

Results of Devolution Referendums (1979 & 1997)

Research Paper No 97/113

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This paper presents the results of the recent referendums in Scotland and Wales at a local level and compares voting with the earlier 1979 referendums. Briefing on the Referendums (Scotland and Wales) Bill was provided in Research Paper 97/61 and other discussion on referendums can be found in Research Papers 97/114 *The Greater London Authority (Referendum) Bill*, 97/10 *Referendum: Recent Proposals* and 95/23 *Referendum*. Information on devolution was provided in Research Papers 97/92 *Scotland and Devolution* and 97/60 *Wales and Devolution*.

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I Background

This paper presents the results of the recent devolution referendums in Scotland and Wales at a local level and compares voting with the earlier 1979 referendums. The 1997 results have been taken from Scottish Office and Welsh Office internet sites with additional information on the size of the electorate and number of spoilt ballots supplied directly by these institutions. A revised edition of this Paper will be produced if final returns differ.

The 1979 results were made available at the level of the then regional/county councils while 1997 results were counted separately in each new unitary authority, giving results at a more local level. The tables which compare 1979 and 1997 results (Table 4 for Scotland and Table 7 for Wales) fit the 1997 results to the 1979 regions/counties. While this presents no problems for Scotland — the unitary authorities all fit within the former regional council boundaries — the figures for Wales are ‘best-fits’ in a number of cases and require the merger of county results in others (see Table 7 for details). However, the discrepancies are relatively small.

Referendum Questions

The question asked in the 1979 referendums was the same in Scotland and Wales and both referendums were held on 1 March:

Scotland: *Do you want the provisions of the Scotland Act 1978 to be put into effect?*

Wales: *Do you want the provisions of the Wales Act 1978 to be put into effect?*

On 11 September 1997, two questions were asked in Scotland on separate ballot papers, one concerning the proposed Scottish Parliament and the other on tax-varying powers (see overleaf).

A week later on 18 September 1997, one question was put in Wales, concerning the proposed Welsh Assembly (see overleaf).

In the tables, ‘agree’ is shown as ‘yes’ and ‘disagree’ as ‘no’.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

REFERENDUM IN SCOTLAND

PART I

FORM OF FIRST BALLOT PAPER

Parliament has decided to consult people in Scotland on the Government's proposals for a Scottish Parliament:

Put a cross (X) in the appropriate box

I AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	--------------------------

or

I DO NOT AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
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PART II

FORM OF SECOND BALLOT PAPER

Parliament has decided to consult people in Scotland on the Government's proposals for a Scottish Parliament to have tax-varying powers:

Put a cross (X) in the appropriate box

I AGREE THAT A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT SHOULD HAVE TAX-VARYING POWERS	<input type="checkbox"/>
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or

I DO NOT AGREE THAT A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT SHOULD HAVE TAX-VARYING POWERS	<input type="checkbox"/>
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SCHEDULE 2

REFERENDUM IN WALES: FORM OF BALLOT PAPER

Parliament has decided to consult people in Wales on the Government's proposals for a Welsh Assembly:

Mae'r Senedd wedi penderfynu ymgynghori aj phobl yng Nghymru ar gynigion y Llywodraeth ar gyfer Cynulliad i Gymru:

Put a cross (X) in the appropriate box

Rhowch groes (X) yn y blwch priodol

I AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A WELSH ASSEMBLY YR WYF YN CYTUNO Y DYLLID CAEL CYNULLIAD I GYMRU	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	--------------------------

or

I DO NOT AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A WELSH ASSEMBLY NID WYF YN CYTUNO Y DYLLID CAEL CYNULLIAD I GYMRU	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Costs

The cost of the 1997 referendums was estimated at £5 million in Scotland and £3 million in Wales in the financial and explanatory memorandum to the Referendums (Scotland and Wales) Bill 1997. Outturn spending figures will not be available for some time as returning officers are given a year to submit expense claims.

The cost appears to be significantly higher than in 1979. The 1979 referendum for devolution in Scotland cost £0.8 million, or £2.2 million in 1997/98 prices — less than half the estimated cost of the 1997 referendum¹. The estimated cost in Wales in 1979 was £0.5 million², or £1.4 million in 1997/98 prices — again, less than half the estimated cost of the 1997 referendum. Differences in items included in these totals may explain some of the gap.

Recent PQs show that of the estimated £3 million spending in Wales in 1997, £575,000 was for information and publicity. About £300,000 of this total was accounted for by the costs of the White paper, *A Voice for Wales*, and associated information material³. Of the estimated £5 million in Scotland, around £730,000 was spent on government information⁴

Spoilt Ballots

Spoilt ballot papers are excluded from the calculations of turnout (number of valid votes divided by the electorate) but are shown at the bottom of each table.

The number of spoilt ballots increased significantly in the 1997 referendum in Scotland (with roughly the same number of valid votes as in 1979). There were 11,986 spoilt papers on the Scottish Parliament question and 19,013 on the tax-varying powers question compared with 3,133 spoilt ballots in 1979. A large part of this increase is almost certainly due to misunderstandings amongst voters about requirements for completing the two separate ballot forms.

The number of spoilt ballots in Wales rose much less dramatically from 3,309 in 1979 to 3,999 in 1997.

¹ although this may, in part, be because there were two ballots in the 1997 referendum in Scotland. Source: HC Deb 15 June 1994 c566W

² Source: HC Deb 26 March 1979 c23

³ of which, £77,480 for the White Paper and under £164,000 for sending literature to every home in Wales on the Government's devolution proposals. Sources: HC Deb 5 November 1997 c235W & 27 October 1997 c701W

⁴ includes production and distribution to all households of information leaflet, reminder to vote and absent voters campaigns, production and distribution of video. Source: HL Deb 22 October 1997 WA 211-2

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40% threshold in 1979

The Scotland and Wales Acts stipulated that 40% of the electorate — rather than of those voting — had to vote ‘yes’ in March 1979 for the Acts to be implemented.

For the purposes of calculating whether or not this threshold had been met, the electorates in Wales and Scotland as a whole were reduced to take account of deaths since the register was compiled, students and nurses registered at more than one address and convicted prisoners in prison. Details are given in footnotes to Tables 1 and Table 5 for Scotland and Wales respectively; the effect was to increase the unadjusted turnout by ½%. Figures for regional/county councils were not adjusted, and unadjusted national totals are also given in these Tables for comparison.

Since there was no threshold for the 1997 referendums, adjusted electorate and turnout figures have not been calculated.

II Scotland

The turnout in Scotland in 1997 was 60.2%⁵, below the (unadjusted) turnout in 1979 of 63.0% (Tables 1 & 2). The turnout in 1997 was also well below the turnout in the May general election of 71.4%⁶. More people voted on the Scottish Parliament question than the tax-varying powers question (Table 3), although this may be partly because of confusion amongst voters which led to larger number of spoilt ballots on the tax-varying powers question⁷.

The number of people voting ‘yes’ increased from 51.6% in 1979 to 74.3% in 1997 for the Scottish Parliament and 63.5% for tax-varying powers (Tables 1 & 2).

The proportion of the electorate voting ‘yes’ rose from 32.5% (unadjusted) in 1979 to 44.7% for the Scottish Parliament and 38.1% for tax-varying powers (Tables 1 & 2). Thus if there had been a 40% threshold in 1997, the Scottish Parliament would have been approved but without tax-varying powers⁸.

Local results

In 1979, six of the twelve regions voted ‘for’ and six voted ‘against’ (Table 1). In 1997, all unitary authority areas voted in favour of a Parliament — ranging from 57% in Orkney to 85% in West Dunbartonshire — and all but two areas (Orkney and Dumfries and Galloway) voted for tax-varying powers (Table 2 (b)).

In 1979, none of the regional council areas met the 40% threshold for the proportion of the electorate voting ‘yes’. In 1997, more than 40% of the electorate voted for the Scottish Parliament in seven of the same twelve areas (Table 4). The change in the proportion of voters voting ‘yes’ between 1979 and 1997 ranged from 18 %-points in Tayside to 35 %-points in Shetland (Table 4).

There was virtually no correlation between turnout and the proportion of people voting ‘yes’ in either 1979 or 1997. However, there was a strong connection between how areas voted in 1979 and 1997: 80% of the variation in the proportion voting ‘yes’ in 1997 can be explained by how areas voted in 1979. There was also an extremely close correlation in 1997 between how areas voted for the Parliament and how they voted on tax-varying powers: 97% of the variation in voting for tax-varying powers can be explained by how they voted for Parliament.

⁵ higher of number voting on Parliament or tax-varying powers question as a percentage of the electorate. Only Fife reported more people voting on the tax-varying powers question, and the Scottish Office is discussing this with the authority to ensure that it was not an error.

⁶ Source: HC Library Research Paper 97/49, Table 10

⁷ there were 7,000 more spoilt ballots on the tax-varying powers question compared to 6,300 fewer votes (Table 3).

⁸ even adjusting the electorate for deaths, dual registration and convicted prisoners in prison would not have increased the figure to 40%.

III Wales

The turnout in Wales in 1997 was 50.1%, well below the (unadjusted) turnout in 1979 of 58.3% (Tables 5 & 6). The turnout in 1997 was also well below the turnout in the May general election of 73.5%⁹.

The number of people voting 'yes' increased from 20.3% in 1979 to 50.3% in 1997 (Table 7).

The proportion of the electorate voting 'yes' rose from 11.8% (unadjusted) in 1979 to 25.2% — one in four — in 1997. If there had been a 40% threshold in 1997, the Welsh Assembly would not have been approved.

Local results

In 1979, none of the eight counties voted for devolution (Table 5). In 1997, 11 of the 22 areas voted in favour of an Assembly and 11 against (Table 6 (b)).

As in Scotland, none of the counties met the 40% threshold in 1979 for the proportion of the electorate voting 'yes'. In 1997 as well, none of the 22 areas had more than 40% of the electorate voting for an Assembly (Table 6).

The change in the proportion of voters voting 'yes' between 1979 and 1997 ranged from 20 %-points in Clwyd and Gwynedd to 39 %-points in West Glamorgan (Table 7).

There was virtually no correlation between turnout and the proportion of people voting 'yes' in either 1979 or 1997. There was a slightly stronger — but still very weak — connection between how areas voted in 1979 and 1997.

⁹ Source: HC Library Research Paper 97/49, Table 10

Table 1
Scottish Devolution Referendum, 1 March 1979

(a) alphabetical list

Do you want the provisions of the Scotland Act 1978 to be put into effect?

	Turnout (a)		Yes			No		
	%	number		% vote	% elect.		% vote	% elect.
Borders	66.4	51,526	20,746	40.3	26.7	30,780	59.7	39.7
Central	65.9	130,401	71,296	54.7	36.0	59,105	45.3	29.9
Dumfries and Galloway	64.1	67,401	27,162	40.3	25.8	40,239	59.7	38.2
Fife	65.3	160,688	86,252	53.7	35.0	74,436	46.3	30.2
Grampian	57.2	196,429	94,944	48.3	27.6	101,485	51.7	29.5
Highland	64.7	88,247	44,973	51.0	33.0	43,274	49.0	31.7
Lothian	65.9	373,642	187,221	50.1	33.0	186,421	49.9	32.9
Orkney	54.1	7,543	2,104	27.9	15.1	5,439	72.1	39.0
Shetland	50.3	7,486	2,020	27.0	13.6	5,466	73.0	36.7
Strathclyde	62.5	1,105,118	596,519	54.0	33.7	508,599	46.0	28.7
Tayside	63.0	184,807	91,482	49.5	31.2	93,325	50.5	31.8
Western Isles	49.9	11,151	6,218	55.8	27.8	4,933	44.2	22.1
Scotland	63.0	2,384,439	1,230,937	51.6	32.5	1,153,502	48.4	30.5
<i>adjusted (b)</i>	<i>63.6</i>				<i>32.9</i>			<i>30.8</i>

(b) ranked by % of voters voting yes

Do you want the provisions of the Scotland Act 1978 to be put into effect?

	Turnout (a)		Yes			No		
	%	number		% vote	% elect.		% vote	% elect.
Western Isles	49.9	11,151	6,218	55.8	27.8	4,933	44.2	22.1
Central	65.9	130,401	71,296	54.7	36.0	59,105	45.3	29.9
Strathclyde	62.5	1,105,118	596,519	54.0	33.7	508,599	46.0	28.7
Fife	65.3	160,688	86,252	53.7	35.0	74,436	46.3	30.2
Highland	64.7	88,247	44,973	51.0	33.0	43,274	49.0	31.7
Lothian	65.9	373,642	187,221	50.1	33.0	186,421	49.9	32.9
Tayside	63.0	184,807	91,482	49.5	31.2	93,325	50.5	31.8
Grampian	57.2	196,429	94,944	48.3	27.6	101,485	51.7	29.5
Dumfries and Galloway	64.1	67,401	27,162	40.3	25.8	40,239	59.7	38.2
Borders	66.4	51,526	20,746	40.3	26.7	30,780	59.7	39.7
Orkney	54.1	7,543	2,104	27.9	15.1	5,439	72.1	39.0
Shetland	50.3	7,486	2,020	27.0	13.6	5,466	73.0	36.7
Scotland	63.0	2,384,439	1,230,937	51.6	32.5	1,153,502	48.4	30.5
<i>adjusted (b)</i>	<i>63.6</i>				<i>32.9</i>			<i>30.8</i>

(a) excludes spoilt ballots (3,133 in Scotland as a whole).

(b) electorate reduced by 40,200 when calculating whether 40% of those eligible had voted in favour; reductions were for deaths, students and nurses registered at more than one address and convicted prisoners in prison.

Source: FWS Craig *British Electoral Facts, 1832-1987*

Table 2

Scottish Parliament Referendum, 11 September 1997

(a) alphabetical list

	Turnout (a)		Parliament						Tax-varying powers					
	%	number	Yes			No			Yes			No		
			% vote	% elect.		% vote	% elect.		% vote	% elect.		% vote	% elect.	
City of Aberdeen	53.4	90,615	65,035	71.8	38.3	25,580	28.2	15.1	54,320	60.3	32.0	35,709	39.7	21.0
Aberdeenshire	56.7	96,499	61,621	63.9	36.2	34,878	36.1	20.5	50,295	52.3	29.5	45,929	47.7	27.0
Angus	60.0	51,921	33,571	64.7	38.8	18,350	35.3	21.2	27,641	53.4	31.9	24,089	46.6	27.8
Argyll and Bute	64.6	45,248	30,452	67.3	43.5	14,796	32.7	21.1	25,746	57.0	36.8	19,429	43.0	27.8
East Ayrshire	64.5	60,557	49,131	81.1	52.3	11,426	18.9	12.2	42,559	70.5	45.3	17,824	29.5	19.0
North Ayrshire	63.1	67,235	51,304	76.3	48.2	15,931	23.7	15.0	43,990	65.7	41.3	22,991	34.3	21.6
South Ayrshire	66.4	60,070	40,161	66.9	44.4	19,909	33.1	22.0	33,679	56.2	37.2	26,217	43.8	29.0
Borders	64.4	53,915	33,855	62.8	40.5	20,060	37.2	24.0	27,284	50.7	32.6	26,497	49.3	31.7
Clackmannan	65.8	23,496	18,790	80.0	52.6	4,706	20.0	13.2	16,112	68.7	45.1	7,355	31.3	20.6
Dumfries and Galloway	63.1	73,482	44,619	60.7	38.3	28,863	39.3	24.8	35,737	48.8	30.7	37,499	51.2	32.2
East Dunbartonshire	72.3	58,642	40,917	69.8	50.4	17,725	30.2	21.8	34,576	59.1	42.6	23,914	40.9	29.5
West Dunbartonshire	63.4	46,109	39,051	84.7	53.7	7,058	15.3	9.7	34,408	74.7	47.3	11,628	25.3	16.0
City of Dundee	55.3	64,805	49,252	76.0	42.1	15,553	24.0	13.3	42,304	65.5	36.1	22,280	34.5	19.0
City of Edinburgh	59.8	216,732	155,900	71.9	43.0	60,832	28.1	16.8	133,843	62.0	36.9	82,188	38.0	22.7
Falkirk	63.4	69,595	55,642	80.0	50.7	13,953	20.0	12.7	48,064	69.2	43.8	21,403	30.8	19.5
Fife	60.9	167,008	125,668	76.1	45.8	39,517	23.9	14.4	108,021	64.7	39.4	58,987	35.3	21.5
City of Glasgow	51.2	244,375	204,269	83.6	42.8	40,106	16.4	8.4	182,589	75.0	38.3	60,842	25.0	12.8
Highland	60.3	99,982	72,551	72.6	43.8	27,431	27.4	16.5	61,359	62.1	37.0	37,525	37.9	22.6
Inverclyde	60.0	40,625	31,680	78.0	46.8	8,945	22.0	13.2	27,194	67.2	40.2	13,277	32.8	19.6
North Lanarkshire	60.4	149,073	123,063	82.6	49.9	26,010	17.4	10.5	107,288	72.2	43.5	41,372	27.8	16.8
South Lanarkshire	62.8	147,670	114,908	77.8	48.9	32,762	22.2	13.9	99,587	67.6	42.4	47,708	32.4	20.3
East Lothian	64.9	45,190	33,525	74.2	48.2	11,665	25.8	16.8	28,152	62.7	40.4	16,765	37.3	24.1
West Lothian	62.3	71,537	56,923	79.6	49.6	14,614	20.4	12.7	47,990	67.3	41.8	23,354	32.7	20.3
Midlothian	64.9	39,660	31,681	79.9	51.8	7,979	20.1	13.1	26,776	67.7	43.8	12,762	32.3	20.9
Moray	57.5	36,944	24,822	67.2	38.6	12,122	32.8	18.9	19,326	52.7	30.1	17,344	47.3	27.0
Orkney Islands	53.2	8,290	4,749	57.3	30.5	3,541	42.7	22.7	3,917	47.4	25.1	4,344	52.6	27.9
Perthshire and Kinross	62.7	65,342	40,344	61.7	38.7	24,998	38.3	24.0	33,398	51.3	32.1	31,709	48.7	30.4
East Renfrewshire	68.0	45,826	28,253	61.7	41.9	17,573	38.3	26.1	23,580	51.6	35.0	22,153	48.4	32.9
Renfrewshire	62.4	86,924	68,711	79.0	49.3	18,213	21.0	13.1	55,075	63.6	39.5	31,537	36.4	22.6
Shetland Islands	51.3	8,705	5,430	62.4	32.0	3,275	37.6	19.3	4,478	51.6	26.4	4,198	48.4	24.8
Stirling	65.5	42,630	29,190	68.5	44.9	13,440	31.5	20.7	25,044	58.9	38.5	17,487	41.1	26.9
Western Isles	55.3	12,566	9,977	79.4	43.9	2,589	20.6	11.4	8,557	68.4	37.6	3,947	31.6	17.4
Scotland	60.2	2,391,268	1,775,045	74.3	44.7	614,400	25.7	15.5	1,512,889	63.5	38.1	870,263	36.5	21.9

(a) higher of number voting on Parliament or tax-varying question (only Fife had more people voting on tax-varying question) as a percentage of the electorate;

excludes spoilt ballots (in Scotland as a whole, 11,986 for Parliament question and 19,013 for tax-varying powers).

Source: Scottish Office

Table 2

Scottish Parliament Referendum, 11 September 1997

(b) ranked by % voters voting yes for Parliament

	Turnout (a)		Parliament						Tax-varying powers					
	%	number	Yes		No		Yes		No					
			%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
			vote	elect.	vote	elect.	vote	elect.	vote	elect.	vote	elect.	vote	elect.
West Dunbartonshire	63.4	46,109	39,051	84.7	53.7	7,058	15.3	9.7	34,408	74.7	47.3	11,628	25.3	16.0
City of Glasgow	51.2	244,375	204,269	83.6	42.8	40,106	16.4	8.4	182,589	75.0	38.3	60,842	25.0	12.8
North Lanarkshire	60.4	149,073	123,063	82.6	49.9	26,010	17.4	10.5	107,288	72.2	43.5	41,372	27.8	16.8
East Ayrshire	64.5	60,557	49,131	81.1	52.3	11,426	18.9	12.2	42,559	70.5	45.3	17,824	29.5	19.0
Clackmannan	65.8	23,496	18,790	80.0	52.6	4,706	20.0	13.2	16,112	68.7	45.1	7,355	31.3	20.6
Falkirk	63.4	69,595	55,642	80.0	50.7	13,953	20.0	12.7	48,064	69.2	43.8	21,403	30.8	19.5
Midlothian	64.9	39,660	31,681	79.9	51.8	7,979	20.1	13.1	26,776	67.7	43.8	12,762	32.3	20.9
West Lothian	62.3	71,537	56,923	79.6	49.6	14,614	20.4	12.7	47,990	67.3	41.8	23,354	32.7	20.3
Western Isles	55.3	12,566	9,977	79.4	43.9	2,589	20.6	11.4	8,557	68.4	37.6	3,947	31.6	17.4
Renfrewshire	62.4	86,924	68,711	79.0	49.3	18,213	21.0	13.1	55,075	63.6	39.5	31,537	36.4	22.6
Inverclyde	60.0	40,625	31,680	78.0	46.8	8,945	22.0	13.2	27,194	67.2	40.2	13,277	32.8	19.6
South Lanarkshire	62.8	147,670	114,908	77.8	48.9	32,762	22.2	13.9	99,587	67.6	42.4	47,708	32.4	20.3
North Ayrshire	63.1	67,235	51,304	76.3	48.2	15,931	23.7	15.0	43,990	65.7	41.3	22,991	34.3	21.6
Fife	60.9	167,008	125,668	76.1	45.8	39,517	23.9	14.4	108,021	64.7	39.4	58,987	35.3	21.5
City of Dundee	55.3	64,805	49,252	76.0	42.1	15,553	24.0	13.3	42,304	65.5	36.1	22,280	34.5	19.0
East Lothian	64.9	45,190	33,525	74.2	48.2	11,665	25.8	16.8	28,152	62.7	40.4	16,765	37.3	24.1
Highland	60.3	99,982	72,551	72.6	43.8	27,431	27.4	16.5	61,359	62.1	37.0	37,525	37.9	22.6
City of Edinburgh	59.8	216,732	155,900	71.9	43.0	60,832	28.1	16.8	133,843	62.0	36.9	82,188	38.0	22.7
City of Aberdeen	53.4	90,615	65,035	71.8	38.3	25,580	28.2	15.1	54,320	60.3	32.0	35,709	39.7	21.0
East Dunbartonshire	72.3	58,642	40,917	69.8	50.4	17,725	30.2	21.8	34,576	59.1	42.6	23,914	40.9	29.5
Stirling	65.5	42,630	29,190	68.5	44.9	13,440	31.5	20.7	25,044	58.9	38.5	17,487	41.1	26.9
Argyll and Bute	64.6	45,248	30,452	67.3	43.5	14,796	32.7	21.1	25,746	57.0	36.8	19,429	43.0	27.8
Moray	57.5	36,944	24,822	67.2	38.6	12,122	32.8	18.9	19,326	52.7	30.1	17,344	47.3	27.0
South Ayrshire	66.4	60,070	40,161	66.9	44.4	19,909	33.1	22.0	33,679	56.2	37.2	26,217	43.8	29.0
Angus	60.0	51,921	33,571	64.7	38.8	18,350	35.3	21.2	27,641	53.4	31.9	24,089	46.6	27.8
Aberdeenshire	56.7	96,499	61,621	63.9	36.2	34,878	36.1	20.5	50,295	52.3	29.5	45,929	47.7	27.0
Borders	64.4	53,915	33,855	62.8	40.5	20,060	37.2	24.0	27,284	50.7	32.6	26,497	49.3	31.7
Shetland Islands	51.3	8,705	5,430	62.4	32.0	3,275	37.6	19.3	4,478	51.6	26.4	4,198	48.4	24.8
Perthshire and Kinross	62.7	65,342	40,344	61.7	38.7	24,998	38.3	24.0	33,398	51.3	32.1	31,709	48.7	30.4
East Renfrewshire	68.0	45,826	28,253	61.7	41.9	17,573	38.3	26.1	23,580	51.6	35.0	22,153	48.4	32.9
Dumfries and Galloway	63.1	73,482	44,619	60.7	38.3	28,863	39.3	24.8	35,737	48.8	30.7	37,499	51.2	32.2
Orkney Islands	53.2	8,290	4,749	57.3	30.5	3,541	42.7	22.7	3,917	47.4	25.1	4,344	52.6	27.9
Scotland	60.2	2,391,268	1,775,045	74.3	44.7	614,400	25.7	15.5	1,512,889	63.5	38.1	870,263	36.5	21.9

(a) higher of number voting on Parliament or tax-varying question (only Fife had more people voting on tax-varying question) as a percentage of the electorate; excludes spoilt ballots (in Scotland as a whole, 11,986 for Parliament question and 19,013 for tax-varying powers).

Source: Scottish Office

Table 3

**Difference between numbers voting on Scottish Parliament and tax-varying questions,
11 September 1997 (a)**

ranked by % additional votes on Parliament question

	Parliament		Tax-varying powers		Difference	
	number	turnout %	number	turnout %	number	% of Parl. votes
Highland	99,982	60.3	98,884	59.7	1,098	1.10
Moray	36,944	57.5	36,670	57.1	274	0.74
City of Aberdeen	90,615	53.4	90,029	53.1	586	0.65
East Lothian	45,190	64.9	44,917	64.5	273	0.60
Western Isles	12,566	55.3	12,504	55.0	62	0.49
City of Glasgow	244,375	51.2	243,431	51.0	944	0.39
Inverclyde	40,625	60.0	40,471	59.8	154	0.38
North Ayrshire	67,235	63.1	66,981	62.9	254	0.38
Angus	51,921	60.0	51,730	59.7	191	0.37
Perthshire and Kinross	65,342	62.7	65,107	62.5	235	0.36
Renfrewshire	86,924	62.4	86,612	62.2	312	0.36
Orkney Islands	8,290	53.2	8,261	53.0	29	0.35
City of Dundee	64,805	55.3	64,584	55.2	221	0.34
Dumfries and Galloway	73,482	63.1	73,236	62.9	246	0.33
Shetland Islands	8,705	51.3	8,676	51.2	29	0.33
City of Edinburgh	216,732	59.8	216,031	59.6	701	0.32
Midlothian	39,660	64.9	39,538	64.7	122	0.31
South Ayrshire	60,070	66.4	59,896	66.2	174	0.29
East Ayrshire	60,557	64.5	60,383	64.3	174	0.29
Aberdeenshire	96,499	56.7	96,224	56.5	275	0.28
North Lanarkshire	149,073	60.4	148,660	60.3	413	0.28
West Lothian	71,537	62.3	71,344	62.1	193	0.27
East Dunbartonshire	58,642	72.3	58,490	72.1	152	0.26
South Lanarkshire	147,670	62.8	147,295	62.6	375	0.25
Borders	53,915	64.4	53,781	64.3	134	0.25
Stirling	42,630	65.5	42,531	65.4	99	0.23
East Renfrewshire	45,826	68.0	45,733	67.9	93	0.20
Falkirk	69,595	63.4	69,467	63.3	128	0.18
Argyll and Bute	45,248	64.6	45,175	64.5	73	0.16
West Dunbartonshire	46,109	63.4	46,036	63.3	73	0.16
Clackmannan	23,496	65.8	23,467	65.7	29	0.12
Fife (b)	165,185	60.2	167,008	60.9	-1,823	-1.10
Scotland	2,389,445	60.1	2,383,152	60.0	6,293	0.26

Notes: (a) excludes spoilt ballots (in Scotland as a whole, 11,986 for Parliament question and 19,013 for tax-varying powers).

(b) only area where more people voted on tax-varying powers question; Scottish Office discussing result with authority.

Source: Scottish Office

Table 4**Change in voting for/against devolution in Scotland, 1979 and 1997(a)**

ranked by change in % of voters voting yes

	Yes						No					
	% of Vote			% of Electorate			% of Vote			% of Electorate		
	79	97	change	79	97	change	79	97	change	79	97	change
<i>1979 areas</i>												
Shetland	27.0	62.4	35.4	13.6	32.0	18.5	73.0	37.6	-35.4	36.7	19.3	-17.4
Orkney	27.9	57.3	29.4	15.1	30.5	15.4	72.1	42.7	-29.4	39.0	22.7	-16.3
Lothian	50.1	74.5	24.4	33.0	45.7	12.7	49.9	25.5	-24.4	32.9	15.6	-17.2
Strathclyde	54.0	78.1	24.1	33.7	47.0	13.3	46.0	21.9	-24.1	28.7	13.2	-15.6
Western Isles	55.8	79.4	23.6	27.8	43.9	16.1	44.2	20.6	-23.6	22.1	11.4	-10.7
Borders	40.3	62.8	22.5	26.7	40.5	13.7	59.7	37.2	-22.5	39.7	24.0	-15.7
Fife	53.7	76.1	22.4	35.0	45.8	10.8	46.3	23.9	-22.4	30.2	14.4	-15.8
Central	54.7	76.3	21.7	36.0	49.2	13.2	45.3	23.7	-21.7	29.9	15.2	-14.6
Highland	51.0	72.6	21.6	33.0	43.8	10.8	49.0	27.4	-21.6	31.7	16.5	-15.2
Dumfries and Galloway	40.3	60.7	20.4	25.8	38.3	12.5	59.7	39.3	-20.4	38.2	24.8	-13.5
Grampian	48.3	67.6	19.3	27.6	37.5	9.8	51.7	32.4	-19.3	29.5	18.0	-11.6
Tayside	49.5	67.6	18.1	31.2	40.0	8.8	50.5	32.4	-18.1	31.8	19.1	-12.7
Scotland	51.6	74.3	22.7	32.5	44.7	12.2	48.4	25.7	-22.7	30.5	15.5	-15.0
<i>adjusted (b)</i>				32.9						30.8		

(a) voting on Scottish Parliament in 1997.

(b) electorate reduced by 40,200 when calculating whether 40% of those eligible had voted in favour; reductions were for deaths, students and nurses registered at more than one address and convicted prisoners in prison.

1997 results fitted to 1979 areas on the following basis:

Borders (Borders); Central (Clackmannan, Falkirk, Stirling); Dumfries & Galloway (Dumfries & Galloway); Fife (Fife); Grampian (City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray); Highland (Highland); Lothian (City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian); Orkney (Orkney Islands); Shetland (Shetland Islands); Strathclyde (Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, City of Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire); Tayside (Angus, City of Dundee, Perthshire & Kinross); Western Isles (Western Isles)

Sources: Scottish Office; FWS Craig *British Electoral Facts, 1832-1987*; Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 (Schedule 1)

Table 5

Welsh Devolution Referendum, 1 March 1979

(a) alphabetical list

Do you want the provisions of the Wales Act 1978 to be put into effect?

	Turnout (a)		Yes			No		
	%	number		% vote	% elect.		% vote	% elect.
Clwyd	51.1	145,503	31,384	21.6	11.0	114,119	78.4	40.1
Dyfed	64.6	159,796	44,849	28.1	18.1	114,947	71.9	46.5
Gwent	55.3	176,758	21,369	12.1	6.7	155,389	87.9	48.7
Gwynedd	63.4	108,520	37,363	34.4	21.8	71,157	65.6	41.6
Mid Glamorgan	58.6	230,943	46,747	20.2	11.9	184,196	79.8	46.7
Powys	66.0	53,345	9,843	18.5	12.2	43,502	81.5	53.8
South Glamorgan	58.7	166,016	21,830	13.1	7.7	144,186	86.9	51.0
West Glamorgan	57.5	158,497	29,663	18.7	10.8	128,834	81.3	46.7
Wales	58.3	1,199,378	243,048	20.3	11.8	956,330	79.7	46.5
<i>adjusted (b)</i>	58.8				11.9			46.9

(b) ranked by % of voters voting yes

Do you want the provisions of the Wales Act 1978 to be put into effect?

	Turnout (a)		Yes			No		
	%	number		% vote	% elect.		% vote	% elect.
Gwynedd	63.4	108,520	37,363	34.4	21.8	71,157	65.6	41.6
Dyfed	64.6	159,796	44,849	28.1	18.1	114,947	71.9	46.5
Clwyd	51.1	145,503	31,384	21.6	11.0	114,119	78.4	40.1
Mid Glamorgan	58.6	230,943	46,747	20.2	11.9	184,196	79.8	46.7
West Glamorgan	57.5	158,497	29,663	18.7	10.8	128,834	81.3	46.7
Powys	66.0	53,345	9,843	18.5	12.2	43,502	81.5	53.8
South Glamorgan	58.7	166,016	21,830	13.1	7.7	144,186	86.9	51.0
Gwent	55.3	176,758	21,369	12.1	6.7	155,389	87.9	48.7
Wales	58.3	1,199,378	243,048	20.3	11.8	956,330	79.7	46.5
<i>adjusted (b)</i>	58.8				11.9			46.9

(a) excludes spoilt ballots (3,309 in Wales as a whole).

(b) electorate reduced by 18,300 when calculating whether 40% of those eligible had voted in favour; reductions were for deaths, students and nurses registered at more than one address and convicted prisoners in prison.

Source: FWS Craig *British Electoral Facts, 1832-1987*

Table 6

Welsh Assembly Referendum, 18 September 1997

(a) alphabetical list

	Turnout (a)		Yes			No		
	%	number		% vote	% elect.		% vote	% elect.
Isle of Anglesey	56.9	30,744	15,649	50.9	29.0	15,095	49.1	27.9
Bridgend	50.6	50,804	27,632	54.4	27.5	23,172	45.6	23.1
Caerphilly	49.3	63,671	34,830	54.7	27.0	28,841	45.3	22.3
Cardiff	46.9	107,116	47,527	44.4	20.8	59,589	55.6	26.1
Carmarthenshire	56.4	75,234	49,115	65.3	36.8	26,119	34.7	19.6
Ceredigion	56.8	30,918	18,304	59.2	33.6	12,614	40.8	23.2
Conwy	51.5	44,890	18,369	40.9	21.1	26,521	59.1	30.4
Denbighshire	49.7	35,003	14,271	40.8	20.3	20,732	59.2	29.4
Flintshire	41.0	46,453	17,746	38.2	15.7	28,707	61.8	25.4
Vale of Glamorgan	54.3	48,389	17,776	36.7	19.9	30,613	63.3	34.4
Blaenau Gwent	49.3	27,165	15,237	56.1	27.7	11,928	43.9	21.7
Gwynedd	59.8	55,284	35,425	64.1	38.3	19,859	35.9	21.5
Merthyr Tydfil	49.5	21,828	12,707	58.2	28.8	9,121	41.8	20.7
Monmouthshire	50.5	32,995	10,592	32.1	16.2	22,403	67.9	34.3
Neath Port Talbot	51.9	55,193	36,730	66.5	34.5	18,463	33.5	17.4
Newport	45.9	43,189	16,172	37.4	17.2	27,017	62.6	28.7
Pembrokeshire	52.6	46,691	19,979	42.8	22.5	26,712	57.2	30.1
Powys	56.2	54,004	23,038	42.7	24.0	30,966	57.3	32.2
Rhondda Cynon Taff	49.9	87,563	51,201	58.5	29.2	36,362	41.5	20.7
Swansea	47.1	82,350	42,789	52.0	24.5	39,561	48.0	22.6
Torfaen	45.5	31,610	15,756	49.8	22.7	15,854	50.2	22.8
Wrexham	42.4	41,023	18,574	45.3	19.2	22,449	54.7	23.2
Wales	50.1	1,112,117	559,419	50.3	25.2	552,698	49.7	24.9

(b) ranked by % of voters voting yes

	Turnout (a)		Yes			No		
	%	number		% vote	% elect.		% vote	% elect.
Neath Port Talbot	51.9	55,193	36,730	66.5	34.5	18,463	33.5	17.4
Carmarthenshire	56.4	75,234	49,115	65.3	36.8	26,119	34.7	19.6
Gwynedd	59.8	55,284	35,425	64.1	38.3	19,859	35.9	21.5
Ceredigion	56.8	30,918	18,304	59.2	33.6	12,614	40.8	23.2
Rhondda Cynon Taff	49.9	87,563	51,201	58.5	29.2	36,362	41.5	20.7
Merthyr Tydfil	49.5	21,828	12,707	58.2	28.8	9,121	41.8	20.7
Blaenau Gwent	49.3	27,165	15,237	56.1	27.7	11,928	43.9	21.7
Caerphilly	49.3	63,671	34,830	54.7	27.0	28,841	45.3	22.3
Bridgend	50.6	50,804	27,632	54.4	27.5	23,172	45.6	23.1
Swansea	47.1	82,350	42,789	52.0	24.5	39,561	48.0	22.6
Isle of Anglesey	56.9	30,744	15,649	50.9	29.0	15,095	49.1	27.9
Torfaen	45.5	31,610	15,756	49.8	22.7	15,854	50.2	22.8
Wrexham	42.4	41,023	18,574	45.3	19.2	22,449	54.7	23.2
Cardiff	46.9	107,116	47,527	44.4	20.8	59,589	55.6	26.1
Pembrokeshire	52.6	46,691	19,979	42.8	22.5	26,712	57.2	30.1
Powys	56.2	54,004	23,038	42.7	24.0	30,966	57.3	32.2
Conwy	51.5	44,890	18,369	40.9	21.1	26,521	59.1	30.4
Denbighshire	49.7	35,003	14,271	40.8	20.3	20,732	59.2	29.4
Flintshire	41.0	46,453	17,746	38.2	15.7	28,707	61.8	25.4
Newport	45.9	43,189	16,172	37.4	17.2	27,017	62.6	28.7
Vale of Glamorgan	54.3	48,389	17,776	36.7	19.9	30,613	63.3	34.4
Monmouthshire	50.5	32,995	10,592	32.1	16.2	22,403	67.9	34.3
Wales	50.1	1,112,117	559,419	50.3	25.2	552,698	49.7	24.9

Source: Welsh Office & *The Western Mail* (20 September 1997)

Table 7

Change in voting for/against devolution in Wales, 1979 and 1997

ranked by change in % of voters voting yes

	Yes						No					
	% of Vote			% of Electorate			% of Vote			% of Electorate		
	79	97	change	79	97	change	79	97	change	79	97	change
<i>1979 areas</i>												
West Glamorgan	18.7	57.8	39.1	10.8	28.3	17.5	81.3	42.2	-39.1	46.7	20.6	-26.1
Gwent & Mid Glamorgan	16.7	51.3	34.6	9.5	25.1	15.6	83.3	48.7	-34.6	47.6	23.8	-23.8
Dyfed	28.1	57.2	29.1	18.1	31.6	13.5	71.9	42.8	-29.1	46.5	23.7	-22.8
South Glamorgan	13.1	42.0	28.8	7.7	20.6	12.8	86.9	58.0	-28.8	51.0	28.4	-22.6
Powys	18.5	42.7	24.2	12.2	24.0	11.8	81.5	57.3	-24.2	53.8	32.2	-21.6
Clwyd & Gwynedd	27.1	47.4	20.3	15.1	23.3	8.3	72.9	52.6	-20.3	40.7	25.9	-14.7
Wales	20.3	50.3	30.0	11.8	25.2	13.4	79.7	49.7	-30.0	46.5	24.9	-21.6
<i>adjusted (a)</i>				11.9						46.9		

(a) electorate reduced by 18,300 when calculating whether 40% of those eligible had voted in favour; reductions were for deaths, students and nurses registered at more than one address and convicted prisoners in prison.

1997 results fitted to 1979 areas on the following basis:

Clwyd & Gwynedd (Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham) -- 1997 area *excludes* communities of

Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn (formerly in Glyndwr DC in Clwyd, now in Powys UA)

Dyfed (Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire)

Powys (Powys) -- 1997 area *includes* communities of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn (formerly in Glyndwr DC in Clwyd, now in Powys UA)

Gwent & Mid Glamorgan (Bridgend, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen) -- 1997 area *excludes* communities of

Wick, St Bride's Major and Ewenny (formerly in Ogwr BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Vale of Glamorgan UA) and *excludes* community of Pentyrch

(formerly in Taff-Ely BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Cardiff UA)

South Glamorgan (Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff) -- 1997 area *includes* communities of Wick, St Bride's Major and Ewenny (formerly in Ogwr BC in Mid Glamorgan,

now in Vale of Glamorgan UA) and *includes* community of Pentyrch (formerly in Taff-Ely BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Cardiff UA)

West Glamorgan (Neath & Port Talbot, Swansea)

Sources: Welsh Office; FWS Craig *British Electoral Facts, 1832-1987*; Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 (Schedule 1)

- 97/102** The Social Chapter
02.09.97
- 97/103** Unemployment by Constituency - August 1997
17.09.97
- 97/104** Unemployment by Constituency - September 1997
15.10.97
- 97/105** The Wireless Telegraphy Bill [HL] [Bill 52 of 1997/98]
17.10.97
- 97/106** The Strategic Defence Review
23.10.97
- 97/107** Parliamentary Reform: the Commons 'Modernisation' Programme
28.10.97
- 97/108** Economic Indicators
01.11.97
- 97/109** Statistics of National Lottery Awards: September 1997
30.10.97
- 97/110** Bosnia: The Dayton Agreement - Two Years On
31.10.97
- 97/111** The Nuclear Explosions (Prohibition and Inspections) Bill [HL]
31.10.97
[H.L. Bill 63 of 97/98]
- 97/112** The European Communities (Amendment) Bill: Implementing
05.11.97
The Amsterdam Treaty [Bill No 71]