

Technical Annex 7: Devolved administrations

1. Devolution

Table 7.1 shows those areas of policy relevant to climate change mitigation which are in the powers of the devolved administrations. The table also includes details of future devolution plans in Scotland and Wales.

Table 7.1: Areas of policy relevant to climate change mitigation – powers of the devolved administrations and future devolution plans in Scotland and Wales.			
Key: • Devolved/transferred x Non-devolved areas, with potential for carbon reduction opportunities			
Policy field	Country/Province		
	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development	•	•	•
Funding for the exercise by the Forestry Commissioners of their functions	•	•	•
Animal welfare	•	•	•
Rural development	•	•	•
Administration of the EU support to farmers	•	•	•
Agri-environment schemes	•	•	•
Setting food standards	•	x	x
Regional activities of Food Standard Agency	•	•	•
Economic and fiscal			
Fiscal, economic and monetary policy, including the issue and circulation of money, taxes and excise duties, government borrowing and lending, control over United Kingdom public expenditure, the exchange rate and the Bank of England	x • ^a	x	x
Financial services	x	x	x
Financial markets, including listing and public offers of securities and investments, transfer of securities and insider dealing	x	x	x
Economic development	•	•	•
- Administration of EU structural funds	•	•	•
- Regeneration	•	•	•
- Supporting low carbon innovation, through support for research and demonstration of new and emerging energy technologies	•	•	•
Energy			
Generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity	x	x	x
- Security of energy supply	x	x	•
- Renewables Obligation (regional)	•	x	•
Support to essential energy infrastructure	•	•	•
Oil and gas, including the ownership of, exploration for and exploitation of deposits of oil and natural gas, offshore installations and pipelines	x	x	x
Coal, including its ownership and exploitation, deep and opencast coal mining and coal mining subsidence	x	x	x
Nuclear energy and nuclear installations, including nuclear safety, security and safeguards, and liability for nuclear occurrences	x	x	x
Energy end-use			
- Fuel poverty	•	•	•
- Domestic energy efficiency support	•	•	•
- Public sector energy efficiency	•	•	•
- Promoting business energy efficiency	•	•	•
Trade and industry ^b	•	•	•
Regulation of anti-competitive practices and agreements; abuse of dominant position monopolies and mergers	x	x	x
Intellectual property	x	x	x

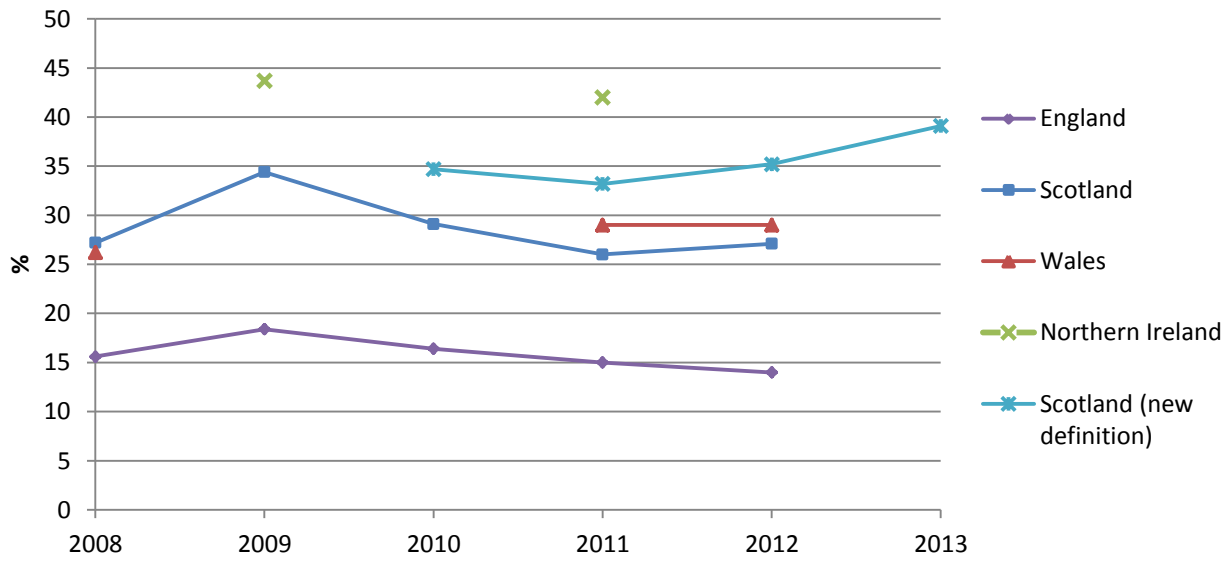
Import and export control	X	X	X
Consumer protection	X	X	•
Product standards, safety and liability	X	X	X
Telecommunications and wireless telegraphy, including internet services	X	X	X
Designation of assisted areas	X	X	X
Protection of trading and economic interests	X	X	X
Post Office, posts and postal services	X	X	X
Inward investment	•	•	•
Promotion of trade, exports and tourism	•	•	•
Business advice and support	•	•	•
Provision of business sites and facilities	•	•	•
Research Councils	X	X	X
Training and skills	•	•	•
Transport			
Road transport	X	X	X
- Highways and trunk roads (construction and maintenance)	•	•	•
- Bus policy	•	•	•
- Bus service provision (via local authorities)	•	•	•
- Freight transport strategy	•	•	•
- Freight transport grants	•	•	•
Rail transport, provision and regulation of railway services	•	X	•
- Funding of rail services provided under franchise agreements;	•	•	•
- Improvement or development of railway services	•	X	•
- Financing of core rail infrastructure	•	X	•
- Financing of additional rail enhancements	•	•	•
- Rail safety	X	X	•
Marine transport, including navigational rights and freedoms	X	X	X
Regulation and safety of shipping	X	X	X
- Financial assistance in respect of shipping services carrying passengers between certain destinations and the region	•	•	•
Air transport	X	X	X
- Regulation of air transport	X	X	X
- Funding of route development	•	•	•
Cycling routes	•	•	•
Transport of radioactive material	X	X	X
Health			
Administration and funding of NHS	•	•	•
Environment	•	•	•
Climate change policy	•	•	•
Waste policy	•	•	•
Water policy	•	•	•
Air quality	•	•	•
Pollution control	•	•	•
Marine pollution			
- To 12 nautical mile limit	•	•	•
- To 200 nautical mile limit	X	X	X
Pesticide control	•	•	•
Flood prevention and coastal protection	•	•	•
Marine, terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity	•	•	•
Countryside / nature conservation	•	•	•
Miscellaneous			
Sustainable development	•	•	•
Equal opportunities	X	X	X
Local government and housing			
Building standards	•	•	•
Appeals regarding building regulations	•	•	•
Building rating policies	•	•	•
Funding and management of local government	•	•	•

Council tax oversight and capping	•	•	•
Housing benefit	X	X	•
Housing policy	•	•	•
Allocation of housing resources	•	•	•
Oversight / regulation of social landlord / local authority letting	•	•	•
Renovation of low-grade housing	•	•	•
Housing provision to special groups	•	•	•
Planning / consents			
Planning policy	•	•	•
Local planning authority guidance	•	•	•
Planning disputes and appeals	•	•	•
Nationally significant infrastructure	•	X	•
Land use planning system	•	•	•
Planning applications from major electricity generators up to 50MW	•	•	•
Planning applications from major electricity generators over 50MW (including offshore up to 12 nautical mile limit)	•	X	•
Offshore wind and water energy developments over 1MW	•	X	•
Future devolution plans:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland -The Smith Commission published recommendations in November 2014. A Scotland Bill was announced in the 2015 Queen’s speech. Key elements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Powers to set income tax rates and bands. – A proportion of the VAT raised in Scotland. – Increased borrowing powers. – Control over a number of benefits including winter fuel payments. – Control over air passenger duty charged on passengers flying from Scottish airports. – Responsibility for the management of the Crown Estate’s economic assets in Scotland, including the crown Estate’s seabed and mineral and fishing rights. – Licensing of onshore oil and gas extraction underlying Scotland. – Power to allow public sector operators to bid for rail franchises funded and specified by Scottish Ministers. – Powers to control speed limits on trunk roads. • Wales – The Wales Act (2014) was passed in December 2014 and aims to implement some of the recommendations of the Silk Commission. Powers include the flexibility over income tax rates; however income tax powers will be subject to a referendum. Further powers over landfill taxes, stamp duty and aggregates levy will pass to the Welsh Government in 2018 when the Wales Act becomes law. By 2020/21 it is expected that further powers discussed in the Silk report would be devolved to the National Assembly for Wales. These include powers over large scale energy consents (raising the limit to 350MW from 50MW), policing, and road safety and public transport – including powers over speed and drink driving limits. 			
Source: Scottish Government, Welsh Government, Northern Ireland Executive (2014)			
Note:			
^a Can vary the basic rate of income tax by 3p in the £.			
^b Some aspects of company regulation are devolved to Northern Ireland			

2. Fuel poverty

Figure 7.1 shows the changes in percentage of households living in fuel poverty in the UK nations.

Figure 7.1: Changes in % of households in fuel poverty in UK nations



Source: DECC (2014), Scottish Government (2014)

Note: England uses the Low Income High Cost definition for fuel poverty whereas the devolved administrations use the 10% definition. Up to 2012 we can compare values using the 10% definition. Scotland has updated its methodology for estimating fuel poverty numbers, enabling more accurate representation of the official definition of fuel poverty in setting the required heating regime for vulnerable households.