



Governing Scotland Open Questions on the Future of Scottish Politics

A conference of the Economic and Social Research Council's
research programme on Devolution and Constitutional Change

18 March 2005, Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh



Conference Programme

08.45 Registration and Coffee

09.15 Welcome and Introduction by **Vicki Bruce**,

Head of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Edinburgh and
Charlie Jeffery, Director of the ESRC Devolution and Constitutional Change Programme

09.30 Keynote Speech: **Scotland's Futures** by the Presiding Officer, **George Reid** MSP

10.00 Session I: Scotland and the UK

- 'How Important is Scotland in Whitehall and Westminster?' – **Robert Hazell**, University College London
- 'How Settled is the Scottish Will?' – **Alison Park**, National Centre for Social Research
- Commentary: **Hugo Deadman**, Scotland Office

11.15 Coffee

11.45 Session II: Improved Participation?

- 'Will Scottish Elections Prove an Effective Means of Keeping Scottish Government Accountable and Representative?' – **John Curtice**, Strathclyde University
- 'Has Devolution Delivered an Open Decision-Making Process in Scotland?' – **Fiona Mackay**, University of Edinburgh
- Commentary: **Joyce MacMillan**, Convenor of the Management Board of the Scottish Civic Forum

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Session III: Better Government?

- 'Has Scotland Built a Capacity for Policy Innovation?' – **Michael Keating**, University of Aberdeen
- 'Does the Scottish Parliament Make Laws Better than Westminster?' – **David Arter**, University of Aberdeen
- Commentary: **Stephen Maxwell**, Associate Director, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations

15.15 Coffee

15.45 Session IV: Economy and Finance

- 'What is in Scotland's Interest? Revising the Barnett Formula, or Fiscal Autonomy?' – **David Heald**, University of Sheffield and **Alasdair McLeod**, ex-Scottish Office
- 'Is Devolution Good for the Scottish Economy?' – **Peter McGregor**, Strathclyde University
- Commentary: **Wendy Alexander**, MSP

17.00 Closing session: Round Table discussion –
'How Successful has Devolution Been? How Can it Work Better?', with
Susan Deacon, MSP
Nicola Sturgeon, MSP
David McCrone, University of Edinburgh
James Mitchell, Strathclyde University
Chris Deerin, Scotland on Sunday

18.00 Drinks Reception, at which **Susan Deacon, MSP** will speak at the launch of
Michael Keating's book *The Government of Scotland. Public Policy-Making after Devolution*
(Edinburgh University Press, 2005).