The Sewel Convention was named after Lord Sewel (Minister of State in the Scottish Office during the passage of the Scotland Bill), who stated during Lords Committee stage of the Scotland Bill that the Government expected “a convention to be established that Westminster would not normally legislate with regard to devolved matters in Scotland without the consent of the Scottish Parliament” (21 July 1998, Lords Hansard, vol 592, col 791). In practice, as well as Westminster legislating on devolved matters, the Convention also applies to Westminster legislating to alter the legislative competence of the Parliament or to amend the devolved responsibilities of Scottish Ministers.

Under the Convention, if the UK Government and the Scottish Executive agree that it is appropriate to include in a Westminster Bill provisions affecting devolved matters, the Executive invites the Parliament to give consent to those provisions being dealt with by Westminster. This involves the Executive providing a memorandum about the UK Bill, which is usually considered by a relevant Scottish Parliament committee. The Executive also lodges a motion which the Parliament as a whole is invited to agree (before the Bill reaches its final amending stage at Westminster in the House in which it was first introduced).

Prior to 30 November 2005, the motion was known as a Sewel motion and the memorandum was known as a Sewel memorandum. From 30 November 2005, the motion is known as a legislative consent motion and the memorandum as a legislative consent memorandum. The procedure for scrutiny of Legislative Consent Memorandums and Motions is set out in Chapter 9B of the Parliament's standing orders.
This bibliography brings together articles about the Sewel Convention and how it has operated in the Scottish and UK Parliaments since 1999. It is arranged in alphabetical order by author or by publication title, if no author is credited, and then in reverse chronological order.

SPICe welcomes suggestions for inclusion to this bibliography and it will be updated whenever new material is found.

Aberdeen Press and Journal (9 April 2005 p.15) Canavan says Sewels are being abused

Aberdeen Press and Journal (27January 2005 p.14) MSPs in sea of Sewels, claims Tory


Bolger, A. (7 February 2005 p. 2) ‘Timid Scottish Executive accused of passing the buck: controversy is growing over the willingness to allow Westminster to legislate in important areas of policy north of the border’ Financial Times


Cabinet Office (October 2002) Devolution Guidance Note 1, Common Working Arrangements London: Cabinet Office


Reference: FS3-15

Dinwoodie, R. (13 February 2004 p. 8) ‘How Westminster can take lead role: Legislative device enables Executive to avoid debates’ Herald

Dinwoodie, R. (4 September 2002a p. 1) ‘Copycat Holyrood 'still in the grip of Whitehall’ Herald
Dinwoodie, R. (4 September 2002b p. 6) ‘Safe pair of hands' devised new rule’ Herald


Evening Times (19 March 2004 p.18) Hiding behind Westminster is becoming more routine; Ministers pass the buck

Evening News (30 January 2002 p. 2) London still pulls strings says SNP

Express (25 November 2004 p.13) Object lesson in the point of devolution


Fraser, D. (12 September 2005 p. 4) ‘Warning as McLeish says Holyrood should have new powers on guns’ Herald

Fraser, D. (28 February 2005 p. 6) ‘Sewel attacks 'questionable' use of the mechanism he created’ Herald

Fraser, D. (27 January 2005 p. 12) ‘Lib Dems threaten to block trespass law: anger at move to allow Westminster to legislate’ Herald

Fraser, D. (26 January 2003 p. 8) ‘What have Scottish MPs done since devolution? A lot less work. Since Holyrood was set up, voting levels have dropped and oral and written questions asked in the Commons have halved’ Sunday Herald


Gordon, T. (17 January 2005 p.6) ‘Sewel to be questioned in inquiry over motion’ Herald


Hassan, G. (5 May 2002 p. 19) ‘Time to grasp the thistle of reform’ Scotland on Sunday

Herald (24 November 2005 p. 6) New label for Sewel brings warning

Herald (6 October 2005 p. 17) Sewel reform failure

Herald (24 June 2005 Letters p. 21) Sewel motions

Herald (22 June 2005 p. 8) New name ‘sweeps Sewel under carpet’

Herald (16 March 2005 p. 6) MSPs say they are kept in the dark about Sewel motions

Herald (28 January 2005 Letters p. 21) Devolution betrayed

Herald (27 November 2004 Letters) Far worse than rubber-stamping

Herald (26 November 2004 Letters) Commonsense approach to legislation

Herald (25 November 2004 Letters) Tell London we’ll have our own debates

Herald (24 November 2004 p. 15) Law by the backdoor: Sewel motions deny MSPs the chance for debate

Herald (13 February 2004 p. 19) Parliamentary abuse: Holyrood must debate the big issues or lose credibility

Herald (26 January 2004 p.9) Right to roam in jeopardy as London walks over Holyrood

The Herald (18 November 2006 Letters p. 14) Holyrood’s powers


Reference: FS3-15


Hutcheson, P. (5 December 2004) ‘Sewel: English law will prevail’ *Sunday Herald*

Linklater, M. (28 January 2005 p.33) ‘Defiant McConnell fails to clear the air as Nationalists fume’ *The Times*


Macdonell, H. (10 June 2005 p. 2) ‘Implications for McConnell’s law’ *Scotsman*

Macdonell, H. (15 December 2004 p. 6) The laws that Holyrood leaves to Westminster *Scotsman*

Reference: F3S-15
Macleod, A. (2 March 2005 p. 28) ‘Use vote with care, MSPs told’ *Times*

Macleod, A. (24 November 2004 p. 30) ‘Scotland follows its own path’ *Times*


Macleod, J. (10 July 2003 p. 15) ‘West Lothian answer: axe Scottish MPs’ *Daily Mail*


Macwhirter, I. (23 January 2005 p.4) ‘Going through the Sewel motions: Scotland's relationship with Westminster must be clarified’ *Sunday Herald*

Macwhirter, I. (10 March 2004 p. 14) ‘Couldn't the executive even stick its neck out over maize?’ *Herald*


Nelson, F. (23 November 2004 p.2) ‘Westminster to take over the reins on law-and-order reforms’ *Scotsman*


Nelson, F. (29 October 2001 p. 12) ‘MSPs let power drift back to Westminster’ *Scotsman*

Norrie, K. M.  Sewel motions, devolution and family law. 8 *Scottish Law & Practice Quarterly* 2003, pp.307-310


Scotsman (15 December 2004 p.6) Peer wants own process reviewed


Scott, D. (30 January 2002 p. 8) ‘MSPs consider more legislation from Westminster than north of the border’ Scotsman


Reference: FS3-15


Settle, M. and Summers, D. (2 January 2006 p. 6) ‘Cameron aims to break up Labour’s cosy network: Relationship between Westminster and Holyrood is targeted’ Herald


Times (24 November 2005 p. 26) ‘Sewel name change ‘will not help’

Times (5 March 2004 p. 14) *Growing anger over ‘Westminster’ motions*

Times (31 January 2002) *Stop giving away powers, say SNP*


Winetrobe, B.K. (2005c) ‘Sewel reform at Holyrood: balancing the political and the procedural’ *SCOLAG Journal* issue 337, p 248-249


Wishart, R. (30 January 2006 p. 12) ‘Has Holyrood found the guts to speak up for itself?’ *Herald*
RELATED FACT SHEETS
Sewel and Legislative Consent Motions: Session 2
Sewel Motions: Session 1

Contacting the Public Information Service
For more information you can visit our website at www.scottish.parliament.uk or contact the Public Information Service.

Address:
Public Information Service
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Telephone:
0131 348 5000
0800 092 7500 (Public Enquiries)

Fôn: 0131 348 5395 (Gàidhlig)
Text: 07786 209888

Textphone users can contact us on 0800 092 7100

Email: sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk