

Scottish Democratic Alliance

The Scottish Democratic Alliance (SDA) is preparing notes for a written Constitution. We would welcome your views and comments on the following definitions and proposals for the governance of independent Scotland. Contact: info@scottishdemocraticalliance.org
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Summary – The Government of Scotland - Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scotland is a participative democracy. *Supreme sovereign authority is vested in the People of Scotland and not in the Crown or in Parliament.* We propose that Scotland should continue to be a Democratic Constitutional Monarchy and member of the Commonwealth, with the Monarch as a non-executive Head of State.

We propose that the fundamental rights of the people and their responsibilities as citizens should be set out in a written constitution: to avoid constitutional or controversial decisions being imposed against the will of the people, there should be a referendum system to decide all questions reserved to the people by the constitution.

We propose that the new Independent parliament will assume the powers currently exercised by the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, the UK Parliament in Westminster in London, and by the EU in Brussels.

We propose that the newly Independent Scotland should apply in its own right for membership of the major international organisations, principally the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) at global level; and in Europe the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the European Economic Area (EEA), the Council of Europe (CoE), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

We do NOT propose that Scotland should apply for membership of the undemocratic European Union (EU), which in its present form is inimical to Scotland's interests.

There is a need for an independent initiative to review the public sector, such as a Commission on Transforming the Public Sector. This could, under the auspices of a respected institution, look at what we want the state to do for us on a number of levels.

We seek your views on the structure of the new parliament. So far we have identified two options. Further options that anyone wishes to propose are not excluded from consultation:

Option One. An upper assembly and a lower assembly. The lower assembly would be elected. Despite the preference of many for an elected upper assembly, suggestions are needed to determine how an elected upper assembly would be guaranteed to produce the range and quality of experience required; and on whether an upper assembly appointed by the elected assembly (not the First or other minister) would be acceptable.

Option Two. A single elected assembly, and outside Parliament as at present, a Scottish Law Commission to review existing legislation but with new extended responsibilities to scrutinise and propose amendments to new legislation initiated by the elected assembly. This system is used successfully in Eire. (<http://www.lawreform.ie/>)

