



House of Commons

Specialized Committees

Case 1
Addressing the impacts of the
UK's exit from the EU

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October 5-6, 2026

Committee
House of Commons

Georgia Tech
Model United Nations

Bridging *technology* ***and*** *diplomacy.*



Georgia Tech
Model United Nations

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#GTMUN2026



Letter from the Secretary General



Esteemed delegates,

My name is Henry Bui, your Secretary General for the 2026 edition of the Georgia Tech Model United Nations Conference, also lovingly known as GTMUN. As your Secretary General, I would like to give you all a warm welcome as you begin your journey this conference cycle.

Every year at GTMUN, we see hundreds of you delegates spend hours speaking about your ideas, deliberating with others about the efficacy of solutions, and collaborating with compatriots to draft extensive resolutions. It is always impressive to see each delegate's ability to tackle these very significant issues affecting the real world today, proposing novel solutions, creatively applying international policy, and synthesizing resolutions that solve these urgent questions comprehensively and on a global scale.

I am especially excited to see everything you all will achieve this October. With over 1,000 delegates attending, this will be the largest GTMUN to date, and with it, we are bringing you 18 diverse committees to further test your abilities. Each committee has been carefully crafted to open unique perspectives and to allow each delegate to apply their skills in possibly new, unique ways. I hope that in the midst of being lost in deep research rabbit holes and hours of debate in each session, you all are satisfactorily challenged and that you all leave with joy and excitement in the work you accomplish.

Outside of the Scheller building where you will debate for two days, you will find that many of the skills you have used will be applicable to other aspects of your professional career: your ability to speak publicly, to improvise and adapt, and to act diplomatically. As a computer science student and teaching assistant, I have found that my experience in Model UN has been some of my most valuable. It has taught me to be confident in what I say, and it has taught me how to work with people with all different kinds of backgrounds and perspectives. One of our core values at Georgia Tech is that we thrive on diversity, and that is something that shines strongly at GTMUN.

As you prepare for committee, I want you to remember the most important thing you should get out of GTMUN—even more important than demonstrating your abilities or honing your skills for your professional career—is having fun. Not every speech has to be perfect, and not every unmoderated caucus has to go your way! Take the opportunity to try eccentric things in your speeches and diplomatic approach, and take the opportunity to meet new people. Do not forget that you are surrounded by many others who have similar goals, aspirations, and interests as you do! You might find a future close friend. Though competing is quite fulfilling (and the prospect of awarding is exciting), it can also be very stressful, so it is critical to find joy in what you are doing.

Once again, we, the GTMUN Secretariat, are excited to see everything you will achieve.

Good luck & have fun,

Henry Bui

Secretary General of GTMUN 2026



What is a *Position Paper*?

A position paper is a paper which describes how a member of Parliament intends to address the topics of the committee, detailing tangible solutions to committee issues and connection to the MP's stance. A position paper should contain details for each topic that will be addressed by the committee. Note that for the House of Commons, position papers should be written in first person.

Formatting Requirements

- 12-point font, double spaces Times New Roman
- 1-2 pages per topic (excluding Works Cited page)
- A Works Cited page with citations in MLA format
- Files submitted in .pdf format with title "GTMUN26_BHOC_COUNTRY.pdf"
- e.g., "GTMUN26_BHOC_KeirStarmer.pdf" or "GTMUN26_BHOC_AngelaRayner.pdf"

Start Each Topic Page With

- Committee: [Name of committee]
- Delegation: [Name of delegation]
- Topic: [Topic name/decription]

Position Paper Rubric

In order to be eligible for awards, MPs must submit a position paper and receive a score of at least 12/20 (for single-topic committees) or 24/40 (for double-topic committees). Refer to the next page for the exact scoring guidelines.

Our AI Policy

MPs are expected to be drafting documents during the span of the conference using their own thoughts and ideas. As such, GTMUN *does not permit* plagiarism, pre-writing, or the use of generative AI during conferences.

- Plagiarism is the act of using another individual's work or writing and passing it as one's own without proper citation or credit. This includes writing from other MPs in the committee or from online sources.
- Pre-writing is the act of writing material for in-conference documents ahead of the conference. While doing prior research and bringing research notes is permitted (and encouraged), these notes should not contain text that is intended to be directly copied and pasted into a document. Suspicion of pre-writing is subject to the chair's discretion.
- Generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini) cannot be used to partially or wholly write a conference document. GTMUN recognizes the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence engines as a tool for research. Though discouraged, GTMUN accepts the use of such tools to locate resources and brainstorm starting solutions. However, generative AI must not be used to generate content for the conference, such as in-conference documents and position papers. GTMUN encourages the development of creative, unique solutions in committee and knows delegates are more than capable of producing such ideas without relying on generative AI.

MPs that violate the writing policy will face consequences that may include disqualification from awards.

	Great (5)	Good (4)	Adequate (3)	Poor (1)
Background	- Detailed description of the topic (including dates and stakeholders) - Several facts and statistics - Discusses many relevant documents and legislation	- Basic description of topic (including some dates and stakeholders) - Some facts and statistics - Discusses some relevant documents and legislation	- Minimal description of topic (with no or few dates and stakeholders) - Few facts and statistics - Misses some key relevant documents and legislation	- Unclear or incorrect description of topic - Incorrect or missing facts or statistics - No mention of relevant documents and legislation
Policy	- Member's detailed history with issue - Detailed present position (or a strongly-defended inferred position) of member - Several facts and statistics	- Member's basic history with issue - Present position (or reasonable inferred position) of members - Some facts and statistics	- Sparsely describes member's history with issue - Present position (or basic inferred position) of member - Few facts and statistics	- Incorrect or missing description of member's history with issue - Incorrect present position (or unreasonably inferred position) of member - Incorrect or missing facts and statistics
Solutions	- Detailed personal objectives - Proposes well-supported potential solutions - Identifies members to work with and provides strong reasoning for selections - Actionable, reasonable solutions which are within the scope of the committee	- Expresses personal objectives - Proposes reasonable potential solutions - Identifies members to work with and provides reasonable justification for selections - Actionable solutions within the scope of committee	- States personal objective - Proposes potential solutions - Identifies members to work with - Actionable solutions	- No proposed goals or plans - No potential collaborators mentioned - Implausible or missing actionable solutions
Mechanics	- No grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors - Numerous and diverse citations from appropriate sources	- Few grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors - Citations from appropriate sources	- Some grammar, spelling, or punctuation mistakes - One or two citations from inappropriate sources	- Many grammar, spelling, or punctuation mistakes - No citations from appropriate sources

Intro to Committee

The British House of Commons (BHOC) serves as one of the 2 houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Unlike the other House, the House of Lords, the House of Commons was created to represent and legislate the will of the common people and it consists of an elected body of representatives. The House of Commons holds significant influence in Parliament, especially after the passage of the Parliament Act of 1911 that capped the ability of the House of Lords to delay bills passed by Parliament (Britannica Editors, 2026b).

The committee is set in June 2021, a pivotal time for the United Kingdom. The Brexit transition period ended just months ago on December 31, 2020, and the practical consequences are now being felt across the country. Exports to the EU dropped dramatically in January 2021, with businesses struggling to adapt to new customs paperwork and border checks. Some sectors face shortages, while others worry about losing access to European workers under the new immigration system that took effect at the start of the year (Ward, 2021).

The Conservative government holds a large majority in Parliament, but its position is not as secure as it might appear. Backbench MPs are increasingly willing to challenge the government, particularly on issues affecting their constituencies. The Labour opposition, under new leader Keir Starmer, is rebuilding after its devastating 2019 election defeat (Uberoi et al., 2020).

Several crises demand immediate parliamentary attention. The Northern Ireland Protocol, designed to manage Brexit's impact on the Irish border, has triggered protests and trade disruptions (Hirst, 2021). The Scottish National Party has just won the May 6th Scottish Parliament election, claiming a renewed mandate for Scottish independence (Sturge, 2021). Beyond these immediate concerns, longer-term questions about regional inequality and Britain's management of internal powers (Tobin, 2021).

Public morale is low. After years of Brexit debates, a pandemic, and economic uncertainty, citizens are looking to Parliament to provide clear direction. The decisions made in the coming months will shape not just the response to immediate crises, but post-Brexit United Kingdom for years to come.



Inside the House of Commons

Disclaimer

Model United Nations provides an opportunity for delegates to engage diplomatically with topics of global importance and explore possibilities for conflict resolution in a meaningful way. Many of the topics at hand may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter. We ask delegates to be respectful and professional when engaging with their committee and communicating with fellow delegates and GTMUN Conference staff. The content warning below is meant to warn you of potentially controversial topics that are present in the content of this background guide, as well as content that may appear in other aspects of the committee (e.g. debate, speeches, directives), so that you can prepare yourself before reading this background guide and participating in the committee. At GTMUN, we take equity violations very seriously and require delegates to fully comply with our equity guidelines. Failure to do so will result in an immediate disqualification from awards, and you may be asked to leave the conference. Please remain respectful in committee, and avoid overgeneralizations as well as take into account individual differences and contexts during your speeches. If you have any questions regarding our equity guidelines, we encourage you to contact one of our staff members. If, because of this committee's content warning, you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our staff via email at gtmunconference@gmail.com.

Key Words, Terms, and Acronyms

Motion	Proposal for the House
Amendment	Change to a motion
Division	A recorded vote
Aye/No	Yes/No in parliamentary voting
The Floor	The space for debate
Speaker/Chair	The dais or individual who runs the session
Whip	Party official who pressures MPs to vote certain way aligned with party interests
Crossing the Floor	Defying party to vote with opposition
MP	Member of Parliament
Westminster	The system of the UK Parliament or a name used to refer the Parliament itself
Withdrawal Protocol	The Protocol dictating how the split between the EU and UK would occur
Devolution	The transfer of power away from a central government (in the context of this committee: the movement of certain powers and obligations handing down of certain powers away from the UK Parliament to the regional Parliaments of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) (Jennifer Clarke & Kate Merry, 2026)

Background

The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (commonly known as the United Kingdom or UK) is a sovereign country located off the northwestern coast of mainland Europe. It is made up of four constituent nations (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) that share a single national government but each have their own distinct identity, history, and, excluding England, their own regional government (Barr et al., 2026).

National Government (Westminster) & the House of Commons

The UK's structure of government is known as the Westminster system, which is a parliamentary government with a constitutional monarchy. Within the system, there is the Parliament, the national legislative body, which consists of two chambers: the (publicly elected) House of Commons and the (appointed) House of Lords. Members of each chamber typically belong to a political party, which are political organizations which are generally aligned on policy (Reporter, 2025).

The House of Commons also has two major political groups: "His/Her Majesty's Government" and "His/Her Majesty's Most Loyal Opposition" (or more simply, the "Opposition"). His/Her Majesty's Government is typically formed from the political party with the most seats in the House of Commons (or through a coalition of political parties which holds the majority of the seats in the house). The Opposition is then typically formed from the largest political party not part of the current Government or coalition (BBC, 2008).

As of 2021, the head of state is Queen Elizabeth II, while the prime minister is Boris Johnson, the leader of the reigning Conservative Party (Britannica Editors, 2026a). The leader of the Opposition is Keir Starmer, leader of the Labour Party.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Sir Keir Starmer

Regional Governments

- Scottish Parliament
- The Senedd (the Welsh Parliament)
- The Northern Ireland Assembly
- Political Parties (Electoral Commission, 2022):
- Conservative Party (or the “Tories”)
- Labour Party
- Scottish National Party (SNP)
- Liberal Democrats
- Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)
- Plaid Cymru
- Green Party

Factions

While the major parties generally agree on many topics, parties are not forced to work together and often have internal divisions known as factions (Williams & Hickson, 2021). Some of the major factions within the two main parties are:

Conservative Party	• European Research Group (ERG): Hard-Brexit faction, very influential • One Nation Conservatives: Moderate, more pro-EU traditionally • “Red Wall” MPs: Newly elected in 2019 in traditionally Labour seats; focused on regional investment • Free marketeers: Focused on deregulation and trade deals
Labour Party	• Starmer’s centrists: Currently leading the party; focused on electability • Socialist Campaign Group: Left-wing faction loyal to former leader Jeremy Corbyn • Blue Labour: Socially conservative, working-class focused • Pro-European wing: Wants closer ties with EU

History

Brexit

“Brexit” (a combination of “Britain” and “exit”) refers to the United Kingdom’s departure from the European Union (EU). On June 23, 2016, the United Kingdom held a national referendum on the matter, in which 52% of voters chose to “Leave” the EU and 48% chose to “Remain”. The votes were heavily divided amongst region and age. Amongst the regions, England and Wales voted to “Leave”, while Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to “Remain”. Younger voters, urban areas, and university-educated voters tended to support “Remain”, while older and working-class voters tended to support “Leave”.

Voters who supported “Leave” gave various reasons for their choice: a desire for greater national sovereignty, concerns about immigration, frustration with EU regulations, and a belief that the UK could prosper independently. “Remain” voters cited economic benefits, freedom of movement, and the importance of international cooperation (“Brexit,” 2020).

The actual process of leaving took over four years. Former Prime Minister Theresa May negotiated a withdrawal agreement that was repeatedly rejected by Parliament, leading to her resignation in 2019. Her successor, Boris Johnson, won in December 2019 on the promise to “Get Brexit Done.” Under his rule, the UK formally left the EU on January 31, 2020 with a transition period that kept most arrangements in place until the end of the year.

The European Union

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union (now) consisting of 27 European countries that operate under shared agreements on trade, movement of people, and many regulations. Member states maintain their own governments but agree to follow common rules in areas like trade standards, food safety, and environmental policy. Citizens of EU countries can live and work freely in any other member state, and goods move between member states without customs checks (European Union, n.d.).

The UK joined the predecessor of the EU in 1973 and was a member until January 31, 2020. During its membership, the UK was one of the largest economies in the bloc but often tried to keep separation. It kept its own currency (the pound sterling instead of the euro), declined to open borders under the Schengen agreement, and opted out of various other EU agreements (Peers, 2015). Tensions between UK sovereignty and EU rules grew over decades, ultimately culminating in the referendum on EU membership in 2016.



Topic 01

North Ireland Protocol

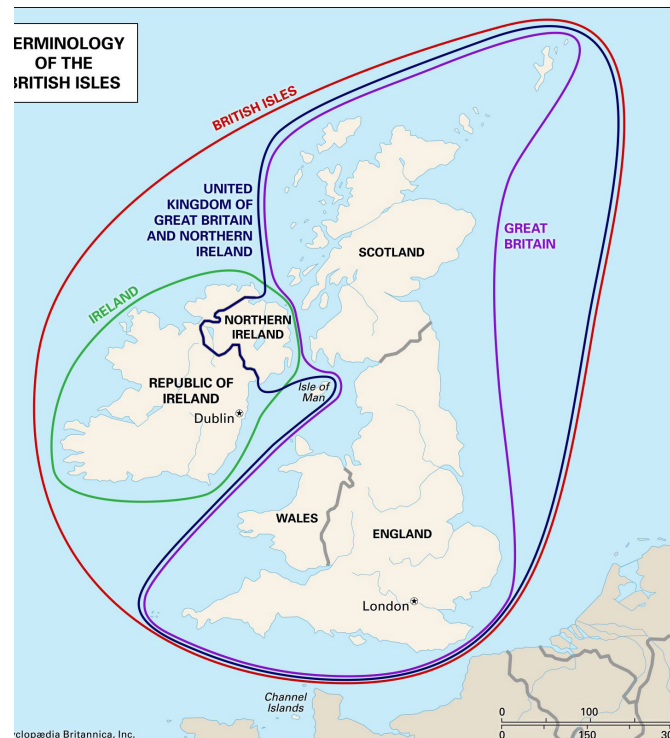
The Troubles (The Northern Ireland Conflict)

To understand why the Northern Ireland Protocol is so contentious, delegates must first understand the history behind it. From the late 1960s until 1998, Northern Ireland experienced a period of sectarian violence known as “The Troubles”, which killed roughly 3,500 people. At its core was a divide between two communities: unionists, who wanted Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom, and nationalists, who wanted it to join a united Ireland. The conflict was brought to an end by the Belfast Agreement of 1998 (also called the Good Friday Agreement), a peace deal that set up a power-sharing government and removed the physical border infrastructure between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. That open, invisible border became a symbol of peace (“Good Friday Agreement,” 2023).

NIP Design

The North Ireland Protocol (NIP) is the protocol designed to manage the only land border between the EU and the UK, which occurs at the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland border. The Protocol imposes a series of checks and rules with how goods will be exchanged between the borders. The NIP is a section of the Withdrawal Agreement that started in the beginning of 2021, and has been in effect for approximately 5 months. The protocol was designed to balance securing EU to non-EU trade while also not reigniting conflict in the tense border area. The main areas of the protocol include: protecting the Belfast (or Good Friday) agreement, ensuring free travel between the border, allows for voting by the Northern Ireland Assembly on the functioning of the protocol, and most importantly allows for changes or safeguards from both the EU and the UK in the event the NIP does not function well (Article 16).

The checks on goods between the EU and the UK must occur somewhere and currently they occur in the sea border from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. This creates a line in the middle of the United Kingdom, which, to many, separated parts of one country (Curtis, 2024).



A detailed representation of the UK's borders

Article 16

Article 16 is an emergency provision in the Withdrawal Protocol that allows the EU or the UK to take emergency actions / safeguard measures if the Protocol “causes serious economic, societal, or environmental difficulties that are liable to persist, or leads to a diversion of trade”.

While this provision allows for either side to take measures on the Protocol, it does not negate the Protocol itself and requires adequate notification to other involved parties and a proportionate response to the harms the Article addresses. The threshold for invoking Article 16 is not well-defined (Sargeant & Mills-Sheehy, 2021).

Current Developments

Last month, there was an outbreak of street violence within Belfast, and tensions have been rising all over Northern Ireland with over 80 officers injured from riots. While there have been many potential causes, the anger over how the Protocol is being implemented is a major factor. The Unionist parties are jointly against the current state of NIP, with many influential people campaigning and speaking out against the policies. Arlene Foster, the Northern Ireland First Minister and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, stated, “There is a lot of very grave anger in Northern Ireland about the way in which this protocol is rolling out” (Hope & Wells, 2021).

Businesses with goods traveling from Northern Ireland and Great Britain now face staggeringly large amounts of paperwork and customs costs with several product categories being restrictions/bans. The most infamous example is the “sausage war”. Under EU rules, chilled meats can not normally be imported into the single market

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Protestors in Belfast

from a non-member country, which led to ban from Great Britain into Northern Ireland, after the grace periods ended. Garden centers also faced restrictions on soil and plants, and parcel deliveries grew more complicated. Some suppliers have stopped selling to Northern Ireland outright (Edgington & Kovacevic, 2020).

At the governmental level, the UK and EU are in negotiations over how the Protocol actually operates. Rather than renegotiating the Protocol itself, much of the contention is over “grace periods”. As the grace periods’ deadlines approach, the UK has in some cases extended them unilaterally, which the EU views as a breach of the agreement and has met with the threat of legal action (Curtis, 2024).

The decisions surrounding the January 2021 COVID vaccine roll out continue to be a source of tension. In the middle of a dispute over vaccine supply, the EU briefly stated they would invoke Article 16 itself to control exports across the Irish border. They reversed that decision almost immediately after criticism from the UK and Irish governments. This created a backing for arguments for the UK to invoke Article 16. The incident badly damaged trust and bolstered unionist opposition (Curtis & Fella, 2021).

Faction Positioning

There are three main factions in the UK on this issue:

1. The MPs pushing for invoking Article 16 from the past damages, mainly ERG Conservatives and unionists.
2. A more moderate camp arguing that these issues need to be fixed but invoking Article 16 would cause EU retaliation, namely One Nation Conservatives and Labour party’s front bench.
3. Moderates that are Irish sentiment focused who advocate that any boundary between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is untenable and could potentially risk the peace created from the Good Friday agreement, mainly the SNP, MPs focused on the Irish, and some Labour backbenchers.

Key Questions to Address

Has the threshold for invoking Article 16 genuinely been met, and if so, what specific measures should follow?

How can the unionist community be addressed without unravelling the Good Friday Agreement?

Is the Protocol fundamentally flawed, or can it be repaired through negotiation and technical adjustment?

Where should the UK draw the line between protecting its relationship with the EU and protecting the integrity of the Union?

If Article 16 is invoked and the EU retaliates, is the UK prepared for the economic and diplomatic consequences or how can they prepare?



Topic 02

Efficacy of Devolution

Sewel Convention

In the past, the UK Parliament allocated certain powers, mainly product and regulatory, to the regional governments of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The Sewel Convention is an agreement that states the UK Parliament will “not normally” legislate on matters that are already under the purview of the regional governments without their express permission (Torrance, 2025). The name originated from Lord Sewel, one of the original authors of a formal agreement between the UK and the devolved governments. There are four major sources of contention about the Sewel Convention and devolution:

1. Is the Westminster motion in question potentially overstepping on a devolved power?
2. Is a regional body encroaching on areas that have not been delegated or that concern the entirety of the UK?
3. Is the UK Parliament passing law or regulation over a devolved power without consent?
4. Is there justification for Westminster to impose these rules despite links to devolved powers or should the ability not provide consent of the regional governments be legally binding?

English Votes for English Laws (EVEL)

There are only three devolved governments, but four regions of the UK. England, unlike the other regions, has no devolved government to consent to or pass specialized regulation. This has proved to be contentious due to the ability of MPs from other regions being able to directly vote on matters primarily affecting English citizens, but English MPs did not have the equivalent vote. In 2015, “English Votes for English Laws” was introduced, trying to provide a system that allowed English MPs a greater say over legislation that affected only England. However the proposal proved to be convoluted and hard to implement in real-life, eventually getting scrapped without a replacement. Currently some English mayors have increased or devolved powers from Westminster, but the system is not comparable to a fully devolved government for England (Torrance, 2025).

Current Developments

In recent history, devolved powers were relatively stable, due to the entirety of the UK having to conform to EU guidelines and regulations. Now that the UK has left the European Union, it is this body’s responsibility to decide whether or not those regulatory regimes are the responsibility of Parliament or the regional governments to create.



The Scottish Parliament Building

Agricultural, environmental, and other regulation areas have historically been delegated to the devolved governments. However, recently the UK Internal Market Act of 2020 was passed, despite not having the consent of the Scottish or Welsh Parliaments. The decision by Westminster to pass the Act showed the lack of legal backing of the Sewel Convention. In response to Westminster, Scotland and Wales put out papers detailing their stance and

disapproval (After Brexit, 2021; Welsh Government, 2021a). However, supporters of the Act argue that the UK needs a coherent set of national regulations that allow the market to function well. As is seen with the NIP, having conflicting regulations for different aspects of the country could serve to alienate citizens, restrict trade, and slow the UK economy (Jack & Sargeant, 2021).

The Welsh Government formally sought a judicial review of the Act in January 2021, arguing it unlawfully constrained the Senedd's ability to legislate in devolved areas. It was initially not granted but Wales appealed, and in late June 2021 the Court of Appeal granted permission to proceed. As this committee meets, that legal challenge is a continuing development. It is worth noting that even in opposing the Act, Wales has been careful to state it is "not opposed to the need to control the internal market" but does object to how the Act was passed and carried out (Welsh Government, 2021b).

In June 2021, the Internal Market Act is still highly contentious. In the May 2021 elections, the SNP came back to power in Scotland and Welsh Labour under Mark Drakeford was re-elected, with both now claiming renewed authority to defend devolved powers. There are two main areas of contention occurring currently. First is the new Office for the Internal Market, a body created to oversee how the market and the Act functions. The enforcement, regulations, and power afforded to the officials are all up in the air. The second area is the previous policies held by the devolved Parliaments. For example, Wales has argued that its ability to ban single-use plastic items is gone, since products made in or imported through England must still be accepted for sale in Wales (Jack & Sargeant, 2021).

Faction Overview

There are four main distinct factions within the devolution issue in the UK:

- The first group primarily advocates for centralized rules and that four different sets of regulation would arbitrarily split the country. Most conservatives and upper level UK government members support this position.
- The devolutionist supporters, namely Scotland and Wales, support making Sewel legally binding and that Westminster must gain the consent of the regional governments, otherwise devolution is meaningless.
- A moderate camp exists that advocates for a middle ground between a veto based in devolved powers and Westminster unilaterally making decisions for the entire country. This stance is held by Conservative unionists. This group also believes that unilateral decisions from Westminster are dividing the country and would prefer stronger safeguards for devolved powers.
- A separate faction of English regional proponents exist who wish to see a more formalized and powerful set of devolved powers for English MPs. This group is also looking for a greater diversity of devolved English powers, with much of it currently being concentrated within mayoral positions of important cities.

Key Questions to Address

How should the Sewel Convention be addressed going forward legally-speaking? Should it remain a convention, be bound into law, or somewhere in-between?

Did Westminster have the right to pass the Internal Market Act of 2020 or should those powers have gone to the devolved governments instead?

Is there a way to more clearly define UK wide matters versus matters that are under regional jurisdiction?

If enforcements for the Sewel Convention are created, how should these laws be enforced?

Is the current system of devolution excluding an English only Parliament unfair in any way to English citizens?

What powers and exchanges should be made between English citizens and Westminster, if any?

General Flow of Debate

Framing — the dais names the specific question(s) the round addresses. Delegates are asked to keep motions narrow in scope, and tied directly back to relevant Key Questions found in the background guide.

Debate — the Speaker works the Speakers' List; members give speeches and interventions and stake out positions. Important note: alliances may shift from round to round. The Dais will accept tabled motions as early as here. 2 to 3 motions will be accepted, with the ability for nuance and differing opinions to be added during amendments.

Coalition-Building — members may leave their seats to negotiate and draft. Delegates are expected during this period to be writing motions or amendments, or actively lobbying to coalition-build and shape policy.

Tabling and Amendments — motions are tabled; the House debates (with one or two speeches for and against) and votes. Amendments are voted on first, as they determine the motion's final wording.

Voting — the House votes on the motion as amended. All motions are passed by simple majority.

After voting procedure is finished, results will be recorded and the House will move to the next round of debate. This general process will repeat multiple times a day. Below is a general look at how this committee will be run. There will be a **timeskip** between Day 1 and Day 2. Day 1, along with the content of the background guide, is set in **June 2021**. Day 2 will be set in **March 2022**. Delegates will be provided with an update on the policies they enacted on Day 1 before debate begins on Day 2.

Motions and Amendments

Given the broad and often nuanced nature of issues dealt with by the House of Commons, **Motions** are written in lieu of resolutions. These are shorter, more direct actions that the members of the House are taking to solve a given issue. Multiple motions will be accepted for each Key Question that debate is addressing. A motion will additionally have less writers than a resolution, making debate much more intense and fast-moving.

In addition to motions, delegates will be writing Amendments. These are shorter edits to a motion that are voted on by the committee, in the same manner as amendments to a resolution in traditional debate. These are written, discussed, and tabled on the same timeline as Motions.

See the section on Sample Writing for an example of how Motions and Amendments are written.

Day 1: Topic 1 (set June 2021)

Session 1 (Morning):

- Opening the committee (one-time): roll call, a short address from the dais, and opening speeches where each member sets out their MP's broad position
- Round 1: first Key Question, run through the full cycle.
- Round 2: second Key Question

Session 2 (Afternoon):

- Remaining rounds: the House works through the topic's other Key Questions. Each Key Question has its own round
- Closing the topic: the dais draws it to a close; passed motions form the House's position and shape Day 2

Day 2: Topic 2 (set March 2022)

Session 3 (Morning):

- Before the start of debate on Day 2, the dais will present an update on the impact of delegates' motions passed on Day 1
- One to two rounds of debate and motions will be conducted during this session

Session 4 (Afternoon):

- Remaining rounds on the topic's outstanding Key Questions.
- Closing the committee: closing speeches reflecting on positions taken across both days, followed by committee awards

Points and Procedural Motions

This committee will use Westminster procedure, which has far fewer procedural devices than a standard Model UN committee.

Precedence

Where more than one procedural motion is raised at once, the Speaker takes the most disruptive first: a motion to move into voting is considered before a motion to extend debate, which is considered before ordinary debate resumes. When in doubt, the dais will direct the House.

Points

Point of Order: A formal interruption to the Speaker concerning procedure only: a rule has been broken, the process is incorrect, or a member is acting out of turn. It is never a device for disagreeing with the substance of what a member is saying. Raise it by stating "Point of order, Mr/Madam Speaker," and confine it to the procedural issue at hand.

Point of Personal Privilege: A brief interruption regarding a member's ability to participate: an inaudible speaker, a matter of comfort, or a necessary short absence. It is not used to make any argument on the topic. *Note: delegates do not have to ask to use the restroom, grab water, etc.

Procedural Motions

Motion for a Moderated Debate: Opens a period of structured discussion on a specific question, with the Speaker recognising members individually for short contributions. Use it to concentrate the House on a single point of contention. This takes the place of a Moderated Caucus.

Motion for an Unmoderated Debate: Suspends the formal speaking order for a set period so members may negotiate directly, build alliances, and draft motions and amendments. This is your principal window for writing and coalition-building. This takes the place of an Unmoderated Caucus.

Motion to Table: Formally submits a substantive motion, or an amendment, to the dais for the House's consideration. This is similar to introducing a resolution in normal UN procedure.

Motion to Extend Debate: Requests additional time on the current matter before the House proceeds. Requires the support of the House.

Motion to Move into Voting Procedure: Closes debate and brings the matter to a vote. Once the House has entered voting procedure, debate on that matter is closed and no further points are entertained until the vote concludes.

Motion for a Division: Calls for a formal, recorded vote in which each member's position is counted individually, rather than settled by voice. Use it when the result is close or when the record matters. This functions the same way as a roll call vote in traditional UN procedure.

Motion to Suspend the Session: Requests a temporary recess, granted at the dais's discretion.

Interventions and Giving Way

Seeking to intervene: You rise from your seat while the member is speaking. The member who holds the floor sees you and chooses whether to pause.

Giving way: The speaking member may accept by saying “I give way,” or decline with “I will not give way.” The member is under no obligation to yield, however yielding for questions can show confidence of position.

Intervention: If the intervention is accepted, the member who sought to intervene should speak for a sentence or two in the style of a direct question, challenge, or point. Refrain from speaking for a long time or on unrelated subject matter. The floor returns to the original member as soon as the intervention is finished.

Miscellaneous:

- **Encouragement of fellow Members of Parliament:** “Hear, hear”
- **Disapproval of fellow Members of Parliament:** “Shame”
- If the Speaker calls for “Order” then noise and general cross-talk should desist. The use of fun mechanics is a privilege and will be taken away if the committee behaves poorly.

Sample Intervention Protocol

Speaker: The Honourable Member for Wycombe has the floor.

Member (ERG Conservative): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This House can no longer pretend the Protocol is working. Businesses across Northern Ireland face paperwork they cannot afford, shelves stand empty, and only last month we saw violence return to the streets of Belfast. The threshold for Article 16 has plainly been met, and the Government must act —

Member (One Nation Conservative): (standing)

Member (ERG Conservative): I give way.

Member (One Nation Conservative): I am grateful. Does my Right Honourable Friend not accept that invoking Article 16 would invite immediate retaliation from the European Union, and risk the very trade he seeks to protect?

Member (ERG Conservative): I thank my Friend for the intervention, but I would say this: a safeguard we are too frightened to use is no safeguard at all. Retaliation is a risk; abandoning the people of Northern Ireland is a certainty. (Cries of “Hear, hear!”)

Speaker: Order. The Honourable Member will conclude.

Sample Writings

Sample Motion: Scottish Independence Referendum

Proposed by: Ian Blackford MP (SNP — Ross, Skye and Lochaber)

Seconded by: [two members]

“That this House recognises the result of the May 2021 Scottish Parliament election as a democratic mandate for a second referendum on Scottish independence; and calls upon Her Majesty’s Government to grant a Section 30 order enabling the Scottish Parliament to legislate for such a referendum before the end of 2023.”

Sample Amendment to the above

Proposed by: [member]

Seconded by: [member]

Leave out from “election” to the end and insert “but maintains that the 2014 referendum settled the question of Scottish independence for a generation, and declines to grant a Section 30 order at this time.”

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