



The House of Commons and House of Lords

at the Palace of Westminster make up the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Westminster is sovereign over all parts of the UK; devolution was by Acts of the UK Parliament, which can be repealed if Parliament wishes. The Acts for Scotland and Northern Ireland list those areas retained by Westminster (Reserved Powers); everything else is devolved. The Acts for Wales and London list what is devolved (Devolved Powers); everything else is reserved. A list of powers reserved under all four Acts is opposite.

Westminster legislates for England; it has the power to legislate for the whole of the UK even in relation to devolved powers, but has agreed not to do so unless requested. The Scottish Parliament sometimes does make that request if they want laws identical to those in England.

Westminster also governs British Overseas Territories such as Bermuda, the Falklands and Gibraltar. The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are Crown Dependencies, and each has their own assembly and government.

Reserved Westminster powers include:

- Abortion, Human Fertilisation and Embryology
- Broadcasting
- Constitutional Matters and Elections
- Counter-Terrorism
- Data Protection
- Defence and the Armed Forces
- Economic and Fiscal Policy and Currency
- Employment and Health and Safety
- Energy
- Equal Opportunities
- Gambling and the National Lottery
- Genetics and Medicines
- Immigration, Asylum and Nationality
- International Relations
- Judicial Appointments
- Political Party Funding and Registration
- The Royal Succession
- Social Security and UK Taxation
- Transport (relating to aviation, navigation, railways, safety and regulation)

The Greater London Authority is the Mayor of London plus the London Assembly. The Mayor holds executive power in Greater London, and is accountable to the London Assembly. The GLA is responsible for London's cultural strategy, economic development, fire and emergency services, transport and policing.



The Northern Ireland Assembly is based in Stormont. The Northern Ireland Executive is accountable to the Assembly.

Stormont's devolved powers include:

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| Agriculture | Environment |
| Culture, Arts and Leisure | Health |
| Education | Regional Development |
| Employment | Social Development |
| Enterprise, Trade and Investment | Transport |

The Scottish Parliament is located in Holyrood, Edinburgh. The Parliament can alter the income tax rate by up to 3 pence in the pound from the rest of the UK. The Parliament can create its own laws. The Parliament holds the Scottish Government to account.



Holyrood's devolved powers include:

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| Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry | Police and Fire Services |
| Economic Development | Research and Statistics |
| Education | Scots Law and Courts |
| Environment | Social Work |
| Food Standards | Sports and the Arts |
| Health | Tourism |
| Home Affairs | Training |
| Local Government | Transport |

The National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff Bay can pass laws (Assembly Measures) which have the same effect as Acts of Parliament, but only after the agreement of the UK Parliament on each occasion. It has no formal tax-raising powers, but it does control the level of grant to local councils, which can indirectly affect Council Tax rates.

The National Assembly for Wales holds the Welsh Assembly Government to account.

The National Assembly for Wales has responsibility for:

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| Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry | Housing |
| Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings | Local Government |
| Culture | Public Administration |
| Economic Development | Social Welfare |
| Education and Training | Sport and Recreation |
| Environment | Tourism |
| Fire and Rescue Services | Town and Country Planning |
| Food | Water and Flood Defences |
| Health and Health Services | The Welsh Language |
| Highways and Transport | |

