

ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Let me now turn to the arrangements for the Scottish Parliament itself.

The Scottish Parliament will consist of 129 members, 73 directly elected on a constituency basis, plus 56 additional members (7 from each of the 8 European Parliament constituencies) allocated to ensure the overall result more directly reflects the share of votes cast for each party. Eligibility to vote will be based on residency.

PARLIAMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS

We expect the new Scottish Parliament to be as accessible and responsive as possible to the needs of the public. Detailed arrangements will be left to the Scottish Parliament itself.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

It is because of this focus on a Scottish Parliament which is as accessible as possible that the Government are looking at a range of options available in Edinburgh for where the Scottish Parliament building should be housed. The old Royal High School is a wonderful traditional building, but it may not be the best solution, particularly in terms of public accessibility. The Government are