

The Treaty of Perth, 1266

Before the Treaty of Perth, the Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland were all part of Norway. The Hebrides were ceded to Scotland after the battle of Largs, but Orkney and Shetland remained part of Norway. Because there was a treaty to transfer the Hebrides to Scotland, there is no question that they are now part of Scotland. There was an instantaneous change of ownership, laws and administration.

No such treaty happened for Orkney and Shetland. The change of administration and law was gradual and only driven by the convenience of the incoming Scots.