think there are a lot of great things being done in these areas...

Art students of a modern art course are by the definition of their field of study, having to look into a certain aspect of the world around them and see it differently to what is considered normal or commonplace. They must comment on, or seek to change in this age, where the commodification of art (alongside our continuing obsession with possession, wealth and hierarchy) has made the material object seem redundant to many.

Students in higher education are usually unfettered in their hits and tackles to systems of power, in a way that newspapers aren't - SaaS funding is the cornerstone of this class' existence, but there aren't as such the formal sponsorships that newspapers have. This I believe, allows a sense of freedom, and some more ambivalence to grow in the spirit of my social groups, a sense that we have the chance to make a real difference in our country, and world by extension.

I won't go into much detail now, but frankly I feel that the more competitions, open calls, government funding and sponsorship that goes towards the arts, and young creatives who are trained to be critical thinkers, to be questioning and to find alternative ways to approach a subject - the better.

I am so glad to live in a country where I, having come from homelessness aged 17, can apply for fee waivers to get through college and eventually SaaS funding to enter into university level study, and hopefully at the end; have a job related to my field of study.

I think the more culture is invested into, the more it will give back. Recently we had a survey shown all around the internet that claimed Scotland produced more power from renewable wind energy than was necessary last year alone -this is fantastic, and a huge boost to the morale of the country. If we continue like this I hope it will lead by example to the rest of the world, regardless of how troubling the news is from the US and other governing bodies' statements spattered about online in embellished headlines.

I am proud of the fact we still have so much landmass that isn't choked up with city blocks or carriageways, a trip to the highlands remains more wild and intriguing than any other way to glimpse back into our history. I love my town outside the city limits, and happily pay the 16 miles travel on 2 buses in the time it takes, for the chance to walk down the river and fields minutes from my door, than the ease of living in the city to sleep an extra couple hours.

I am one of the young people that deemed unfit to drive, have been given a bus pass from my local council, and this again I must commend the government for, I'm immensely grateful, and could not have made it this far in my education without it.

The UK and EU is something I would prefer not to comment upon, I live a somewhat secluded life from all that and haven't followed it all that much. I'm happy in my country, and want to work to improve it to the best I can, particularly within the arts and culture. Such as it is presently, many students of creative subjects feel the need to leave and head for more creative capitols, London being the prime example. I feel this isn't something I would care for, but think perhaps if there were more to keep them here, artists and young students might stay more, or at least consider working on something that currently exists to a good degree.

Personally speaking I've laid out most of my aspirations for my Scotland in a simplified manner, and hope it translates as such; but haven't much else on my mind at this point in time.

Male, 23, Aberdeenshire

Hi Scotland,

I'm Emma. I am 12 years old (nearly 13) and I am writing from the year 2017. Given this is 2030 I would like to ask a few questions. Has Britain left the European Union yet? Has the war in Syria ended? I hope it has. What new gadgets are lurking about? Any new inventions? Have they made a new model of the raspberry pi (I won one in a Young Scot competition) Hope the world hasn't been taken over by aliens or exploded into oblivion.

Female, 12, North Lanarkshire

Hello Scotland can't believe it's 2030 and we're still writing postcards! A lot has changed Scotland is now tropical reaching 30 degrees, no rain for 90 days! That's a world record for Scotland, oil and gas is booming and house prices are a record high thankfully we're still part of Great Britain. Best wishes from the U.S.A

Female, 13, North Lanarkshire

Dear Scotland,

In 2030 I think this Nation will have grown a lot. I hope people become more respectful to the environment and stop constantly littering. I hope that everyone will be able to have a roof over their head and also have food every day. I know these are high expectations but I know we can do it if all put our minds together and work for a better future.

Female, 15, East Renfrewshire

I think Scotland should be an animal friendly place where animals are treated better and Scotland tries to get other countries to do the same. I hope that Scotland will have less financial issues and can handle money better. I hope the use of electric cars will become more popular.

Female, 12, Renfrewshire

Scotland should be a country that does not have to rely on the Westminster Parliament for money. Scotland should have more devolved powers allowing it to better serve its citizens. Certain parts of Scotland should get more funding in certain aspects (Argyll and Bute has the most miles of road but receives the least funding because of the low population). Scotland could be independent but it is not a must. Transport in Scotland, especially in the North, should expand by providing more frequent travel both north but especially south. Scotland and the NHS should work together to ensure more mental health concerns by doctors are tackled as well as trying to employ more police to cut down on the amount of underage drinking. Certain areas should be invested in to ensure that housing is improved and therefore the rate of those living in poverty is reduced. Employers should be watched more closely to ensure that they are adhering to proper working standards. For myself, I want to inspire the next generation of history teachers, inform them about what Scotland was like in the past and find out what their hopes are for the future so that they can be the best that they can be. Scotland in 2030 should be what Scotland wants. What the people want.

Male, 17, Aberdeen

Dear Future Scotland,

I am currently writing to you from 2017 and I am wondering have you found a cure for cancer yet. What are iPhones like? Are they paper thin? How about an animal translator or a robot who does your homework, I would like to know about the future.

Male, 11, North Lanarkshire

Scotland should be equal.

No racism. No sexism. No conflict.

If this happens it will be incredible but unfortunately the chances are slim.

Scotland needs to have a positive future, not a disappointing one.

Gender fluidity is already increasing and should be the norm by 2030. Social interactions need to increase due to technology taking over people's minds.

Scotland needs to change.

Female, 16, West Lothian

I think Scotland should be a place where we respect the world and each other. I would hope Scotland in 2030 will be a place of equality where even the homeless have a home and clean food water and clothes. I would like to see a recycling plant for plastic caps and beer can rings so less wildlife are killed every year though suffocation this is a huge problem that can be tackled as for me I would like to find out about what life will be like for school children that are bullied on many occasions

Female, 14, South Ayrshire

Hello Scotland! I hope you're doing well! You are a great country but I don't know what it will be like in the future so I'm going to make a prediction! I think it will be the same sort of look as it is currently but it will hopefully be cleaner and people will stop living on the streets and staying in

proper accommodation, I hope that the people will be kinder and not as intimidating. In the place I currently live there are a lot of racist people and I hope that will be improved. I hope that more people will realise other people's feelings and we as the small nation of Scotland can help others change it. I know this is a little bit odd but I hope that Scotland will have more popular stores and would accept more refugees. In 2030 I would be 25 and I would like to be the valedictorian in university and graduate with like the best degree possible and then find a very high earning job and use the money to help my family and so I can buy the things I want and need. I don't think I will live in Scotland but I will definitely visit!!

Female, 12, Falkirk

Hey 2030, what is it like in the future is there robots and stuff or is there flying cars? What are the people like, is there robot people or is there supernatural people? How the weather is in 2030, is it always sunny or do you get to pick the weather? What is the food like in restaurants, is there robots instead of people?

Female, 13, Glasgow

I think Scotland should be using only renewable energy and most definitely should have a cleaner environment with less logging being done. I also think that the litter issues we have are corrected in some way.

Since I'm a keen cyclist I also believe that in 2030 cycling should be looked at as an important transport that's cleaner than cars and has a better infrastructure close to what they have in Amsterdam. My next point that I wish to be in a better state is the homeless population. It is very clear to me that this is a problem having seen the amount of homeless people begging in the streets of Glasgow I wish they would be able to have more affordable housing for them and schemes to insure that they are kept off the streets.

My next big point is technology I believe this is the most exciting and interesting one to see how it develops over the coming year and by 2030 it should be very well advanced to help in all our areas of life from the big things such as getting us around or to the little things comparable to how we get our news on a day to day basis.

One last point that I would like to see in 2030 is more individuality because of this culture of Americanisation taking over making everyone blend into the crowd a bit too much.

Gender not provided, 14, East Dunbartonshire

To Scotland,

I am so proud of where we are today. And I hope you would kindly consider the following ideas I have which I wish to share. I was thinking that we should help support foreign countries financially. I think this would help us and the countries we aim to provide to. I think we should hold a vote once a year and let the people of Scotland decide what country we would wish to help, we could provide this money from the tax that we earn to help with roads and schools. I understand that these things are very necessary but a small donation or touch of kindness can change many lives. I believe that this independent country is more than capable to uphold its Values.

Female, 12, Renfrewshire

Dear Scotland in 2030, I think Scotland will be a better place in 2030 I hope we have the least amount of people unemployed and homeless. I hope that Scotland could do better in sport tournaments like the world cup for football and rugby. I hope that the wild life is better with more parks and make them bigger and better. I hope that the tourism goes up and we make new attractions so there are more jobs and more people spend money so that more people will want to visit Scotland on holiday. I just want Scotland to be a better place for the people in the future.

Male, 12, South Ayrshire

I hope that you are beautiful and that everyone is like a big happy family, a great community. New places to shop, eat, play, explore. More trees and forests to adventure through, more parks, more museums, more other historical buildings. Please be amazing, don't let this rubbish world ruin you.

Female, 18, Renfrewshire

In my opinion, Scotland should be a place of freedom for young people with lots of opportunities for them to develop new skills for their CVs. I hope that Scotland is welcoming to anyone who visits and has kind people living in Scotland. Personally I would like to see Scotland tackle poverty completely and I would like to see the NHS improve its services more than it is currently. However, except from the current issues this year, I would like to see Scotland remain the same as what I grew up with for my childhood. I would like to go to university and have a good job that I love in the future and I hope that young people in 2030 will have better job opportunities and skill development opportunities than I have been presented with in 2017.

Female, 15, Aberdeenshire

Dear Scotland, I am writing in the year 2017 and in 2030 I want the world to be a less destructive place, happier, kinder. I want everyone to help make our world be a true reality for the future children and hope they all live a great life like everyone to this day of 12/03/17, but more peaceful, more exciting, I want it to be a place where every dream can come true no matter how big, scary, imaginative it may be. I just want the world to be united as 1 big family.

Male, 12, Highland

I think Scotland should be a place where we can take in a lot of the beautiful scenery and peaceful. My hopes and ambitions for Scotland as a nation are for everyone to be treated equally, there to be no discrimination to people with disabilities and for both genders to be paid the same.

Male, 16, Moray

Scotland should be an inclusive and welcoming place which the entire look at and aspire to be like. I want Scotland to lead the way on equality, health care so many other things. I hope politics will be engaging and not demeaning. I hope Scotland can share its talents across the world through sport and other major cultural events. I want Scotland to be an independent country that is sustainable to its citizens, that brings in wealth but helps others in need. I want Scotland to be the best place for

children and young people to grow up. I want Scotland to be a place where young girls are fearless and a place where your gender doesn't limit your opportunities.

Female, 22, Edinburgh

Scotland how do you look now? I wonder, when I'm 31 what life will be like? Who will be running the country? More importantly will we be our own country.

2014-2017 has been a whirlwind of a few years. So much changed for the country, we had an independence referendum, then came Brexit and it was starting all over again. Is Scotland independent in 2030? What's become of the EU?

There's so many questions to ask. What will the young people of Scotland inherit? Will they be valued more? Will they be listened to as the political landscape changes? Scotland is heading into a time of uncertainty and I hope by 2030 we see a better country regardless of who or how it is being run.

Female, 18, Scottish Borders

I hope that in 2030 we live in a civilized society where something as delicate as religion doesn't limit people to their full potentials. I'm excited and scared for the future. Technology is so advanced now which is brilliant. Also doctors and nurses are now able to cure things that 30 years ago they wouldn't be able to!

Female, 14, Highland

I think that Scotland should would be great if there was more things for children to do on small islands and places like that because people that do live on small islands are getting forgot about, they're just walking alone streets with nothing to do and because of that young people are getting drunk to have fun.

Female, 13, Argyll and Bute

I hope Scotland has faster, greener transport and I hope that Scotland's electricity mostly comes from renewable sources. I hope that there will be more things to do in rural areas. I hope that transport will be cheaper. I hope that Scotland has a better education system. I personally hope that there will be more to do in South Ayrshire.

Male, 15, South Ayrshire

Scotland should be full of its old traditions again, be able to give tourists a taste of what Scotland truly is. It should also be bright and colourful in the streets and look clean and tidy. Life should be easy going for everyone there and technology should hopefully have been advanced.

Female, 16, Moray