Understanding the Scottish Parliament and Government

*What Holyrood means for you*

*Understanding the Scottish Parliament and Government* must take into account structures, people and processes – focusing on the how, who, and why of Scottish politics.

With the debate on Independence intensifying, it has never been more important to understand the Scottish Parliament and Government.

This *Understanding the Scottish Parliament and Government* course provides the comprehensive understanding of the system you need.

Develop your knowledge for the benefit of your organisation, to establish where responsibility lies, how this affects you and how you can best engage with the political process.

High-level and experienced MSPs will provide practical direct insight, under the Chatham House Rule, to complete your understanding of the UK’s most powerful devolved body.

- Fully understand the *devolved institutions* of the *Scottish Government* and the *Scottish Parliament*
- Identify where *authority* lies for particular issues – whether in *Westminster* or *Edinburgh*
- Understand the *inter-governmental relationship* between *Westminster* and *Holyrood*
- Establish your *strategy* for working with *Holyrood*
- Prepare your organisation for whatever *political* path Scotland takes
Sample Agenda

09:15 - 09:45
Registration

09:45 - 10:00
Chair’s Welcome & Introduction

10:00 - 10:45
Establishing Where Power Resides
- Understand the daily interaction between Westminster and Holyrood
- The current relationship between Westminster and Holyrood
- Where responsibility lies on particular issues
- What is in store for the future – whether Devolution or Independence

10:45 - 11:30
An MSP's Perspective
- The role of an MSP
- Private Office Staff
- Special Advisors

11:30 - 11:45
Coffee

11:45 - 12:30
Successfully Working with Government
- Develop your organisation’s governmental relations strategy

12:30 - 13:15
Working with Holyrood
- Knowing where opportunities for collaboration lie
- Developing a strategy to working with Holyrood
- Working with politicians, advisers and party officials

13:15 - 14:15
Lunch

14:15 - 15:00
Inner Workings of the Scottish Government
- Understand the inner workings of the Scottish Government
- How the political landscape has evolved to the present day
- The legal framework of the Scottish Government
- Government Units and Agencies

15:00 - 15:15
Coffee

15:15 - 16:00
The Referendum, Now and the Future
- The Referendum – What the future could hold
- Christie Commission and public service delivery
- Public Spending Cuts

16:00 - 16:15
Closing Remarks and End

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