

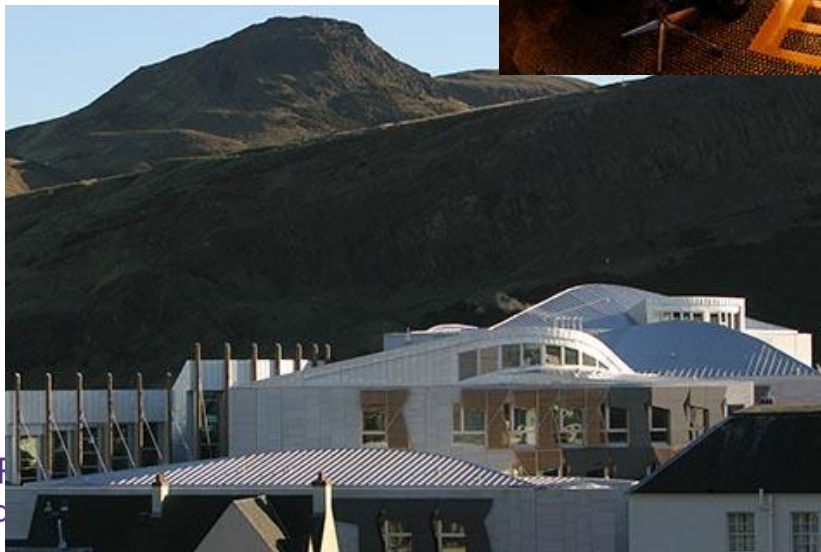
OECD budget network
Friday 22 February 2013

**Budget scrutiny under minority
administrations: Scotland**

Simon Wakefield
Head of Financial Scrutiny Unit



Scottish Parliament



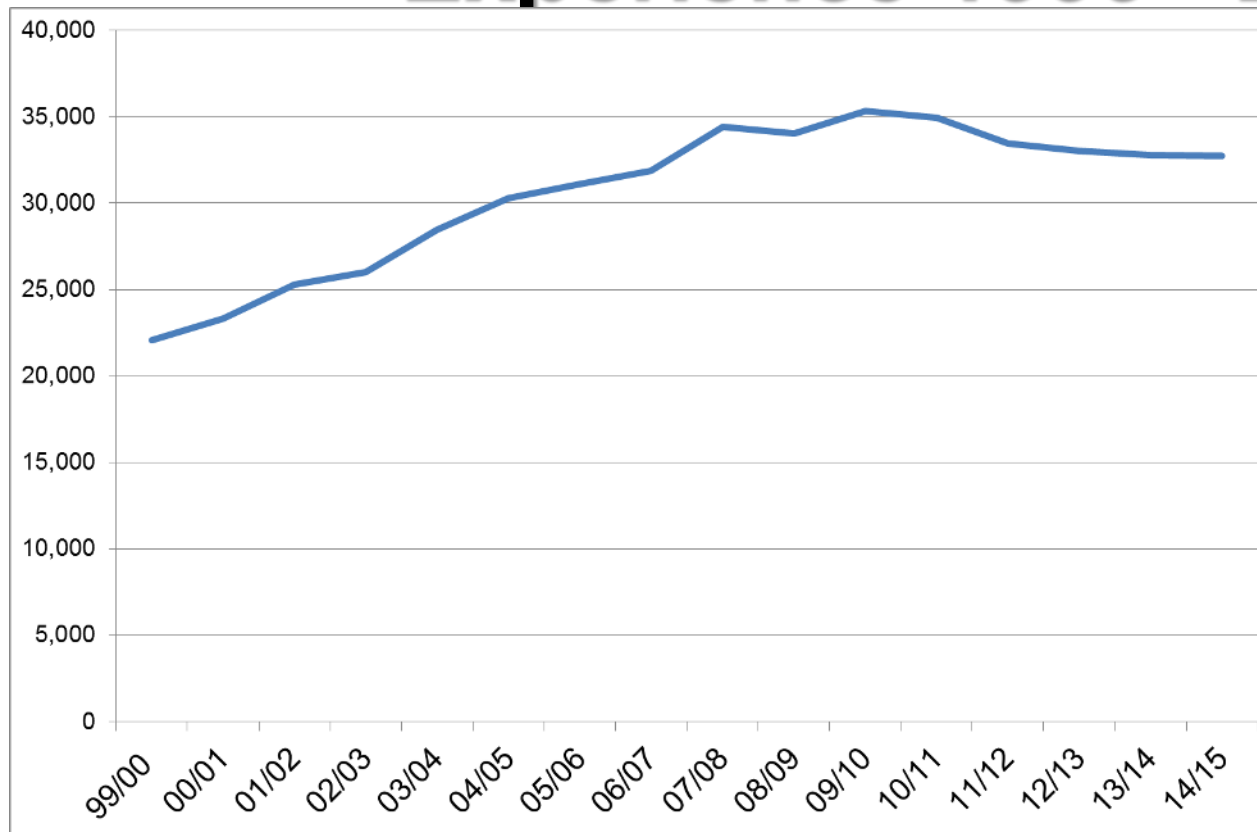
The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

First principles

- A new approach to financial scrutiny for a new Parliament (1999)
 - More parliamentary time and influence
 - Jargon free, and better presentation of data
- Proportional voting system – reducing the chance of majority rule



Experience 1999 - 2007

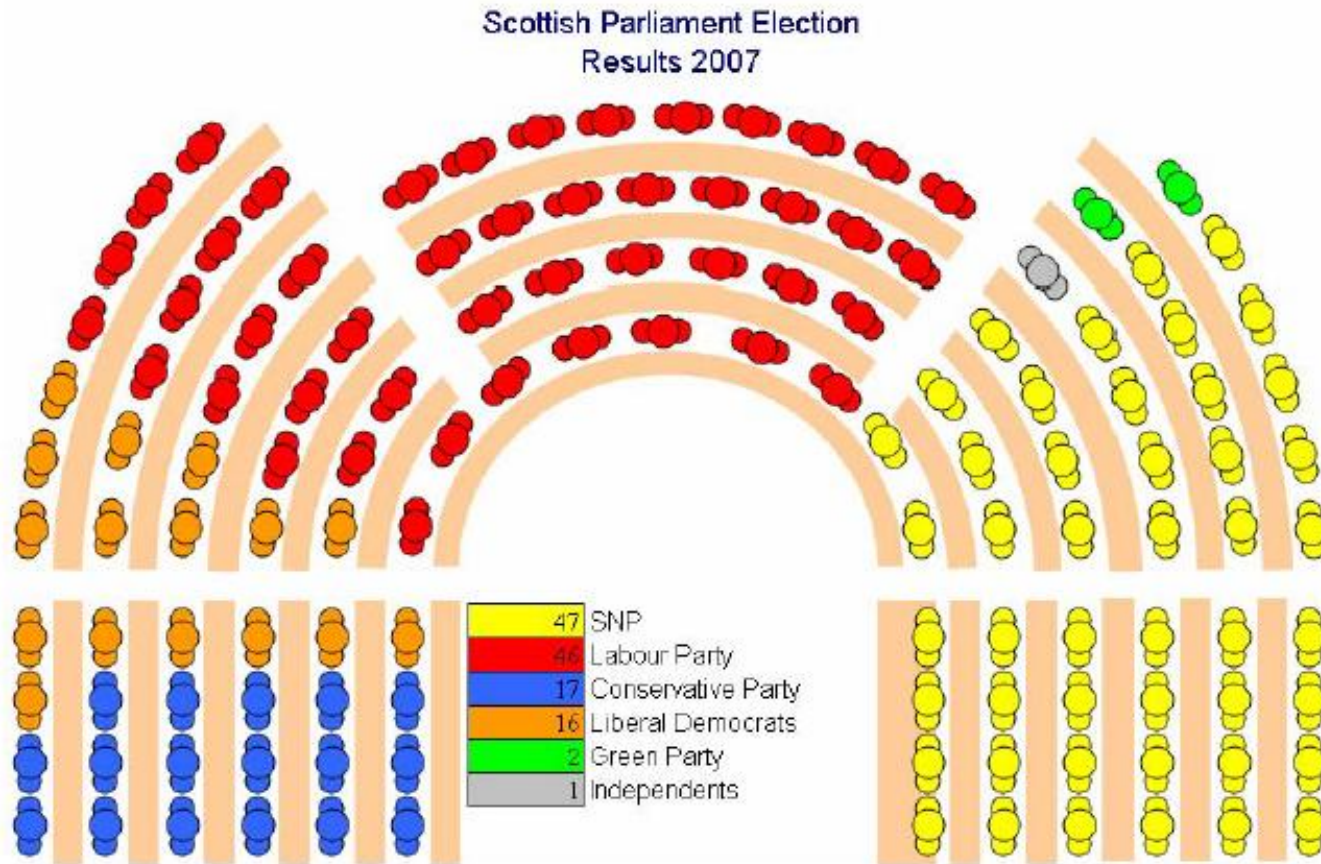


- Mostly about spending a rising budget
- Majority coalition



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

2007 - Minority Government



2007-2011: Minority Government

- Popular measures



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Exciting moment!



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Scottish budget rejected by MSPs



Scottish budget rejected by one vote

The Scottish Government's budget for the coming year has been rejected by parliament, despite ministers making last-minute concessions.

The SNP's £33bn plans fell on the casting vote of the presiding officer after being tied at 64 votes to 64.

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...happily resolved

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Scottish budget approved by MSPs

The Scottish budget has been passed at the second attempt, after opposition parties won concessions from ministers in return for their support.

Labour and the Lib Dems - who voted down the £33bn spending plans for the coming year a week ago - backed them this time, along with the Tories.

But the two Green MSPs, whose votes helped reject the spending plans last Wednesday, refused again to back them.



Finance Secretary John Swinney won enough support to pass the budget

[Read Brian Taylor's blog](#)

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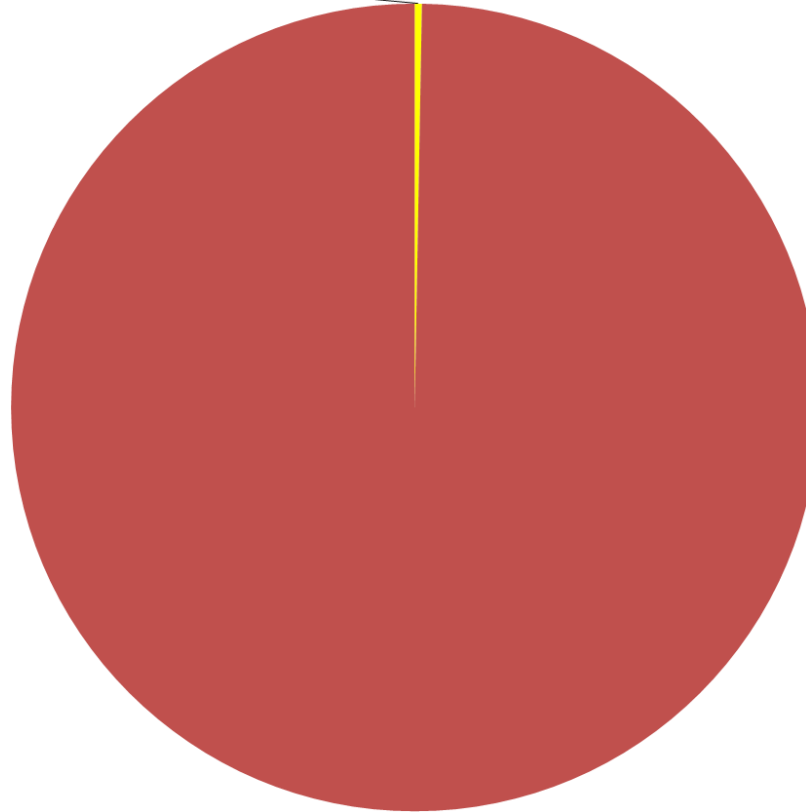
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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Negotiations

Budget Bill
stage 3
Amendments



Other impacts

- Committees
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The Information Centre

Financial Scrutiny Unit Briefing
The Forth Replacement Crossing
Analysis of Costs

18 February 2010
10/14


Scherie Nicol

The Forth Replacement Crossing project is expected to be the biggest single investment by the Scottish Government since devolution, with an outturn cost in 2016 estimated to be in the range £1.72 billion to £2.34 billion (median cost estimate - £2.044 billion).

This briefing takes a closer look at the two largest cost elements of the project, accounting for over 50% of the median cost estimate:

- Bridge £748 million
- Construction inflation £529 million

This briefing draws partly from work commissioned by the Financial Scrutiny Unit and undertaken by Biggar Economics.



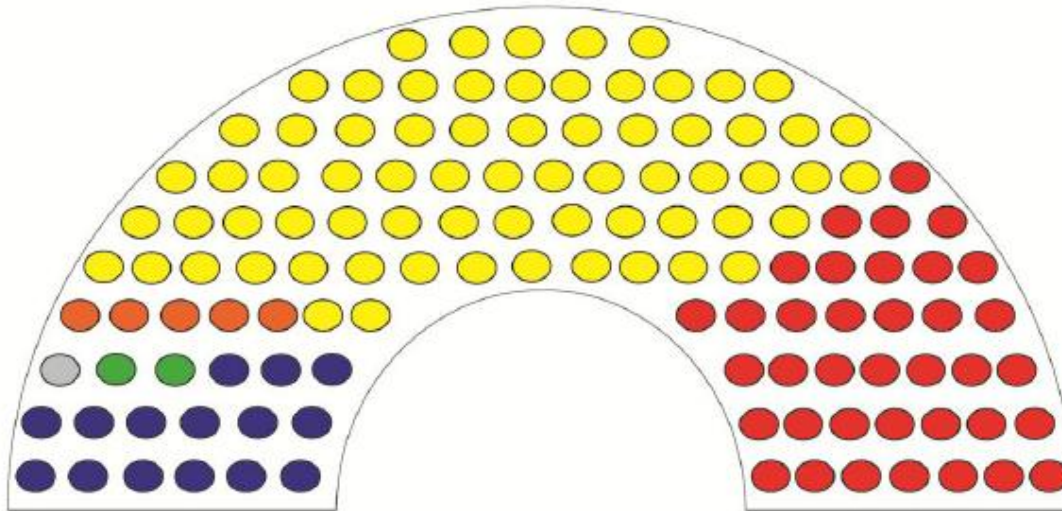
Source: Transport Scotland

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

2011- present

- **Majority SNP government**

Composition of the Scottish Parliament: Session 4



● Scottish National Party

● Conservatives

● Greens

● Labour Party

● Liberal Democrats

● Margo MacDonald

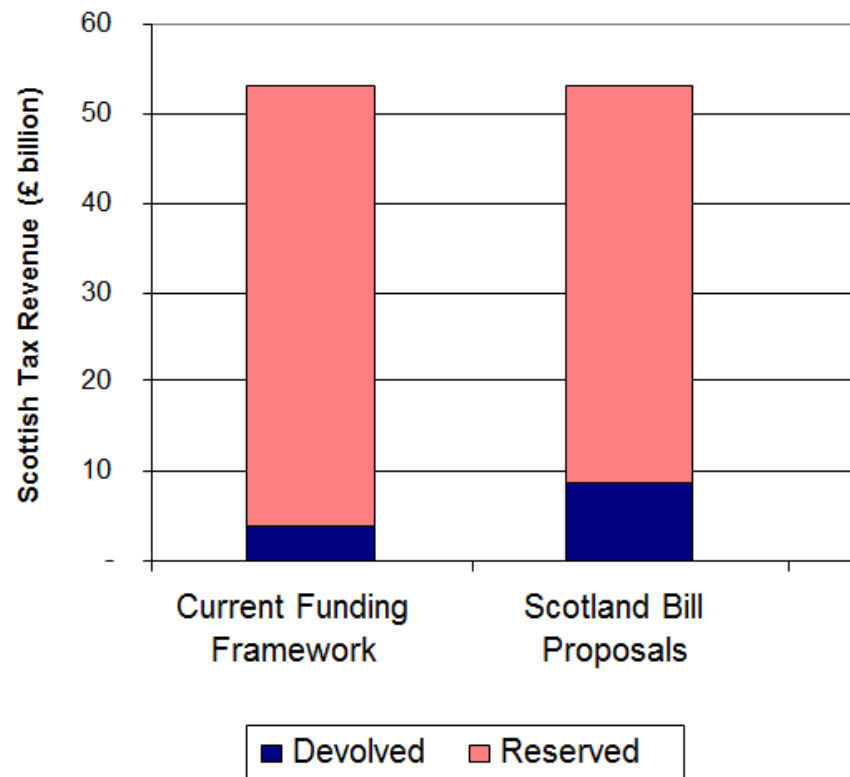


The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

What next?

- Scotland Act 2012 – new tax raising powers

Tax Revenues 2010/11



What next?

- Fiscal devolution?
 - Independence?
- (and full membership of OECD budget network)



ABAIR ACH
BEAGAN
IS AB AIR GU
MATH E.

Say but little
and
say it well

PROVERB



The Scottish Parlia
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