

Remote Control after Brexit? The Precedent of Switzerland, and the Prospects for Scottish Public Spending and Public Services



Thursday 1 February 2018

Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PQ

The UK Government has rejected the notion that Brexit is consistent with the United Kingdom remaining part of the EU single market and customs union. That rules out the Norway option. Switzerland has bespoke arrangements that were initially established in the expectation that Switzerland would eventually join the EU; something now off the agenda following a referendum on immigration in 2014 in which freedom of movement was a prominent issue.

Switzerland is a relatively low tax and highly fiscally decentralised country, the first aspect appealing to hard Brexiteers wishing to make a break from the EU social model.

The seminar will address the complexities and compromises involved in Switzerland's relationships with the EU, drawing upon the experiences of an authoritative Swiss academic with extensive experience as an international public servant. Implications for UK and Scottish public spending and public services will be discussed by two members of the Glasgow University project team.

The event is aimed at academics from a variety of disciplines, officials from governments, public services leaders and representatives of civil society. It is intended to enhance understanding of the policy choices and decisions that Brexit creates. The event will include ample time for questions and discussion and will be conducted under the Chatham House Rule to encourage frank discussion.

Brexit and Switzerland will be the sixth in a series of ESRC-funded seminars that focus particularly on the impacts leaving the EU will have (i) for devolved government and public policy in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the regions of England and (ii) for Ireland.

Date: Thursday 1 February 2018

Time: 17:00 - 18:45 (coffee/tea will be available from 16:30)

Venue: Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PQ

Remote Control after Brexit? The Precedent of Switzerland, and the Prospects for Scottish Public Spending and Public Services

Chair: Christine O'Neill, Chairman, Brodies LLP

Speakers:

Andreas Bergmann (Professor of Public Finance, Zurich University of Applied Sciences)
'Switzerland's Relationship with the European Union'

David Heald (Professor of Public Sector Accounting, University of Glasgow) and Gordon Marnoch (Reader in Public Policy, Ulster University)
'Public Spending and Services in Scotland after Hard Brexit'

Attending

Attendance is free and tea/coffee will be available beforehand from 14:30.

Please register to attend in advance using Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/remote-control-after-brexit-the-precedent-of-switzerland-tickets-41312967197?aff=es2>

Seminar Series Website

Please consult the seminar series website for short videos on key topics, slides from presentations at earlier seminars and policy briefings:

www.impactbrexit.com

