



House of Commons
Scottish Affairs Committee

Our Borderlands – Our Future

Second Report of Session 2014–15

Report, together with formal minutes relating to the report

Ordered by the House of Commons

to be printed 9 July 2014

The Scottish Affairs Committee

The Scottish Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Scotland Office (including (i) relations with the Scottish Parliament and (ii) administration and expenditure of the offices of the Advocate General for Scotland (but excluding individual cases and advice given within government by the Advocate General)).

Current membership

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Jim McGovern MP (*Labour, Dundee West*)
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Mr Alan Reid MP (*Liberal Democrat, Argyll and Bute*)
Lindsay Roy MP (*Labour, Glenrothes*)
Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP (*Scottish National Party, Banff and Buchan*)

The following members were also members of the committee during the Parliament:

Fiona Bruce MP (*Conservative, Congleton*)
Mike Freer MP (*Conservative, Finchley and Golders Green*)
Cathy Jamieson MP (*Labour/Co-op, Kilmarnock and Loudoun*)
Mrs Eleanor Laing MP (*Conservative, Epping Forest*)
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David Mowat MP (*Conservative, Warrington South*)
Fiona O'Donnell MP (*Labour, East Lothian*)
Julian Smith MP (*Conservative, Skipton and Ripon*)

Powers

The committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publication

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the internet at www.parliament.uk/scotaffcom. A list of Reports of the Committee in the present parliament is at the back of this volume. The Reports of the Committee, the formal minutes relating to that report, oral evidence taken and some or all written evidence are available in a printed volume. Additional written evidence may be published on the internet only.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Rebecca Davies (Clerk), Rhiannon Hollis (Clerk), Phil Jones (Committee Specialist), Alasdair Mackenzie (Committee Specialist), Helena Ali (Senior Committee Assistant) and Rosie Tate (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

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Contents

Report	<i>Page</i>
1 Our inquiry	3
Our borderlands - our future?	4
Economic development and enterprise	5
A new enterprise body for the south of Scotland?	6
EU regional and structural funds	7
Unemployment and the low-wage economy	9
Low wages	9
Youth unemployment and training	10
2 Terms of Reference	12
How to submit written evidence	14
Formal Minutes	15
List of organisations consulted	16
List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament	17

1 Our inquiry

1. The Scottish Affairs Committee is today launching a new inquiry to investigate key issues that affect the daily lives of people who live in the south of Scotland.¹ While we have been aware for quite some time of successful campaigns being run in the Highlands and Islands to promote the interest of those regions - for example, the ‘Our Islands - Our Future’ campaign² - we were struck by the complete absence of any parallel campaign with an equally high profile, in the south of Scotland. We, therefore, decided to hold informal seminars in Galashiels, Peebles and Dumfries, in May and June of this year, in order to identify the key issues facing businesses, communities and individuals in the south of Scotland.

2. Several of the issues raised in those meetings focused on the social and economic needs of the residents of the south of Scotland, many of which related to devolved functions which are the responsibility of the Scottish Government or to matters which are more appropriately dealt with by Local Authorities. However, some crucial issues were raised which were a direct consequence of the policies and responsibilities of the UK Government, specifically for example, in relation to employment issues. (Interested members of the public may wish to consider the inquiries the Scottish Affairs Committee is conducting into the use of zero-hours contracts and the payment of the national minimum wage in Scotland.)³

3. Furthermore, and to a greater extent than expected, we were also told that many issues which affect the border areas in the south of Scotland also impact upon the border areas of the north of England. We decided to launch this inquiry in order to explore all of these issues in more detail.

4. Our inquiry will seek to examine the bigger picture, and to address two central questions:

- i) Are the current structures working as effectively as they could for the benefit of the people of the south of Scotland?
- ii) How can the UK and Scottish Governments work together with Local Authorities to deliver appropriate and effective policies to support economic development and growth in the south of Scotland?

This document sets out the specific terms of reference for the inquiry, raising questions and issues on which the Committee would welcome written evidence. These are grouped under four main headings and are set out below:

1 For the purposes of this report, the “south of Scotland” is defined as an area encompassing the local authority areas of Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Borders Council. Any subsequent references to the “Scottish Borders” region relate to the Scottish Borders Council area.

2 Orkney Islands Council, [Our Islands - Our Future](#), accessed 7 July 2014

3 Scottish Affairs Committee, [Compliance with the National Minimum Wage in Scotland - UK Parliament](#), [Zero-Hours Contracts - UK Parliament](#), accessed 7 July 2014

Our borderlands - our future?

5. ‘Our Islands - Our Future’ is a joint vision drawn up and shared by Orkney Islands Council, Shetland Islands Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. ‘Our Islands - Our Future’ was formally launched on 17 June 2013,⁴ its intention was that, whatever the outcome of the referendum, the UK and Scottish Government should recognise the special position and needs of the UK’s three largest island groups, and that these should be fully taken into account in any new constitutional arrangements for Scotland.⁵

6. We are attracted by the idea that there is an opportunity for the Local Authorities in the south of Scotland to establish a similar campaign. We have been made aware that a Borderlands Initiative, involving both Scottish Borders Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council, working in partnership with Local Authorities in the border areas of the north of England, has recently been established. Following informal discussions, the initiative was formally launched by the Scottish Government at its Cabinet meeting in Hawick in August 2013, a month after the publication of the *Borderlands* report authored by academics at Northumbria University⁶. This paper recommended enhanced joint working of Local Authorities on either side of the Scotland/England border in order to exploit and develop mutual economic and social links.

7. The first Borderlands Initiative summit took place in April 2014. The cross-border meeting saw senior members of five councils - Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Carlisle City, Cumbria and Northumberland - discuss improved transport and communications links, economic growth and employment in the border regions of Scotland and England.⁷ As well as discussing the specific issues identified by the report, the Borderlands Initiative summit also developed a plan to take forward economic opportunities. We were told that the Borderlands Initiative is also a potential focal point for tourism, economic planning, and even, potentially, a rebalancing of power to the north of the UK.⁸ However, others suggested that it was an idea which could easily degenerate into a pointless talking shop if encouragement and support were not provided.

8. We have previously endorsed and supported the work done by the councils of Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles in establishing the ‘Our Islands - Our Future’.⁹ We are keen to explore whether the relatively new Borderlands Initiative could provide a platform for a similar approach for the South of Scotland.

4 Orkney Islands Council, [“Strong voice” from the islands in referendum debate](#), 17 June 2013

5 [Our Island - Our Future joint position statement](#), (June 2013)

6 Northumbria University, [Borderlands: Can the North East and Cumbria benefit from greater Scottish autonomy?](#), July 2013

7 [First Scotland-England cross-border summit staged](#), BBC News Scotland, 4 April 2014

8 Scottish Borders Council, [First Borderlands Initiative summit held](#), accessed 3 July 2014

9 Oral evidence taken before the Scottish Affairs Committee on [8 April 2014](#), (HC 2013-14)

The Committee would welcome written evidence on the following questions

- i) In what ways might the Borderlands Initiative address some of the challenges faced by the south of Scotland? Could and should it provide a platform for a campaign similar to ‘Our Islands - Our Future’?
- ii) How could the UK Government, working appropriately with devolved Government and local councils, assist in the development of the Borderlands Initiative?

Economic development and enterprise

9. One of the key bodies involved in promoting economic development, enterprise, innovation and investment in business in Scotland is Scottish Enterprise, a non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government. This body covers the eastern, central and southern parts of Scotland.¹⁰ While responsibility for the functions of Scottish Enterprise is devolved to the Scottish Government, we were told that the organisation works closely with other Scottish and UK wide bodies, for example, Skills Development Scotland, the CBI and United Kingdom Trade and Industry in promoting economic development and enterprise in Scotland.

10. Following the 2007 elections to the Scottish Parliament, the new Scottish Government undertook a major restructuring of Scottish Enterprise. Prior to 2007, 12 Local Enterprise Companies (or LECs) had existed across Scotland: Ayrshire, Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh and Lothian, Fife, Forth Valley, Glasgow, Grampian, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and Tayside. As a consequence of the restructuring, their functions were either centralised to Scottish Enterprise itself or transferred to Local Authorities.¹¹

11. While Scottish Enterprise continues to be served by several regional advisory boards: (the South of Scotland regional advisory board in this case), the restructuring has had adverse consequences for enterprise in the south of Scotland. Many of those we met in the south of Scotland described a decline in the resourcing, efficacy and visibility of enterprise networks in the south, which they directly attributed to this restructuring. Scottish Enterprise has been criticised by bodies such as the Scottish Chambers of Commerce for not investing enough money, or creating enough jobs, in the south of Scotland.¹²

12. One of the key consequences of this centralisation and restructuring is that - in contrast to the Local Enterprise Companies, which promoted local economies - Scottish Enterprise’s revised remit is to support projects that are good for the Scottish economy as a whole. This has had direct and tangible consequences for enterprise in the south of Scotland, and individuals from several organisations and from the business community commented to us that enterprise in the south had declined as a result of this encouragement and support of centralisation.

10 Scottish Enterprise, [About us | Scottish Enterprise](#), accessed 7 July 2014; The Highlands and Islands have a separate enterprise body.

11 Scottish Borders Council, [Business Gateway - Scottish Borders Council](#), accessed 27 June 2014

12 [Quango defends role despite jobs freeze](#) Southern Reporter 25 July 2013

13. At the moment, the South of Scotland Alliance – a collaboration between Scottish Borders Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council – is working to match projects in the south to Scottish Enterprise criteria, and it plays an important role in influencing and advocacy to relay messages to the Scottish and UK Governments. For example, since 2011 it has been working on a Next Generation Broadband Project for the South of Scotland.¹³ Moreover, the South of Scotland Alliance’s competitiveness strategy has secured £19m in ring-fenced funds from the EU.¹⁴ The work of the South of Scotland Alliance may provide a model for the work of a future south of Scotland enterprise body.

A new enterprise body for the south of Scotland?

14. One suggestion made to counter the impact of centralisation within Scottish Enterprise was to establish a new enterprise body for the south of Scotland akin to Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which could co-ordinate development, infrastructure and transport initiatives.

15. Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is an economic and community development agency for the north and west of Scotland. HIE's purpose is to generate sustainable economic growth across the Highlands and Islands. Its priorities are to:

- Support businesses and social enterprises to shape and realise their growth aspirations
- Strengthen communities and fragile areas
- Develop growth sectors, particularly distinctive regional opportunities
- Create the conditions for a competitive and low-carbon region¹⁵

A key difference between Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise is that HIE has a social as well as an economic remit. The issues affecting those in the south of Scotland, such as the crucial connection between infrastructure and economic growth, the economic and social fragility of isolated communities, and the centrality of tourism to the regional economy, are directly comparable to many of the issues faced in the Highlands and Islands, and could be dealt with similarly.

16. The overwhelming view of those to whom we have spoken is that the restructuring of Scottish Enterprise, and the subsequent centralisation has had a detrimental impact on enterprise and economic development in the south of Scotland. Many of those who we met described an ‘enterprise deficit’ in the region. The Committee would like to establish the full extent of the impact of centralisation on the enterprise network in the region, and examine how best this situation might be remedied, for example, whether existing structures could be reformed or adapted, or whether a new “Borders Enterprise” body, similar to the HIE, should be established.

13 South of Scotland Alliance, [South of Scotland Alliance: South of Scotland Broadband](#), accessed 27 June 2014

14 South of Scotland Alliance, [Continuing to meet the challenge - 2009 Refresh report of the South of Scotland Competitiveness Strategy 2007 - 2013](#), (2009)

15 Highlands and Islands Enterprise, [Highlands and Islands Enterprise - what we do](#), accessed 27 June 2014

17. The Committee would also like to explore the question of whether a Border Enterprise body should include local authority areas in Cumbria and Northumberland, given the work already done via the Borderlands Initiative.

18. A view expressed several times to the Committee was that devolution of powers to Edinburgh had not led to further devolution of powers to the south of Scotland itself. If anything, the ending of the Local Enterprise Companies had seen powers taken away from the region by the Scottish Government. This process has been exacerbated by the lack of a countervailing structure along the lines of Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The Committee would welcome written evidence on the following questions

i) How has the creation of a new and centralised Scottish Enterprise impacted upon enterprise and economic development in the south of Scotland? How could the structures and processes of Scottish Enterprise be reformed in order to remedy this?

ii) What is the most appropriate structure for promoting enterprise and economic development in the south of Scotland? For example, could the remit of the South of Scotland Alliance be developed or enhanced? Is there scope for enhanced co-operation with relevant parts of the north of England – with the former Dumfriesshire and Carlisle, or Berwick and its hinterland both appearing to offer synergies – or is there scope for the establishment of a Borderlands Enterprise structure which would include local authority areas on both sides of the border?

iii) How can the UK Government work most appropriately and effectively to promote enterprise and economic development in the south of Scotland?

iv) Should the question of devolution, not only from Holyrood to Local Authorities, but to local communities, be further explored?

EU regional and structural funds

19. The European Commission categorises the European Union into statistical areas known as Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) to allow for the collection, development and harmonisation of EU regional statistics and for socio-economic analyses of the regions. NUTS 1 areas are the major socio-economic regions, which are subdivided into NUTS 2 areas.¹⁶

20. NUTS 2 areas are used for the allocation of the European Structural Funds on the basis of the Gross Value Added (GVA) per head compared to the EU average.¹⁷

16 European Commission (Eurostat), [NUTS - Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics](#), accessed 7 July 2014

17 European Commission, [Regional Policy - how does it work? Is my region covered?](#), accessed 7 July 2014. Currently, Scotland is divided into four distinct regions for the purposes of the allocation of NUTS 2 funding: North Eastern Scotland, Eastern Scotland, South Western Scotland and the Highlands and Islands. The south of Scotland is not a defined NUTS 2 area. The Dumfries and Galloway region is part of the South Western Scotland NUTS 2 area, which also includes Glasgow; The Scottish Borders are part of the Eastern Scotland NUTS 2 area, which also includes the cities of Edinburgh and Dundee.

21. EU Funding for 2014-2020 is allocated to three types of regions, according to how their GDP per capita compares with the EU average. These are defined as follows:

- Less developed regions, whose GDP per capita is less than 75% of the average for the EU;
- Transition regions, whose GDP per capita is between 75% and 90% of the EU average;
- More developed regions, whose GDP per capita is above 90% of the EU average.

Determining whether a region qualifies is a question of comparing its per capita GDP to the EU average. The formula for allocating the funding differs for each type of region, but it is structured so that less developed regions get more funding per head than transition regions, which in turn get more than more developed regions.¹⁸

22. Scottish NUTS 2 regions fall into the following groups:

- Transition: Highlands and Islands
- More developed: Eastern Scotland; South Western Scotland; and, North Eastern Scotland.

Based on the economic profile of the south of Scotland, it has been suggested that the NUTS 2 boundaries should be re-drawn. The inclusion of Dumfries and Galloway in the South Western Scotland region, and of the Scottish Borders in the Eastern region, mean that the economic needs of these areas are masked by the relative economic strength of cities such as Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow. As a result, the south of Scotland area may be missing out on higher levels of transition funding, to which they might be entitled if the existing boundaries were re-drawn. Such a redefinition of NUTS 2 boundaries might even dovetail with the cross-border area covered by the Borderlands Initiative outlined above.

23. NUTS regions are defined by Eurostat, a Directorate-General of the European Commission. However, it does not impose the NUTS categorisations unilaterally. Rather, they are determined via input from member states.

24. The South Western Scotland and Eastern Scotland NUTS 2 regions fit into the NUTS 1 region of Scotland. Governments can change NUTS boundaries if they wish, but these changes must maintain the hierarchical structure of the NUTS classification. Therefore, a change to the NUTS 2 regions in the south of Scotland to encompass the border counties of England would entail a change to the NUTS 1 region of which they would be a part. This would be unusual, but not impossible. However, in the event of separation, it would be impossible, as NUTS subdivisions can only exist within the same EU member state.

25. It is currently not possible to create a NUTS 2 region that encompasses only the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway local authority areas, as the minimum population for a NUTS 2 region is 800,000. That is why some have suggested combining these local authority areas with Northumberland, Cumbria and Carlisle to create a new NUTS 2 region. A review of the NUTS regions took place in 2012-13. Changes made as

18 Eur-Lex – access to European Law, [Regulation \(EU\) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013](#), accessed 7 July 2014

part of this review will come into force on the 1st January 2015, but will not impact on the allocation of structural funds until 2021. The next review is due in 2016, and the Scottish Government intends to begin a consultation process for this review in Spring 2015.

The Committee would welcome written evidence on the following questions

i) How could the UK Government work with both the Scottish Government and with its EU partners to assist in the development of constructing boundaries for the purposes of the allocation of structural funds? What would be of most benefit to the south of Scotland in this context?

Unemployment and the low-wage economy

26. Figures published in the Scottish Government's annual population survey (2013) show that the south of Scotland has the highest rate of people with multiple jobs in the whole of Scotland. The rate of underemployment, where people are in work but not working sufficient hours to make a living, is also higher than the national average. To compound this problem, wages are lower than the Scottish average.

27. Although employment levels in the Scottish Borders area are higher (74.9%) than the Scottish average of 71%, many workers living in the south are having to take on several part-time low-paid, low-skill jobs in order to make ends meet. Almost twice as many people in the Scottish Borders region have a second job – 6.8% compared with the Scottish average figure of 3.9%. The region also has a higher than average proportion of people who are underemployed, i.e. would like to work more hours, but are unable to. In the Scottish Borders, this stands at 12.1% of the population, compared with 9.6% of Scotland as a whole.¹⁹

28. A similar picture emerged in Dumfries and Galloway, where the unemployment rate was 7.3% of the 16 to 64 population, slightly lower than the Scottish average of 7.7%. However, only 64% of those in employment work full-time, compared with the Scottish average of 74%. Around 12.4% of all people employed in Dumfries and Galloway are underemployed – i.e. in employment but wishing to increase their working hours. This is higher than the Scottish average of 9.6%. In Dumfries and Galloway, 5.7% of the population have second jobs, compared with 3.9% for Scotland as a whole.²⁰

Low wages

29. The average gross weekly pay for full-time workers in Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk was £492.80 in 2013, which was 3.1% lower than the Scottish average of £508.30. The figure for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale is lower still with average gross weekly pay standing at £490.10, 3.6% lower than the Scottish average. The average gross

19 NOMIS, [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2013](#), accessed 27 June 2014

20 All figures: Scottish Government, [Annual Population Survey results for year to 31 December 2013 - local authority tables](#), accessed 2 June 2014

weekly pay for full-time workers in Dumfries and Galloway was even worse at £436.80 in 2013, which was 14% lower than the Scottish average.²¹

30. Across the south of Scotland, wages are lower than the Scottish national average, a situation which is exacerbated by other regional factors. For example, the high cost of commuting in the south of Scotland means that actual income, after necessary expenses are deducted, for many working part time and/or for low rates of pay is pushed below the equivalent of the national minimum wage.

Youth unemployment and training

31. Youth unemployment in the Scottish Borders is higher than the Scottish average. Claimant count unemployment in Dumfries and Galloway for those aged 18 to 24 is 5.3%, (Scottish national average - 4.9%). Claimant count unemployment in Scottish Borders for those aged 16 to 24 is 5.9%.²²

32. We were told that unemployment rates in the south of Scotland, particularly for young people, were artificially lowered by a constant process of outward migration.

33. We were also told that there are several problems when attempting to tackle youth unemployment in the south of Scotland. For example, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) noted that many initiatives on training for employment require a minimum number of participants, which can disadvantage the dispersed and small communities in the South of Scotland. SDS also expressed the view that a greater commitment was needed from councils and other bodies to employ 16 to 18 year olds, while the private sector might be able to assist in this area by providing apprenticeships, which allow young people to combine college training with on-site experience. The training available for young people in the south of Scotland also has to be suitable for the employment opportunities supported by the local economy – there was a feeling that much of the training that was being delivered was more suited to the work opportunities that were available in the central belt.

The Committee would welcome written evidence on the following questions

i) What are the root causes of high levels of under employment in the south of Scotland? Are there any specific factors relating to the economic profile, or the demographics and geography of the region which explain this? What steps could be taken by both the UK and Scottish Governments to address these specific factors?

ii) What steps could be taken by all levels of Government in both the immediate and longer term to address the low-wage economy of the south of Scotland?

iii) What initiatives could both the UK and Scottish Governments put in place to specifically tackle the high levels of youth unemployment in the region?

21 NOMIS, [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2013](#), accessed 27 June 2014

22 NOMIS, [Claimant count figures](#), accessed 27 June 2014

iv) Are there steps that can be taken to stimulate local democracy and the development of community organisations to assist economic regeneration and social development?

2 Terms of Reference

34. The Committee wish to invite written submissions on the following questions (submissions do not have to address every point), to be submitted, in the first instance by Monday 1 September 2014. Details of how to submit written evidence to the Committee is included below.

- a) Are the current structures working as effectively as they could for the benefit of the people of the south of Scotland?
- b) How can the UK and Scottish Governments work together with Local Authorities to deliver appropriate and effective policies to support economic development and growth in the south of Scotland?
- c) In what ways might the Borderlands Initiative address some of the challenges faced by the south of Scotland? Could and should it provide a platform for a campaign similar to 'Our Islands - Our Future'?
- d) How could the UK Government, working appropriately with devolved Government and local councils, assist in the development of the Borderlands Initiative?
- e) How has the creation of a new and centralised Scottish Enterprise impacted upon enterprise and economic development in the south of Scotland? How could the structures and processes of Scottish Enterprise be reformed in order to remedy this?
- f) What is the most appropriate structure for promoting enterprise and economic development in the south of Scotland? For example, could the remit of the South of Scotland Alliance be developed or enhanced? Is there scope for enhanced co-operation with relevant parts of the north of England – with the former Dumfriesshire and Carlisle, or Berwick and its hinterland both appearing to offer synergies – or is there scope for the establishment of a Borderlands Enterprise structure which would include local authority areas on both sides of the border?
- g) How can the UK Government work most appropriately and effectively to promote enterprise and economic development in the south of Scotland?
- h) Should the question of devolution, not only from Holyrood to Local Authorities, but to local communities, be further explored?
- i) How could the UK Government work with both the Scottish Government and with its EU partners to assist in the development of constructing boundaries for the purposes of the allocation of structural funds? What would be of most benefit to the south of Scotland in this context?
- j) What are the root causes of high levels of under employment in the south of Scotland? Are there any specific factors relating to the economic profile, or the demographics and geography of the region which explain this. What steps could be taken by both the UK and Scottish Governments to address these specific factors?

- k) What steps could be taken by all levels of Government in both the immediate and longer term to address the low-wage economy of the south of Scotland?
- l) What initiatives could both the UK and Scottish Governments put in place to specifically tackle the high levels of youth unemployment in the region?
- m) Are there steps that can be taken to stimulate local democracy and the development of community organisations to assist economic regeneration and social development?

How to submit written evidence

The Committee asks for written submissions in accordance with the guidelines below by 12 noon on Monday 1 September 2014. As a guideline submissions should be no longer than 3,000 words.

As part of a scheme to encourage paperless working and maximise efficiency, the Committee is using a new web portal for online submissions of written evidence. Written submissions for this inquiry should therefore be sent via the [Our Borderlands – Our Future inquiry page](#).²³

Submissions should be in the format of a self-contained memorandum. Paragraphs should be numbered for ease of reference, and the document should, if possible, include an executive summary.

Submissions should be original work, not previously published or circulated elsewhere. Once submitted, your submission becomes the property of the Committee and no public use should be made of it unless you have first obtained permission from the Clerk of the Committee. Please bear in mind that Committees are not able to investigate individual cases.

Data protection

The Committee normally, though not always, chooses to publish the written evidence it receives, either by printing the evidence, publishing it on the internet or by making it publicly available through the Parliamentary Archives. If there is any information you believe to be sensitive you should highlight it and explain what harm you believe would result from its disclosure; the Committee will take this into account in deciding whether to publish or further disclose the evidence.

For data protection purposes, it would be helpful if individuals wishing to submit written evidence send their contact details in a covering letter. You should be aware that there may be circumstances in which the House of Commons will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Further guidance on how to submit written evidence can be found at: <http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/have-your-say/take-part-in-committee-inquiries/commons-witness-guide/>

²³ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/scottish-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/our-borderlands-our-future>

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 9 July 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Jim McGovern

Pamela Nash

Graeme Morrice

Lindsay Roy

Draft Report (*Our Borderlands – Our Future*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 34 read and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

[Adjourned till Monday 14 July at 2.00pm]

List of organisations consulted

The Committee has met with representatives from the following organisations as listed below.

Galashiels (12 May 2014)

Borders Deaf & Hard of Hearing Network
Borders Equality Forum
Borders Voluntary Care Voice
Campaign for Borders Rail
CWU
GMB
Heriott Watt University School of Textile Design
Lothian and Borders Police
NFUS Lothians and Borders
NHS Scotland
Rail Action Group East of Scotland
Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce
Scottish Borders Community Council Network
Scottish Borders Council
Scottish Borders Elder Voice
Scottish Borders Tourism Partnership
Scottish Borders Youth Voice
SEStran (the South East of Scotland Transport Partnership)
Skills Development Scotland
South of Scotland Alliance
The Bridge (Community and voluntary sector support) Scottish Borders Social Enterprise
UNISON
Youth Borders

Peebles (9 June 2014)

Berwickshire Housing Association
Borders Care Voice
Borders Green Team
Encompass Borders
Federation of Small Businesses
Grow to Work
Moorbrook Textiles
New Horizons Borders
NFUS
Peebles Community Trust
Peebles Hydro Hotel

Peebles Old Parish Church
Peebleshire CAB
Peebleshire Youth Trust
Scottish Borders Council
Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber
Scottish Enterprise
South of Scotland Alliance
Southern Upland Partnership
The Bridge
Traquair House
Tweedlove
UNISON
Volunteer Centre Borders
Waverley Housing Trust
West Linton Community Council
Youth Borders
Yuill Rural Community Trust

Dumfries (16 June 2014)

Age Scotland
Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
Crichton Campus Leadership Group
Crichton Institute Regional Observatory
D&G Health and Social Care Partnership Board
Dumfries and Galloway College
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector First
Dumfries and Galloway Voice
DWP (Jobcentre Plus)
Fire Scotland
LGBT National Youth Council
NHS Dumfries & Galloway
Scottish Enterprise
Skills Development Scotland
South of Scotland Alliance
The Hub, Dumfries
UNISON
Wigtownshire Chamber of Commerce

List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

The reference number of the Government's response to each Report is printed in brackets after the HC printing number.

Session 2010–12

First Report	Postal Services in Scotland	HC 669 (HC 884)
Second Report	Video Games Industry in Scotland	HC 500 (Cm 8067)
Third Report	UK Border Agency and Glasgow City Council	HC 733
Fourth Report	The Scotland Bill	HC 775
Fifth Report	Student Immigration System in Scotland	HC 912 (Cm 8192)
Sixth Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Unanswered Questions	HC 1806
Seventh Report	The Crown Estate in Scotland	HC 1117
Eighth Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Do you agree this is a biased question?	HC 1942

Session 2012–13

First Report	A Robust Grid for 21 st Century Scotland	HC 499
Second Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: making the process legal	HC 542
Third Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: a multi-option question?	HC 543
Fourth Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Terminating Trident—Days or Decades?	HC 676 (HC 861)
Fifth Report	The Future of HM Coastguard in Scotland	HC 583
Sixth Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: The proposed section 30 Order—Can a player also be the referee?	HC 863
Seventh Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Separation shuts shipyards	HC 892
Eighth Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: How would Separation affect jobs in the Scottish Defence Industry?	HC 957 (HC 257)
Ninth Report	Blacklisting in Employment: Interim Report	HC 1071

Session 2013–14

First Report	Remploy Marine Fife	HC 454
Second Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: The Need for Truth	HC 828
Third Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: A Defence Force for Scotland—A Conspiracy of Optimism?	HC 842
Fourth Report	The impact of the Bedroom Tax in Scotland: Interim Report	HC 288
Fifth Report	The Crown Estate in Scotland: follow up	HC 889
Sixth Report	Blacklisting in Employment: addressing the crimes of the past; moving towards best practice	HC 543
Seventh Report	Referendum on Separation for Scotland: the impact on higher education, research and tuition fees	HC 1144
Eighth Report	Land Reform in Scotland: Interim Report	HC 877
Ninth Report	The impact of the Bedroom Tax in Scotland: Plan B—charges, arrears and refunds; incorporating the Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2013-14	HC 937
Tenth Report	Zero Hours Contracts: Interim Report	HC 654
Eleventh Report	Power Outages and Extreme Weather Conditions in the West of Scotland	HC 484
Twelfth Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Scotland's membership of the EU	HC 1241
Thirteenth Report	Blacklisting in Employment – Update: Incorporating the Government's Response to the Sixth Report of Session 2013-14	HC 1291
Fourteenth Report	The Impact of the Bedroom Tax in Scotland: Devolving the DHP cap	HC 1292

Session 2014–15

First Report	The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Implications for Pensions and Benefits	HC 498
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