

## APPENDIX 4

*The Structure of the Scottish Office*

The Secretary of State is directly responsible to Parliament for all the departments making up the Scottish Office. The Scottish Office consists of five departments and a number of "central service" units concerned with such matters as finance, legal services, information and personnel services. The five departments are of equal status and each is in the charge of a Secretary who is responsible to the Secretary of State for the work of his department. A Deputy Secretary (Central Services), who ranks equally with the Secretaries of the five departments, has special responsibilities for the co-ordination of work on devolution and the control of central finance functions, including responsibility for local authority finance.

The Permanent Under Secretary of State is the general adviser to the Secretary of State. Under his chairmanship the Heads of Departments and the Deputy Secretary (Central Services) constitute a Management Group to ensure the co-ordination of the work of the Secretary of State's Departments and to consider common problems across the whole field of Scottish Office responsibilities.

*Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland*

This department is responsible for the promotion of agriculture and the fishing industry. This includes, on the agricultural side, the provision of technical and financial help to farmers, the supervision of educational, advisory and research services, the administration of various schemes for the improvement of land, farm stock and crops, the development of crofting and the management of a large area of State-owned agricultural property. As regards fisheries, duties extend from international relations (including negotiation within the European Community and co-operation in international organisations concerned with the conservation of fish stocks) to domestic matters, such as financial support for the fishing industry, assistance for fishery harbours, scientific research into fisheries' problems and the protection of Scottish fisheries by the department's fleet of fishery cruisers.

*Scottish Education Department*

This department, operating through local education authorities and other bodies, supervises the provision of primary, secondary and further education including school accommodation, the supply of teachers and the development of curricula. It exercises certain responsibilities for Scottish universities, although these, like other universities in Britain, are primarily the concern of the Department of Education and Science: and its functions also cover youth and community services, adult education, sport, physical recreation and the arts. It works closely with the National Museums and Galleries and the National Library of Scotland. The Social Work Services Group, which forms part of the Scottish Education Department gives advice to local authority social work departments in their statutory duty of providing a range of social and welfare services, provides liaison with voluntary social work organisations and implements the programme of grant aid to local authorities for the provision of special facilities in deprived urban areas.

*Scottish Home and Health Department*

This department has two main responsibilities. On the home side it is involved in the administration of the police, fire and prison services: it is concerned with criminal justice, the Licensing Acts and legislation relating to public entertainment: and it is responsible for the law relating to the conduct of parliamentary and local elections and the registration of electors and for a wide range of ceremonial and formal business. On the health side it is responsible for the administration of the National Health Service in Scotland and has a general concern with all matters affecting public health in Scotland. The department also exercises on behalf of the Secretary of State, functions deriving from the latter's joint responsibility with the Lord Advocate for law reform and for legal aid.

*Scottish Development Department*

This is the central department responsible for general policy relating to local government administration and for town and country planning, housing, roads, water and other environmental services. It is concerned, among other things, with urban development and conservation, with all aspects of building standard regulations and with the oversight of arrangements for public water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, the prevention of air and river pollution and coast and flood protection.

*Scottish Economic Planning Department*

This department has taken over what was formerly the Regional Development Division of the Scottish Office, dealing with the formulation of plans for economic development in Scotland and co-ordinating their implementation. It also includes some other closely allied divisions formerly in the Development Department, such as those responsible for relations with the Highlands and Islands Development Board, the Scottish Tourist Board, the Scottish Electricity Board, the Scottish Transport Group (which controls all publicly owned road passenger and shipping operations in Scotland) and the New Town Development Corporations. It is designed to provide the necessary support within the Scottish Office for the Minister of State, who in May, 1973, was given co-ordinating responsibilities in relation to oil development in Scotland: and it is also concerned with the Scottish aspects of regional policies, including those relating to the European Community.