

Commission on Parliamentary Reform

Summary of the Commission's engagement activities

Background

The Commission on Parliamentary Reform launched its call for written views and online survey on 24 November 2017 seeking people's views on, and experiences of, the Scottish Parliament. The Commission members also travelled out into communities throughout Scotland to speak to people their views and experiences of engaging with the Scottish Parliament. Between January 2017 and March 2017 Commission members spoke with and heard from 1200 people.

The Commission produced a note from the each of the events it held or participated in. Each note summarises the discussions and recommendations people wanted the Commission to make to the Scottish Parliament. These are available to read on our [website](#).

Set out below is a summary of our engagement activities.

Locations the Commission has visited

Your Parliament Your Voice Do Phàrlamaid Do Ghuth

-  Location of Conference
-  Location of Workshop
-  Location of Meeting



Key

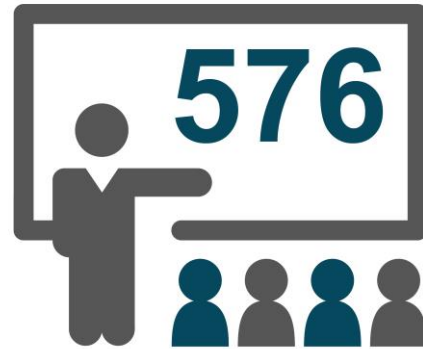
- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Aberdeen |
| 2 | Arrochar |
| 3 | Barrhead |
| 4 | Dumfries |
| 5 | Easterhouse |
| 6 | Edinburgh |
| 7 | Falkirk |
| 8 | Fort William |
| 9 | Galashiels |
| 10 | Glasgow |
| 11 | Inverness |
| 12 | Kilmarnock |
| 13 | Paisley |
| 14 | Peebles |
| 15 | Pollok |
| 16 | Sleat
(Isle of Skye) |

Engagement

Between January 2017 and March 2017 the Commission met with 1200 people at 50 separate workshops, conferences and meetings.



People we
have met with



Number of people
we have spoken
with at conferences



496

People who have
spoken with us at
workshops

Figures up to date as of March 2017

Meetings of the Commission

The Commission also held a number of formal meetings where we invited people to speak with us and share their experiences and views of the Scottish Parliament. The Commission formally met in a number of locations including Edinburgh, Inverness and Galashiels.



Meetings of the
Commission

Online Survey



256 Online survey
responses

Summary of the written views as at 06.04.2017

The Commission launched a call for written views on a number of questions related to Engagement, Checks and Balances, and Identity. These submissions are available to read on our website.

Total published	103
No. of written views that referred to:	
Engagement	44
Checks and balances	87
Identity	20
Other topic raised:	
Revision of Electoral system	13

Summary of the content of written views

Nature of views	Description	No. of submissions
Engagement		
Committee engagement	Evidence sessions, outreach, formal and informal meetings, written submissions	39
Education and Outreach	Services delivered by Parliament's Outreach Services Team, Public Information leaflets,	9
Other	Events, Exhibitions, Tours, Cross Party Groups	9
Digital engagement	Website, social media, video conferencing, surveys	14
Feedback	Communications after engagement activities – closing the loop	6
Diversity	Diversity of people involved in engagement	15
Resources	Staffing and resources to deliver engagement	1
Checks and Balances		
Parliamentary Time	Sitting times of committees and plenary, including number of days/hours; flexibility;	24
Committee conveners	Elected conveners, remuneration, party allocation	20
Committee membership	Size of committees, lay/ co-opted members, rapporteurs	14
Committee remits	Multi-function/select/standing committee effectiveness	10
Legislation	Legislative process – length of stages, flexibility, scrutiny, pre- and post-	26

	legislative scrutiny	
Presiding Officer	Role and influence	4
Capacity	No. of MSPs, parliament staff, resources	15
Diversity	Diversity of Parliament as a whole, committee membership, witnesses and parliament staff	9
Parliamentary Questions	Quality of questions and answers, time for oral Qs, opportunities for back benchers, time for written responses.	16
Identity		
Distinct identity	Comments on distinctiveness of the identity of the Scottish Parliament as opposed to Scottish/UK/local government and UK Parliament	19
How to improve	Suggested ways to raise awareness and establish distinctions	11
Other issue raised		
Electoral system		11

Source of written views	Number submitted
Public Sector	7
Private Sector	4
Third Sector (including Charitable & Voluntary groups)	15
Political	28
Individual	18
Academic	15
Parliamentary	7
Other	9