

Dear colleagues,

The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee has launched the second phase of its major constitution inquiry (a report on phase one, [EVEL](#), is forthcoming), looking at the way in which the different governments, parliaments and civil servants in the United Kingdom work with one another.

This strand of our inquiry will look at how inter-institutional relations have developed since the advent of devolution and assess what changes are required for the future.

### **Terms of reference**

We invite submissions on the following questions:

#### **Inter-Governmental Relations**

- What are the current inter-governmental arrangements? How have they developed since 1999?
- What kind of relationships between key players already exist? How do they function? Do they work well? How can they be improved?
- How effectively has the existing intergovernmental machinery worked?
- What reforms are required in the field of intergovernmental relations?
- Should intergovernmental relations have a statutory underpinning?

#### **Inter-Parliamentary Relations**

- What are the current inter-parliamentary arrangements? How have they developed since 1999?
- How could the different legislatures cooperate with one another in a more effective manner?
- What kind of relationships between key players already exist? How do they function? Do they work well? How can they be improved?
- What are the arguments for and against stronger inter-parliamentary relations?
- How best could any reform of inter-parliamentary relations fit within the evolving devolution settlements?

#### **The Civil Service**

- How effectively has the Civil Service adapted to devolution?
- How appropriate is the existence of a single Civil Service still appropriate in the light of the evolving devolution settlements?
- How should Civil Servants in Great Britain and Northern Ireland cooperate with one another, post-devolution?
- What reform of the Civil Service is required to reflect the realities of a post-devolution United Kingdom?

### **Deadline for written evidence**

The deadline for submissions is **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016**. Our first evidence session was in Cardiff, with further evidence sessions taking place in the New Year.

### **Where to submit evidence**

Written submissions should be submitted via the [Inter-Institutional Relations in the UK](#) inquiry page, where further guidance and information can also be found.

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