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**Energy Policy and Constitutional Change**

**University of Strathclyde**

**Friday 18 January, 1.30 pm - 5.30 pm**

**Main Lecture Theatre, Collins Building**

Scotland's rich energy resources – oil and gas, and now renewables – have played an important role in the economic and political case for greater autonomy. The Scottish Government and Parliament currently have only limited legal powers in relation to energy policy, but will gain full domestic legal competence in the event of independence. Even if independence is rejected, energy is likely to be a prime candidate for further devolution if, as promised, the terms of the current devolution settlement are revised.

Greater autonomy brings with it the prospect of greater policy differentiation – and indeed the Scottish Government already pursues distinctive energy policy goals. However, how meaningful is autonomy in a world of inter-connected energy markets, and in which domestic energy policy is increasingly constrained by supranational obligations?

This half-day seminar explores these issues, examining the significance of energy policy in the constitutional debate, and the potential impact of constitutional change in different energy sectors, drawing upon experience of negotiating energy autonomy and interdependence in other small, European nations.

**Programme**

1.00 pm: *Registration and coffee*

1.30 – 1.35 pm: *Welcome*

1.35 – 2.20 pm: *Session 1: Energy Policy and Scotland’s Constitutional Future – Setting the Scene*

Chair: Professor Mark Poustie, University of Strathclyde

Speaker: John Paterson, Professor of Law, University of Aberdeen: “Energy Policy and Scotland’s Constitutional Future – Setting the Scene”

2.20 – 3.40 pm: *Session 2 – Constitutional Change and Sectoral Policy*

Chair: Professor Tom Mullen, University of Glasgow

Speakers:

Greg Gordon, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Aberdeen: "Offshore Oil and Gas Policy: Tax, Infrastructure and the Challenge of the Maturing Province"

Aileen McHarg, Professor of Public Law, University of Strathclyde: “Constitutional Change and the Electricity Industry: Legal Constraints and Opportunities”

3.40 – 3.55 pm: coffee

3.55 – 5.15 pm: *Session 3: Autonomy and Interdependence in Energy Policy: Comparative Experience*

Chair: Professor Paul Beaumont, University of Aberdeen

Speakers:

Anita Rønne, Associate Professor in Energy Law, University of Copenhagen: “The Danish Transition from 100% Oil Imports via 100% Indigenous Production Towards 100% Green Energy”

Paul Gorecki, Research Professor, Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland: “Creating a Single Electricity Market Across Borders: Pitfalls, Constraints, and Opportunities”

5.15 – 5.30 pm: *Summing Up*

Speaker: David Wilson, Scottish Government, Energy and Climate Change Directorate

5.30: *Reception*

*To register for this event, please contact* *claire.mcconnell@strath.ac.uk**.*