**PRESS RELEASE  -  IMMEDIATE**

**ASK THE WRONG QUESTION?**

**YOU MAY GET THE WRONG ANSWER!**

**2016 EU referendum.**  There are at least 3 options: a) in EU, b) in EFTA or c) independent. If there were 3, the answer would probably be a) or b); if there are to be only 2, the outcome will probably be c).

**2014 Scottish referendum.**  There were 3 options 'on the table': a) status quo, b) 'devo-max' and c) independence; but only 2 on the ballot paper, a) and c).  b) won... but nobody voted for it!

**2011 FPTP v AV referendum.**  There should have been about 5 options, as in New Zealand which had: a) FPTP, b) AV, c) AMS,\* d) MMP^ and e) PR-STV.  If there had been 5 options, the UK would probably now have something better than the Orwellian FPTP.

The majority vote is indeed a *blunt instrument*.  A plural society, and a pluralist democracy, should allow debates on contentious questions to have a plurality of options 'on the table'… *and* (a short list) on the ballot paper.

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\* AMS, additional member system, has one ballot but two counts, one FPTP and one PR-list;

 AV, the alternative vote, the same as STV;

 FPTP, first-past-the-post, but there is no fixed post;

^ MMP, multi-member proportional, has two ballots, one FPTP and one PR-list.  MMP is used in Germany and, now, New Zealand;

 PR-STV, PR-single transferable vote, as in Ireland, North and South.