

Acknowledgements

The report started life as a ‘position paper’ for the Local and Central Government Relations Research Committee. Its purpose was to review the degree to which local government had changed in the last 15 years, and since 1987 in particular. The intention was that it would be mainly based on secondary sources.

The information for Chapters 1 and 2 was mainly gathered from the large literature on the subject, much of which is referred to in the footnotes. Other sources were used for the subsequent chapters: legislation, circulars, consultation documents, professional journals and the press.

My understanding of central and local government was greatly enhanced by interviews with civil servants and officers from the local authority associations. I particularly benefited from interviews at the Scottish Office and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

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