



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Who Does What



The Scottish Parliament



- Makes laws for Scotland on **devolved matters**
- Debates issues affecting Scotland
- Checks and challenges the work of the **Scottish Government**

Elections

Everyone in Scotland is represented by eight MSPs – one for their **constituency** and seven for the larger parliamentary **region** that includes their constituency. This is how they are elected.



Constituency

73



Regional

56

=

129

Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs)

- One vote for a named candidate
- Candidate with most votes wins (**first-past-the-post**)

- One vote for a party or independent candidate
- A formula (the **d'Hondt formula**) is used to calculate the winners.



All MSPs have the same status and you can contact any of the eight who represent you.

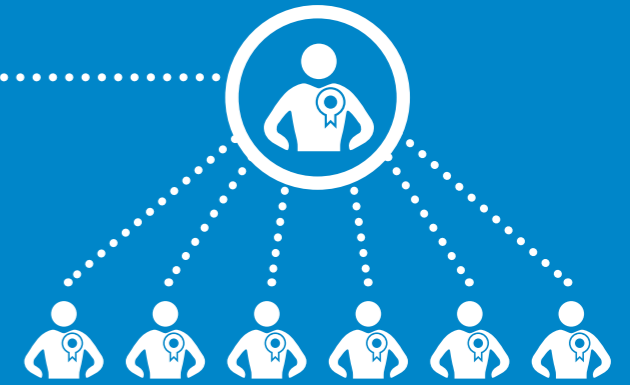
The Scottish Government

- Proposes and implements laws for Scotland on **devolved matters**
- Makes and implements policy on **devolved matters**
- Proposes the Scottish budget
- Is headed by the First Minister

How is the Scottish Government formed?

The 129 MSPs elect one MSP as First Minister (usually from the largest party represented in the Parliament).

The First Minister appoints certain MSPs as Scottish Ministers.



Scottish Ministers are supported by civil servants.

The Scottish Government is accountable to the Scottish Parliament for its actions.

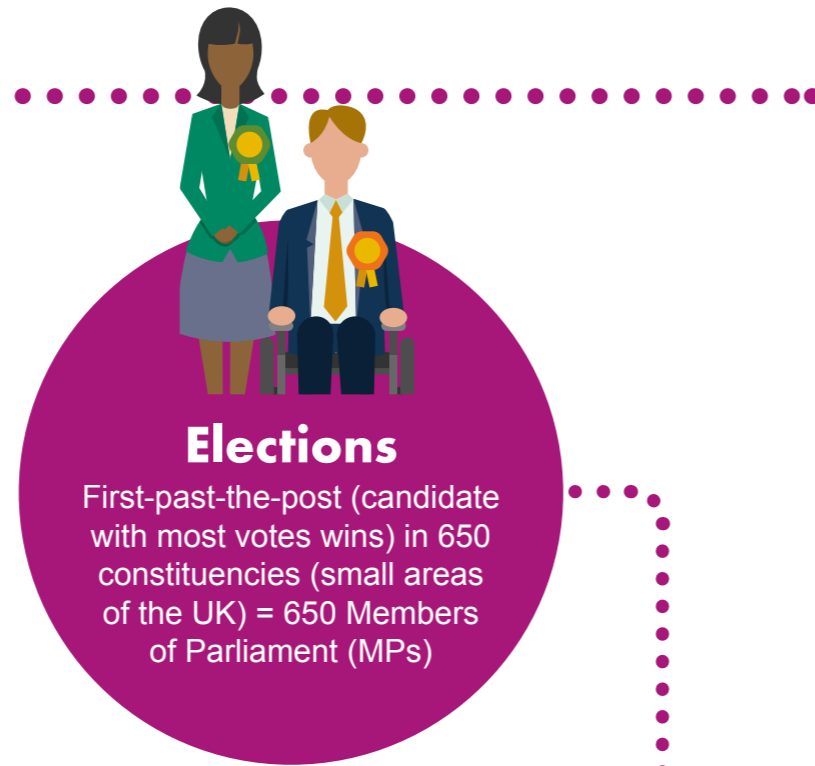
Scottish Government Ministers hold two separate positions: a Scottish Parliament role (MSP) and a Scottish Government role (Minister). They have a different office for each role.

The UK Parliament

- Makes laws for the UK, including for Scotland on **reserved matters**
- Debates issues affecting the UK
- Checks and challenges the work of the **UK Government**

The UK Government

- Proposes and implements UK laws, makes UK policy and proposes the UK budget. These laws and policies affect Scotland if they are on **reserved matters**
- Is headed by the Prime Minister



There are 59 MPs for Scotland. Everyone in Scotland is represented by one MP for their constituency.

The UK voted to leave the EU in a referendum on 23 June 2016. However, until the end of the negotiating period, the UK remains a member of the EU.



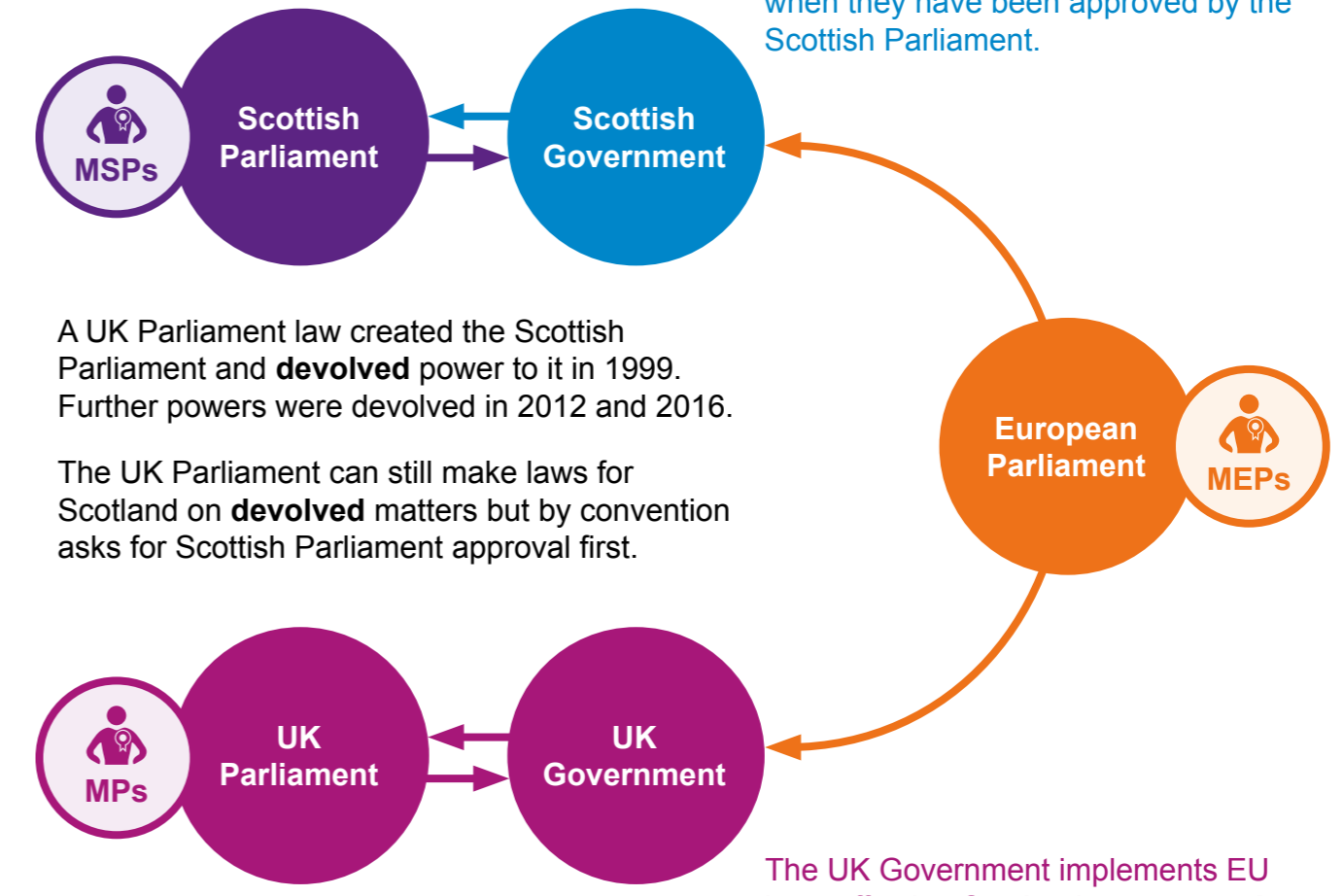
The European Parliament



- Has a role in making laws for the European Union (EU) and deciding the EU budget
- Debates issues affecting the EU
- Checks and challenges the work of other EU institutions

Includes 6 MEPs representing the whole of Scotland, elected using the d'Hondt formula.

European Commission
The EU doesn't have a government like the UK or Scottish Governments. The European Commission is made up of commissioners from each EU member state and represents the interests of the EU as a whole.



The Scottish Government implements EU laws affecting Scotland on **devolved matters**.
The Scottish Government proposes most laws for Scotland on **devolved matters** and puts them into practice when they have been approved by the Scottish Parliament.

A UK Parliament law created the Scottish Parliament and **devolved** power to it in 1999. Further powers were devolved in 2012 and 2016.

The UK Parliament can still make laws for Scotland on **devolved** matters but by convention asks for Scottish Parliament approval first.

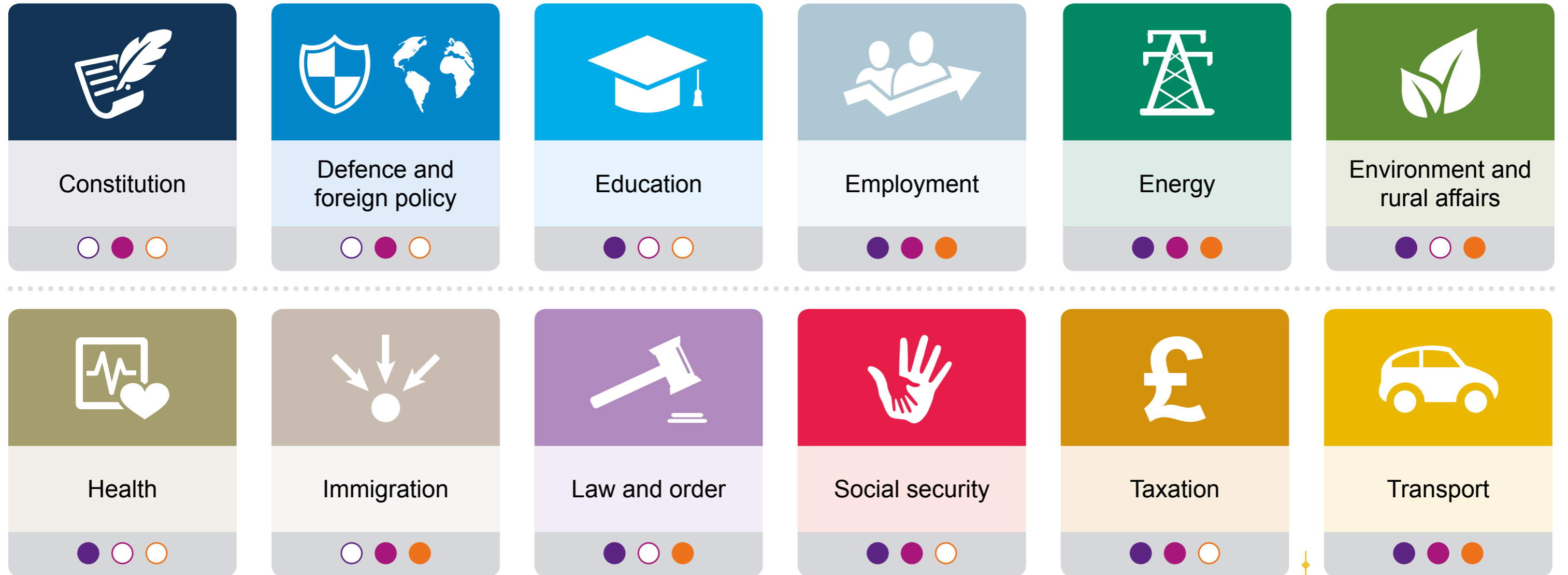
The UK Government implements EU laws affecting Scotland on **reserved matters**.
The UK Government proposes most laws for Scotland on **reserved matters** and puts them into practice when they have been approved by the UK Parliament.

MSPs, MPs and MEPs belong to completely separate organisations, though it is possible to hold more than one position at the same time.

Law-making powers for Scotland

Some subjects on which the Scottish Parliament, UK Parliament and European Parliament generally make laws affecting Scotland:

● Scottish Parliament
● UK Parliament
● European Parliament



Contact details

Scottish Parliament

See back page

Scottish Government

0300 244 4000
gov.scot

UK Parliament

0800 112 4272
parliament.uk

UK Government

gov.uk

European Parliament

(office in Scotland)
0131 557 7866
europarl.org.uk



Public Information

For more information on the Scottish Parliament and its powers, please contact us.



parliament.scot/live-chat



0800 092 7500 or 0131 348 5000
0131 348 5395 (Gàidhlig)

Text Relay calls welcome or in British Sign Language through [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](https://www.contactscotland-bsl.com)



info@parliament.scot



The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP



parliament.scot/contact



If you require information in another format or language, please contact us.

To find out more about how we handle your information, see www.parliament.scot/dataprotection