Dear Editor,

You say, “Restricting the referendum to a single question – an independent Scotland or not? – removes the possibility that independence might win by a wafer-thin majority while further devolution – which may actually be what most Scots want – was overwhelmingly endorsed.”  (The other One Nation debate, Tue 15th.)  But if the question is not asked, many will speculate that this is still what they actually want, regardless of the outcome of the referendum, wafer-thin or overwhelming.

The appropriate methodology would be a three-option preference vote on status quo, devo-max and independence; people could then vote for their first preference, and state their second preference at the same time.

The SNP used to be in favour of a multi-option vote, but that was before it got into power.  Sadly, today, neither the two governments nor even the Electoral Commission spare a thought for such pluralism, even though multi-option voting has been used in Finland, New Zealand and elsewhere.  Guam, for instance, had a six-/seven-option poll on their constitutional status, and no ambiguity at all in the result.

Yours