



Devolution in the UK: 20th Anniversary Debate on 22 May 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth to move that this House takes note of the 20th anniversary of devolution in the United Kingdom and the role of the devolved administrations in the governance of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- Cabinet Office et al, '[Devolution of Powers to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland](#)', updated 8 May 2019

Government guidance explaining the background to devolution and how the legislatures and administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland work.

- Institute for Government, '[Devolution at 20](#)', 4 May 2019, pp 3–9; and '[Ministers Reflect on Devolution: Lessons from 20 Years of Scottish and Welsh Government](#)', pp 3–4 and pp 7–33

The first report provides an analysis of the devolved governments and of the Scottish Parliament and assemblies for Wales and Northern Ireland, public spending and taxation, the impact of devolution on the Parliament in Westminster, and how Brexit has affected relations between the different parts of the UK. The second report is based on a set of interviews with thirteen devolved ministers.

- Prime Minister's Office, '[PM Statement: 20th Anniversary of Welsh Devolution](#)', 18 September 2017

Speech by the Prime Minister, Theresa May, on devolution in Wales, highlighting areas that the UK Government has engaged and worked with the Welsh Government to improve the economy in Wales.

- Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, '[Speech: Devolution after Brexit](#)', 21 February 2019

Speech by the Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell, to mark the 20th anniversary of the Scotland Act 1998. Mr Mundell set out how the UK Government would continue to work with the Scottish Government and Parliament in the context of Brexit.

- [Statement by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on ‘Northern Ireland: Political Process’](#), HC Hansard, 29 April 2019, cols 61–70

Statement by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Karen Bradley, informing the UK Parliament that formal political talks to restore the Northern Ireland Executive would commence on 7 May 2019. Ms Bradley announced that the talks would involve the UK Government, Northern Ireland political parties and the Irish Government for matters on which they have responsibilities.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- [Oral Question on ‘Leaving the EU: Devolution Settlement’](#), HC Hansard, 8 May 2019, cols 535–9
- [Oral Question on ‘Scottish Government: Discussions’](#), HL Hansard, 2 May 2019, cols 1055–8
- [Oral Question on ‘Devolution’](#), HC Hansard, 10 April 2019, cols 299–301
- A selection of written questions from the House of Commons: [910482](#) (24 April 2019); [244064](#) (24 April 2019); and [234714](#) (26 March 2019)

Press Articles and Comment

- David Torrance, [‘20 Years of Devolved Statutes in Scotland and Northern Ireland’](#), House of Commons blog, 19 November 2018
- Scottish Parliament Information Centre blog, [‘It was 20 Years Ago Today ...’](#), 6 May 2019; and [‘The \(Budgetary\) Times They are a Changin’: 20 Years of Devolved Budgets’](#) 5 April 2019
- Senedd Research blog, [‘Devolution 20: From Assembly to Senedd?’](#), 7 May 2019
- Ben Kelly, [‘Why is There No Government in Northern Ireland and How Did Power-Sharing Collapse’](#), *Independent*, 30 April 2019
- Felicity Evans, [‘Has Wales Embraced the Welsh Assembly 20 Years On?’](#), BBC News, 7 May 2019

Further Information

- UK Parliament website, [‘Devolved Parliaments and Assemblies’](#), accessed 14 May 2019
- House of Commons Library, [‘A Process, Not an Event’: Devolution in Wales, 1998–2018](#), 11 July 2018; [‘The Settled Will’? Devolution in Scotland, 1998–2018](#), 16 November 2018; [Devolution in Northern Ireland, 1998–2018](#), 16 November 2018; and [Reserved Matters in the United Kingdom](#), 5 April 2019
- Scottish Parliament Information Centre blog, [‘20th Anniversary’](#), accessed 15 May 2019
- House of Commons Library podcast, [‘Devolution in Northern Ireland: Union and Autonomy’](#), 16 April 2019
- House of Lords Library, [Leaving the European Union: Stability of the United Kingdom’s Union](#), 21 December 2018
- UK Supreme Court, [Speech by Lady Hale on Devolution and The Supreme Court: 20 Years On’](#), 14 June 2018
- NatCen Social Research, [British Social Attitudes 30th Edition: Devolution](#), September 2013

- Institute for Fiscal Studies, '[Devolved Government Finances](#)', accessed 15 May 2019

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