

## United Kingdom Independence Party's manifesto on devolution and how it relates to Yorkshire

### What they say:

*“UKIP will put England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on the same footing by instituting a new English Parliament. It will sit in the chamber vacated by the House of Lords, have its own First Minister, and its 375 members will be elected under the Additional Member system of proportional representation, one or more from each traditional county or large city and 125 top-up seats.*

*All four nations will have broadly similar devolved powers and none will have power over matters affecting the whole of the UK, such as foreign policy, defence of the realm, or constitutional matters.*

*We will pass legislation allowing citizens to influence our legislature directly, by giving them the power to initiate binding referenda on the issues of most importance to them. Every two years, a national referendum will be held on the issues gaining the highest numbers of signatures on approved petitions. The outcome of these referenda would be legally binding and included in the Queen's Speech.*

UKIP will put HS2 out of its misery. We will invest in upgrading existing main line services to create additional capacity, expand electrification, and improve east-west rail services and connections across the north of England. This will be infrastructure that genuinely supports the economic and industrial regeneration of the region. A slogan, ‘The Northern Powerhouse,’ achieves nothing.

*UKIP will review the many statutory duties placed on local government, to assess whether the cost burden on councils and taxpayers can be reduced. Councils should only be doing what they do best, not what national government wants to wash its hands of.”*

[See full version here](#)

### From the top, this means:

1. UKIP would focus their devolutionary efforts on establishing an English Parliament rather than on regional devolution. However they do recognise and acknowledge traditional counties (such as Yorkshire) in the system they would implement to elect Members of that Parliament.
2. UKIP would introduce binding bi-annual referenda on the issues most supported by the UK public in approved petitions. This would leave little scope for issues relating only to Yorkshire as they are never likely to be amongst the most supported on a UK-wide basis.

3. UKIP would scrap the HS2 rail link from Yorkshire and the North of England to London and the South East. Instead, they would focus on improving transport across Yorkshire and the North of England which is bound to be a priority of any future devolved Yorkshire administration.
4. UKIP would look at the duties carried out by local government and may redirect some of these to national level on what they consider a cost effective basis. This would indicate a tendency to control from the centre rather than to devolve powers any further than to each of the UK's devolved nations.