**PRESS RELEASE**

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***THE DE BORDA INSTITUTE***

**CALLS ON THE SNP**

**TO CHANGE SCOTLAND’S WESTMINSTER**

**ELECTORAL SYSTEM TO PR**

The de Borda Institute calls upon the SNP, which has long since supported PR, to campaign for part of the ‘devo-max’ package to include the right to change Scotland’s Westminster electoral system from first-past-the-post, (FPP), to PR-single transferable vote, (PR-STV). {This would not only be fairer; it would also reduce the total number of different systems currently in use in Scotland from four to three.\*}

Britain used to have two different electoral systems for Westminster: while most constituencies elected just the one MP in an FPP election, the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1918, allowed for a few university seats to be elected by PR.

And nowadays, the UK has two different electoral systems in the Euro elections: PR-STV in Northern Ireland, and PR-list in England, Scotland and Wales.

There is, therefore, no constitutional barrier to having two different systems for Westminster elections (not least because there is no written constitution).

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\* Euro-elections PR-list

 Westminster FPP (first-past-the-post)

Holyrood MMP (multi-member proportional, as in Germany)

Local PR-STV (PR – single transferable vote)