19 February 2014

Embargoed 11.00 hrs Thursday 20 February 2014

STUC launches second ‘A Just Scotland’ report on the Independence Referendum

Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) General Secretary Grahame Smith said:

“Scottish trade unions and their members continue to give very careful consideration to Scotland’s constitutional future. Whilst many members have made their choice, for a significant proportion, the answer ‘isn’t obvious’ and they are in the process of balancing advantages and disadvantages based on the recognition that changing Scotland’s relationship with the UK involves a ‘trade off’ of powers and/or opportunity. Exaggerated claims from both campaigns, and the increasingly febrile tone, are an impediment to these vital considerations.

“We make no apology therefore for our approach which takes a detailed look at the issues and asks hard questions of both campaigns, concentrating on which of the referendum outcomes is most likely to promote social justice and tackle economic inequality.

“Our report identifies the pressing need for the pro-devolution parties to make clear commitments to bringing forward enhanced devolution proposals and to make clear undertakings that post a ‘no vote’ Scotland’s current level of block grant funding will not diminish.

“It is also clear that, despite some very positive policy commitments, the Scottish Government has thus far failed to convince many that the institutional and fiscal circumstances post-independence would allow meaningful change to be enacted. Nor has it accepted the level of tax redistribution which will be required if its policy commitments are to be achieved.”

ENDS

For further information contact

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Notes for editors
1. An pdf copy of the second ‘A Just Scotland’ report (Embargoed 11.00 hrs Thursday 20 February 2014) can be downloaded here

2. REMINDER - a media conference and opportunity for press and broadcast interviews will be held tomorrow as detailed below

   **When:** 11.00 am Thursday 20th February 2014  
   **Where:** The Library  
   Macdonald Holyrood Hotel  
   81 Holyrood Road  
   Edinburgh EH8 8AU

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