

# What is devolved?

The current Scottish and Welsh devolution settlements do not specify which matters are devolved to the respective legislatures, rather they specify those matters that are reserved to the UK Parliament. These legislatures have primary legislative powers over all other policy areas. The Northern Ireland Assembly can in principle also legislate in respect of 'reserved' category matters subject to various consents, but has not yet done so to any significant degree.



Civil Service

## Devolved

Known as 'transferred' powers in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Also devolved in Northern Ireland	Also devolved in Scotland	Also devolved in Wales
Health and social services	Justice and policing	Justice and policing	Welsh language
Education, training and skills	Charity law	Charity law	Some income tax
Local government	Energy	Drink-drive limit	Stamp duty
Housing	Employment law	Stamp duty	Landfill tax
Economic development	Social security, child support, pensions	Licensing of onshore oil and gas extraction	Road signs and speed limits
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	NI Civil Service	Some income tax (incl. ability to set rates and thresholds)	Equal Opportunities in relation to public bodies in Wales
Environment and planning	Equal opportunities	Management of Crown Estate assets in Scotland	Licensing of onshore oil and gas extraction
Transport	Time	Equal Opportunities in relation to public bodies in Scotland	Assembly and local government elections
Tourism, sport, culture and heritage	Long haul Air Passenger Duty	Tax on carriage of passengers by air (Air Passenger Duty due 2018)	
Fire and rescue services		Regulate air weapons	
Water and flood defence		Abortion	
		Landfill tax	
		Some social security elements	
		Consumer advocacy and advice	
		Scottish Parliament and local government elections	
		Policing of railways in Scotland	
		Road signs and speed limits	

# What is reserved?

This is a high level summary of which powers are devolved and reserved in each part of the UK. Remember that the devolution settlements are unique and can sometimes be complex. For example, elements of one policy area can be reserved while others are devolved or a policy area may be reserved, but aspects of how it is delivered are devolved.



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**Reserved**  
Known as 'excepted' powers in Northern Ireland

<b>Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales</b>	<b>Also reserved in Northern Ireland</b>	<b>Also reserved in Scotland</b>	<b>Also reserved in Wales</b>
The constitution	Nuclear energy	Employment law	Employment law
Foreign affairs	Firearms and explosives	Cross-border rail	Cross-border rail
Defence and national security		Energy	Energy
Nationality, immigration and asylum		Social security*	Social security
Macroeconomic and fiscal matters		Genetics, surrogacy, medicines, embryology	Abortion, genetics, surrogacy, medicines, embryology
Financial services and pensions regulation		Equal opportunities*	Equal opportunities*
International trade and financial markets		The Civil Service	The Civil Service
International development		Postal services	Postal services
Elections to UK and European Parliaments			Justice and policing
National Minimum Wage			Charity law
Competition			
Intellectual property			
Honours			
Regulation of air services and international shipping			
Broadcasting			
Telecommunications and wireless services		*except elements devolved by Scotland Act 2016	*except elements devolved by Wales Act 2017
Foreshore and seabed			