**PRESS RELEASE**

**Immediate 14.6.2022**

**SCOTTISH REFERENDUM**

Let’s not repeat the mistakes of Brexit.

Brexit was binary; ‘yes’ or ‘no’, there was no compromise. It ‘allowed’ Johnson to then implement, not the will of the people, but the will of Boris.

The world’s first multi-option referendum was in New Zealand in 1894, on licensing laws – an obvious case for compromise. (And the world’s first multi-option vote was in China in 1197, in the Jin Dynasty; the question was war with Mongolia, and again, they found a compromise.)

“Let the people decide,” (to quote the SNP’s paper of May 1992, in favour of a multi-option poll).

Scotland, in or out of NATO? With the £ or €? With or without the monarchy? In an Anglo-Celtic federation?  Task an independent commission to draw up a ballot of, say, five options – as happened in New Zealand in 1992. Next, let the people decide, let the people cast their preferences. And then let the executive execute. (That’s its job.)

\* NZ used a two-round system: a five option referendum in ’92, followed by a ‘binary ratification’ in ’93. In that same year of ’92, the SNP argued for the alternative vote AV (like STV without PR). The more inclusive methodology would be a preferential vote, so to identify the nation’s consensus: the option with the highest *average* preference, for an average involves every vote, not just a majority of them; a modified Borda count MBC.

\*\* A demonstration of the MBC was conducted in the Council Chambers in Edinburgh in 1997; there were 10 options, and all were prepared to cast their preferences… except a certain George Galloway.

Peter Emerson,

Director, the de Borda Institute

36 Ballysillan Road

Belfast BT14 7QQ

07837717979

[www.deborda.org](http://www.deborda.org)

[pemerson@deborda.org](mailto:pemerson@deborda.org)