



The David Hume Institute

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NEWS RELEASE

Autumn Seminar Series 2005

6.00pm 10 November 2005

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh

“Rebalancing the Constitution”

Speaker:

Professor Robert Hazell, (University College London and Director of the Constitution Unit)

Chair:

Professor Hector MacQueen, Director AHRC Research Centre, Edinburgh Law School

Sponsored by

The Economic and Social Research Council

Jeremy Peat, Director of The David Hume Institute said “We are delighted that Professor Hazell, who has been studying aspects of devolution in Scotland for many years, has agreed to speak in Edinburgh on this subject. This seminar will draw broadly on the various studies that have been conducted by the Constitution Unit into the successes, failures and challenges experienced by devolution in the UK. Professor Hazell will review the unfinished business of constitutional reform, bring together the disparate elements, and suggest how they might be woven together. The biggest piece of unfinished business in devolution is the English Question, but there are also demands for legislative powers in Wales, and growing interest in Scotland in the possible granting of further powers and greater fiscal autonomy. The UK government is ill equipped to view devolution in the round, let alone to think about these developments alongside the new Supreme Court and further reform of the House of Lords. But they are all inter-related, and in the last part of his lecture Prof Hazell will pull the different threads together and show how the constitution can be rebalanced.

- ends -

Robert Hazell is Director of the Constitution Unit and Professor of Government and the Constitution in the School of Public Policy, University College London. Originally a barrister, he was a senior civil servant for 14 years, and left Whitehall in 1989 to become director of the Nuffield Foundation. He founded the Constitution Unit in 1995, and has become one of the UK's leading constitutional experts. He has been closely involved with the ESRC's Devolution research programme.

Notes to Editors:

The views that will be expressed by the speaker are his own and do not commit the ¹Trustees or Officers of the Institute in any way.

Issued by:

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