



January 9th 2010

Weekly Media Review - Week beginning 4 January

1) Renewing Democracy

- The publication of a report by Information Commissioner Christopher Graham sparked a row regarding an alleged cover-up of the deep divisions within the Labour leadership over a 1997 Cabinet debate on tax powers for a devolved Scottish Government.
 - [Straw accused over divisions on tax powers for Scotland](#)

2) Public Service Reform

- The Scottish Finance Minister John Swinney presented his proposals to extend the government's power to restructure or scrap quangos, or non-departmental public bodies, in an effort to raise efficiency and reduce unnecessary government spending. The initiative is part of the Public Services Reform Bill and was initially strongly opposed by both Labour and Liberal Democrat MSPs.
 - [Scottish Parliament: Debate on Public Services Reform Bill in Parliament January 7th](#)
 - [MSPs fail in attempt to deny ministers 'bonfire of the quangos' powers](#)

3) Energy&Environment

- The World Wild Fund Scotland, a Green pressure group, has called on the Scottish government to provide free loft insulation for every home in Scotland. Their policy proposals aims at reducing the amount of energy spent on heating as well as cutting emissions from private households.
 - [Greens step up calls for every home to have free insulation](#)
 - [Green group wants all homes to be 'eco-refurbished'](#)
 - [Support calls for green schemes](#)
- The Scottish Government approved a controversial new power line between Beaully and Denny. Supporters of the project emphasised its necessity in distributing energy from renewable sources such as wind and water produced in the north of the country, while critics claim the power lines' pylons would ruin the landscape.
 - [Scottish Parliament: Announcement of Beaully to Denny Power Line Decision in Parliament January 6th](#)
 - [Court fight looms after pylons go-ahead](#)
 - [Gillian Bowditch: Our future lies in the wind, not in hot air](#)
 - [Power line upgrade given go-ahead](#)
 - [Sparks fly as power line approved](#)

- The UK government, through its agency Crown Estates, gave a green light to the development of up to 1,000 offshore wind turbine off the coast of Scotland. The Scottish government has welcomed the move, which it sees as strengthening the potential for a 'green' industry in Scotland.
 - [Hundreds of wind turbines to be built in Firth of Forth](#)
 - [Crown Estate clears way for nearly 1,000 wind turbines](#)
 - [New offshore wind farm contracts announced](#)