Policy Impact of the Constitution Unit

The main policy changes which the Unit has helped to influence include the following. References in brackets are to the Unit publications which helped inform the change.

**Whitehall**


**Parliamentary reform**


- Directly informing the House of Lords Appointments Commission (*Analysis of Existing Data on the Breadth of Expertise and Experience in the House of Lords*, 2010) and Royal Commission on Reform of the House of Lords (various reports, 1999)


**Freedom of Information**


**Devolution**

- Producing the first book on Scottish independence, which pointed out that an independent Scotland would not automatically be a member of the EU (*Scottish Independence: A Practical Guide*, 2002)


**Elections, parties and referendums**


- Changing the law on candidate selection and sex discrimination to enable an increase in women’s representation (*Women’s Representation in UK Politics:*)
What can be done within the Law? 2000, and The Women’s Representation Bill: Making It Happen, 2001)


The courts and the legal system


Human Rights Act

- Setting out different models for a parliamentary bill of rights without strike down powers for the courts (Human Rights Legislation, 1996)

- Setting out possible models for a parliamentary human rights committee (A Human Rights Committee for Westminster, 1999)