



Women's Equality Party Conference

26 November 2022

Title: **Finance and WE in Scotland**

Proposed by: **WE Edinburgh Branch**

Proposer: **Charlotte Gilbert**

Seconder: Maddy Millar

Type of motion: **Business motion**

Motion text:

- 1 1. WE commits to devoting an appropriate proportion of its funds and resources to Scottish issues
2 and to Scottish Parliament-facing action that falls within the WE aims.
 - 3 2. That appropriate proportion shall be decided by reference to the level of devolution and the
4 relative population sizes of Scotland and of the rest of GB using a method similar to that already
5 applied by the UK Government, wherein resources are allocated according to population size
6 (as per the Barnett formula).
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Motion rationale:

7 Currently WE tends to devote resources and create policy initiatives by reference to what WE wants
8 the UK Government at Westminster to do, and then look to make them applicable to Scotland by
9 minor modification. This is not appropriate given that the existing Scottish Government position on
10 many of the issues concerned is already substantially different to the UK Government's.

11 That is important to WE because of:

- 12 a. The unique position of Scotland as the most devolved nation in the UK, with its own Legal
13 System, and a Scottish Parliament which has control in Scotland of many of the issues that
14 concern WE, from childcare and education to VAWG and abortion;
 - 15 b. The concomitant differences from England and Wales in Parliament-facing action and on the
16 pressure that the Party can best apply in Scotland to achieve WE aims;
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- 17 c. The fact that actions taken to further WE aims by the Scottish Parliament can be used as strong
18 levers to then promote the same actions in other UK Parliaments ;
- 19 d. The fact that the Scottish Parliament is and always has been of a political makeup that means it
20 is more amenable to taking such actions.
- 21 e. Furthermore, equal representation is one of the party's seven core objectives⁽¹⁾, therefore it
22 seems prudent that Scotland has access to a representative amount of the finance available
23 from central office.

24 As taxation income is devolved to Scottish parliament using a population-based formula⁽²⁾, this motion
25 suggests that in practice the Steering Committee applies a similar rationale to WE finances. This
26 money would help to run a candidate in upcoming elections and a fundraising event for the branch to
27 recruit more members, as well as allowing us to tackle more/bigger campaigns.

28 The Edinburgh branch has a core team of 8 volunteers who run the branch. Most members are
29 balancing their own studying, jobs and caring commitments to help within the branch. We are
30 volunteers, and not only do we not get paid but we also pay our own money each month to *be*
31 volunteers as do all of our WE sisters. As Scotland is currently receiving little to none of the finance
32 from central office, this seems an unfair deal! Only recently, we had to pass up on the campaign of
33 police misogyny in Scotland as we did not have enough members or resources to help tackle such a
34 large and systemically rooted issue. It is worth mentioning here that policing is devolved in Scotland.

35 *Note:* 'GB' is used above when referring to the proportion of the UK that WE currently operate in, since WE is
36 not currently registered as a Political Party in Northern Ireland.

References:

1. [Hannah Peaker on behalf of the Women's Equality Party \(2022\). *Party Objectives*.](#)
 2. [Aron Cheung \(2020\). *Barnett Formula*.](#)
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