

A Scottish Constitution

By You,

For You,

Ready by Independence Day

As the dysfunctional Westminster Government drives us towards Independence by contemptuously ignoring our needs and aspirations, more people in Scotland are moving towards a realisation that we could do a better job of governing ourselves.

In Scotland, we can feed and clothe ourselves. We have almost limitless power resources and lots of fresh, clean water. We have a wide, diverse economy and export more than we import. We have a well-educated, resourceful workforce and a welcoming and understanding attitude to immigration and immigrants.

Scotland is a country rich in resources. Owning almost 3.5 million km² of ocean, Scotland will have possession of more than half of the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Westminster wants to keep control of these our assets as they contribute significantly to paying UK's £2.0+ Trillion generated debt (which btw increases at the rate of £5,170 per second!).

A country **is** independent when it is self-governing and when its elected Government is in sole control of the money supply through its **own** National Central Bank.

Whilst we look on in wonder at the bourach surrounding the UK's present government in London, we can ask ourselves three questions;

- Do we want to continue with the current system of *parliamentary sovereignty* that is more biased to benefit the monied classes rather than the well-being of society in general?
- Based on politics to date, is it likely that we can trust politicians to provide for Scotland a written Constitution for an equitable and accountable system of government?
- Do we want to continue with the present corrupted but tolerated system of banking and credit loans that benefits *Teflon* bankers and generates such massive and unpayable national debt?

During the 2014 Independence referendum campaign two issues had the greatest impact:

- the lack of a intelligible Currency Policy (compatible with the rules of the European Central Bank); and

- a lack of a clear picture of what an Independent Scotland would turn out to be.

Today, in early 2019, our political leaders in Holyrood have not yet provided answers to these our questions. Scotland must be governed by the people, not a parliament such as we have today from Westminster.

“Bureaucracy is a construction by which a person is conveniently separated from the consequences of his or her own actions” – (NASSIM TALEB)

Now the people of Scotland will be directly instrumental in the creation of their own Constitution, the law of the land from which our delegated politicians on the Day of Independence will govern our Nation.

“The best way to predict the Future is to create it” (Denis Gabor)

So why do we need a written Constitution? Brexit is an example of the unbridled power of a parliamentary system that has no written Constitution to provide structured accountability to the people.

Governments inevitably require authority to deal with a wide range of situations and be able to operate in a *flexible* manner. But they must also be held *accountable*

- under a structured system of ***fundamental laws***;
- that are set out in a ***codified written Constitution***;
- ***that are designed and authorised by the People.***

Our Holyrood government may regard the preparation of a Constitution as something to be tackled only after a successful referendum. That is not in the interests of *popular sovereignty* as an incoming Scottish government would then be in a powerful position to make up the law as it went along. A pre-designed Constitution prepared by the Nation’s people will guard against undue influence from vested financial, business, political and nepotistic interests which will be lining up their lobbyists from day one of independence.

A Constitution is not a set of guidelines for the self-regulation of Parliament. It is a statement of the conditions under which the people of a democracy grant their parliament the authority to govern them. It will be the fundamental law of the land by decree of the people, enacted into formal legislation by our Scottish Parliament.

If we are to avoid a Constitution by default that is little more than a set of self-regulating guidelines for political parties and big business, there will be several conditions to be met before independence is achieved:

- **every Scottish citizen of voting age has the right to initiate, amend and vote for this Constitution – this will be known as The Draft Scottish Constitution (the Draft), till ratified by the first Independent Scottish elected government;**
- **Scottish citizens will encourage others to exercise that right;**

- **the Draft must remain fully active until the day before the opening of Scotland's first Independence Parliament, thus accommodating all circumstances and providing a transparent and developing picture of precisely what we are all voting for;**
- **the Draft must be presented such that literally every citizen is encouraged to have his or her say;**
- **the Draft will set out in plain, unambiguous and straightforward language and on a purpose-made platform accessible to all;**
- **the software must encourage intuitive participation in discussion and accommodate proposals to discuss, agree, amend or delete;**
- **with this will be the provision to vote meaningfully on every clause with absolute security and guarantee against any form of unasked for manipulation;**
- **public participation has to be in numbers sufficient to oblige government to adopt the document unamended as the will of the people.**

Currently two draft Constitutions are under development for Scotland, with both drawing upon "A Model Constitution for Scotland" compiled by Dr W Elliott Bulmer in association with the Constitutional Commission. One is set out in an academic style; the other in a more everyday language.

The latter Draft Constitution, compiled by the Centre for Scottish Constitutional Studies (CSCS), was set out by experienced wordsmiths, and is currently being prepared for a secure Internet-based public debate. Some additional funding and sponsors are currently being sought to cover the cost of a secure, interactive website. So anyone who is interested can go to this link for a description of what we plan for and also make a donation if so inclined. <http://ronnimor.wixsite.com/website-1>

When Scotland votes to regain our Independence, the Nation will require to rebuild a range of government institutions that have lain dormant for over 310 years. The guidance provided by a Final Draft Constitution composed from the contributions of the people of Scotland, and available on Independence Day, will be the basis on which Scotland's first and all future Independent governments will govern. If left to politicians to prepare Scotland's Constitution, this risks its architecture being left to the whims of a particular political party, rather than that of the people.

By participation in the development of the Provisional Constitution for our soon-to-be independent Scotland, the people will shape the institutions of government, the forms of local government and the rights of all citizens.

Every Scot will in this way be involved and will be able to claim ownership of the kind of the country that we are voting for, what we want for ourselves, our children, our friends and Scotland's prosperous, healthy and happy future.

Robert P Ingram, Chartered Engineer

Centre for Scottish Constitutional Studies – 2019.01.12