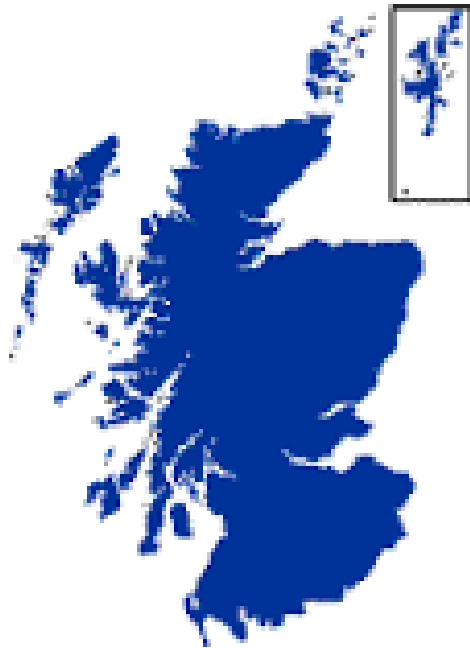


Discussing Democracy

What next for Scotland & the Constitution?



ESRC Knowledge Exchange



The Crick Centre
Understanding Politics



Discussing Democracy

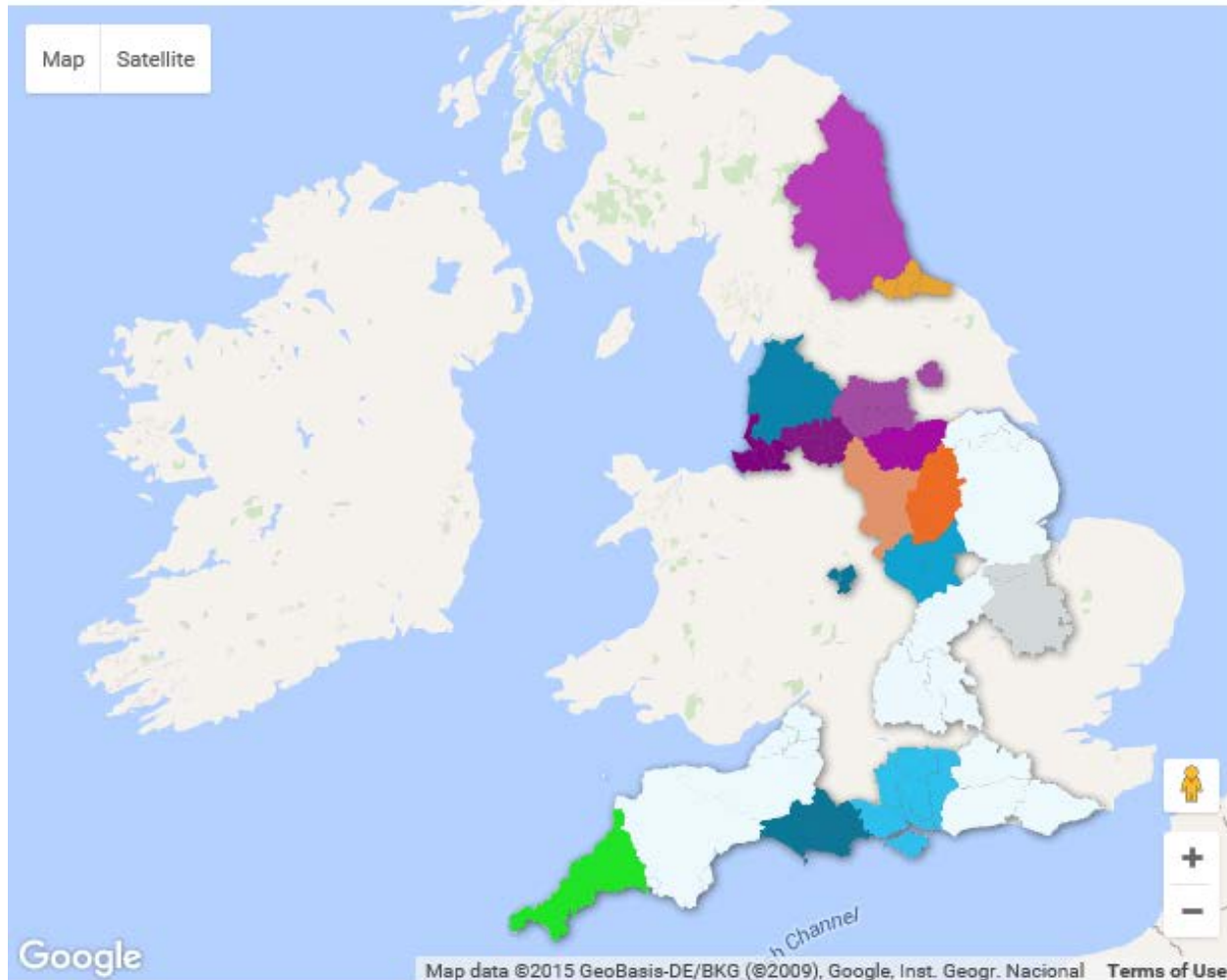
Introduction: context

1. Nicola McEwen: Scotland Bill *etc*
2. Group discussions
3. **What next?** Jayne Stuart Director, WEA

Constitutional Changes

- **Devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland**
- A [British-Irish Council](#) for the British Isles
- Bill of Rights
- House of Lords
- Supreme Court 2009
- [NHS cconstitution](#) and NHS England Citizens' Assembly
- Regional Police and Crime Commissioners 2012
- **“Devolution Deals” and elected Mayors**
- Free schools, academies and Regional Schools Commissioners;
- English Votes for English Laws
- **EU referendum**
- Cut in MPs from 650 to 600
- BBC Charter Review
- Competitive markets in public services

“Devo Deals” in England



Pilot Constitutional Convention

DEMOCRACY MATTERS ASSEMBLY NORTH ↑



Professor Nicola McEwen

@mcewen_nicola @CCC_research

Centre on Constitutional Change/University of Edinburgh



Renewing Devolution

Four Questions

- Do the devo proposals honour “The Vow”/Smith Report?
- What are the opportunities and constraints?
- “One of the most powerful devolved parliaments in the world?”
- Is Scotland Bill 2015 “built to last”?

THE VOW

The people of Scotland want to know that all three main parties will deliver change for Scotland.

WE ARE AGREED THAT:

The Scottish Parliament is permanent and extensive new powers for the Parliament will be delivered by the process and to the timetable agreed and announced by our three parties, starting on 19th September.

And it is our hope that the people of Scotland will be engaged directly as each party works to improve the way we are governed in the UK in the years ahead.

We agree that the UK exists to ensure opportunity and security for all by sharing our resources equitably across all four nations to secure the defence, prosperity and welfare of every citizen.

And because of the continuation of the Barnett allocation for resources, and the powers of the Scottish Parliament to raise revenue, we can state categorically that the final say on how much is spent on the NHS will be a matter for the Scottish Parliament.

We believe that the arguments that so powerfully make the case for staying together in the UK should underpin our future as a country. We will honour those principles and values not only before the referendum but after.

People want to see change. A No vote will deliver faster, safer and better change than separation.

David Cameron *Ed Miliband* *Nick Clegg*

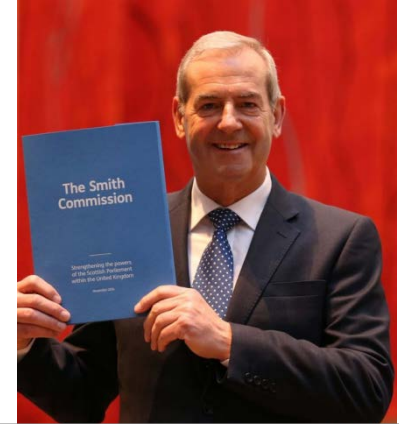


“permanent”
Scottish Parliament
with “extensive new
powers”

Continuity of Barnett
formula

“faster, safer, better
change than
separation”

Delivering Smith “in full”?



Constitution	Welfare	Taxation
Make Scot Parl/Govt permanent in UK law	Disability & carers benefits, & regulated social fund	rates and thresholds on <i>earned income</i>
Put Sewel convention in statute	Executive power over administration of UC	“Sufficient, additional borrowing powers”
Scot Parl elections	Housing element of UC	air passenger duty and aggregates levy
Scot Parl operation	Employment programme support for job-seekers on benefits	10% points of VAT assigned
Crown Estate	“new benefits in areas of devolved responsibility”	Maintenance of Barnett formula & adjusted block grant

Opportunities and Constraints

POWER	CONSTRAINT
Income Tax – rates and thresholds on earned income	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Top 10% of earners pay 50% of all tax revenues – flight risk?- No control over savings & dividends- No control over broader tax policy framework- Constrained by HMRC?
Devolved welfare benefits (DLA/PIP, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Demographic and financial pressures- Bureaucratic constraints
Top-up of reserved benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Can't change entitlement- Cost- Delivery and accountability- Intergovernmental coordination
New welfare benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cost- Bureaucracy

Looking past the legislation

Fiscal Framework



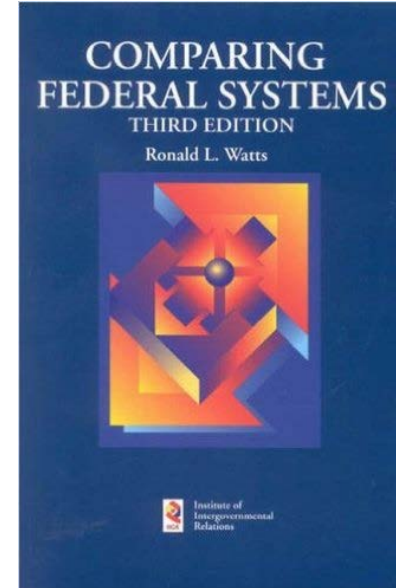
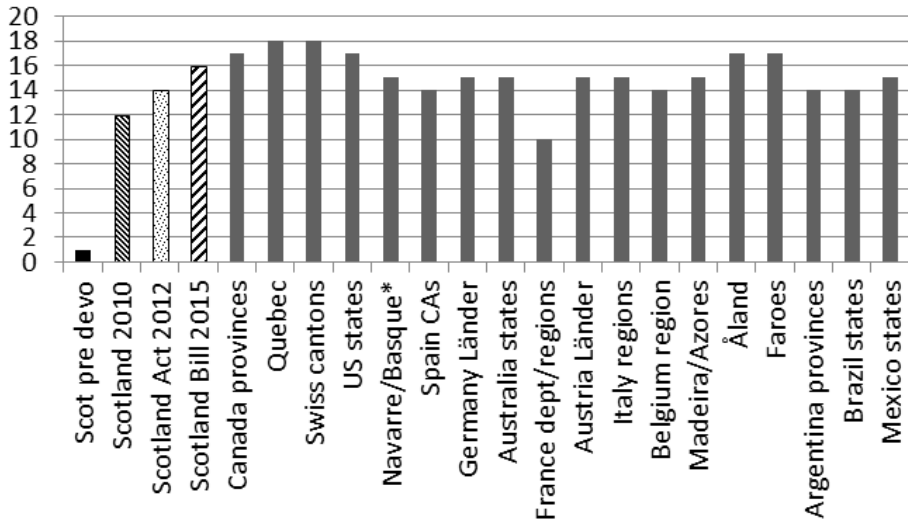
IGR



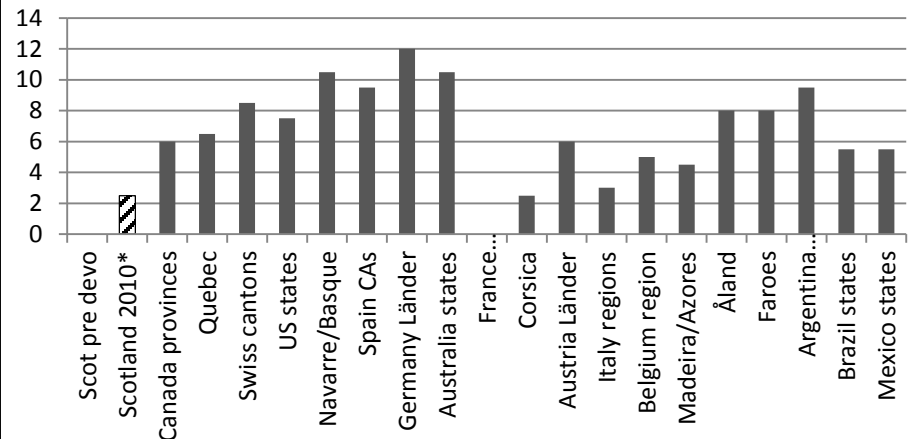
Government Bureaucracy

One of Most Powerful Devolved Parliaments in the World?

Self Rule, 2010



Shared Rule, 2010




EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



regleg



The Scotland Bill -
what happens
next?

Built to last?



Round table discussion....

1. What are the opportunities and risks?
2. Do we need to engage the public more in it?
3. How do we do it?

What next?

- Feedback from groups
- How to influence the Bill?
- What is needed for wider engagement?
- What educational activities are needed?
- [LGA/All Party inquiry into the UK Constitution](#)

Closing reflections



- Main things you learnt
- What could have been better
- One thing you will do as a result

Please complete feedback form!

democracy matters

ALLIANCE FOR LEARNING PRACTICAL POLITICS

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