

A short Statement by CSCS re two initiatives promoting a written Scottish Constitution. Version 27/1/19.

There are currently two drafts of a constitution for Scotland seeking to engage the public in consultation - ours is produced by The Centre for Scottish Constitutional Studies (CSCS) and the other by the Constitutional Commission (CC) - both non governmental organisations. We have worked together but there are two significant differences.

First is in the nature of the consultation process. We believe that public participation is of the essence and that demands understandable wording and methodology. Credibility requires participation in the tens and preferably hundreds of thousands - attainable only through a dedicated and transparently independent website having a secure voting facility. We consider the CC decision to "piggyback" on a freeware wiki website to be unsatisfactory.

Secondly the CC has extended its brief far beyond the basic principles of a Constitution. We do not consider the Corpus of Scots Law and another dozen headings to be appropriate areas for this public consultation.

In our view these differences stem from two distinct approaches to the challenge - the CC be led by an academic and that of the CSCS by a group of business and professional people.

Both organisations are in wide agreement over the other content and the need to involve the public in a written Constitution.

We are also of a single mind that the consultation should commence as soon as possible and be completed before the date of the next referendum. There are two reasons for this - it will provide a detailed picture of what the Scots can expect from independence and will ensure that important constitutional principles are not missed or adopted by default.

We have therefore donated our draft constitution to a new charity, which has been established as a fully independent consultation dedicated to constitutional reform in Scotland. The open and unaligned nature of this welcomes relative input from *all* sources and the present differences between the CC & the CSCS may be viewed at www.scottishconstitution.com and the (unpublished) demonstration site at <http://ronnimor.wixsite.com/website-1>

About Us -

Constitution for Scotland is a registered charity dedicated to conducting and administering a public consultation on the content and subsequent promotion into legislation of a Constitution endorsed by credible numbers of Scottish citizens.

The consultation will be conducted online as a fully independent and transparent website. A draft constitution has been provided by the Centre for Scottish Constitutional Studies to stimulate discussion, amendment, additions and deletions to every section of the text. The CSCS Think Tank please no ongoing role in this process.