



Great Britain

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OVERVIEW

The United Kingdom has historically played a leading role in developing parliamentary democracy and in advancing literature and science.

Capital: London

Type of Government: Parliamentary constitutional monarchy

1 of 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council and founding member of NATO + the Commonwealth. (Pursues a global approach to foreign policy).

GOVERNMENT

Constitution

The UK has an unwritten constitution that consists partly of statutes and partly common law and practices

Amendments:

- Amendments must be proposed as a bill for an Act of Parliament by the government, the House of Commons, or by the House of Lords
- to pass an amendment, it must be approved by both houses and by the monarch

Executive Branch

Chief of State: Queen Elizabeth II (since 2/6/52); Heir Apparent Prince Charles

Head of Government: Prime Minister Boris Johnson (Conservative) (since 7/24/19)

Cabinet: appointed by Prime Minister

Elections/appointments: the monarchy is hereditary; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or majority coalition usually becomes the prime minister; election last held on 8 June 2017 (next to be held by 5 May 2022)

note: in addition to serving as the UK head of state, the British sovereign is the constitutional monarch for 15 additional Commonwealth countries (these 16 states are each referred to as a Commonwealth realm)

Legislative

Bicameral Parliament: House of Lords and House of Commons

House of Commons

- Percent of vote by party

House of Lords

- No elections

- 92 hereditary peers

Judicial

Supreme Court

-judge candidates selected by an independent committee of several judicial commissions, followed by their recommendations to the prime minister, and appointed by the monarch

-justices serve for life

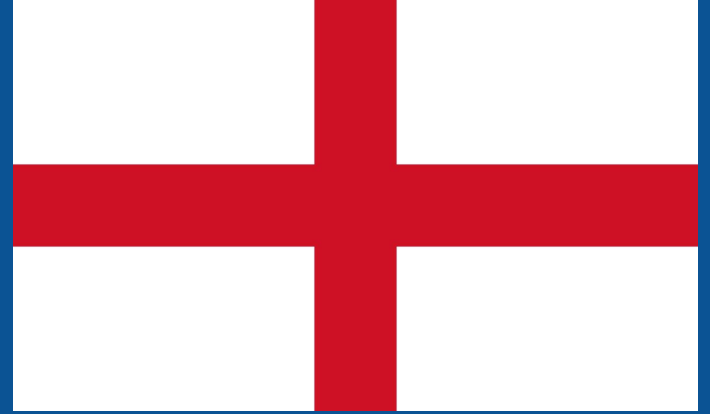
Administrative Divisions



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

England

84% of total UK population



27 two-tier counties, 32 London boroughs and 1 City of London or Greater London, 36 metropolitan districts, 56 unitary authorities (including 4 single-tier counties)

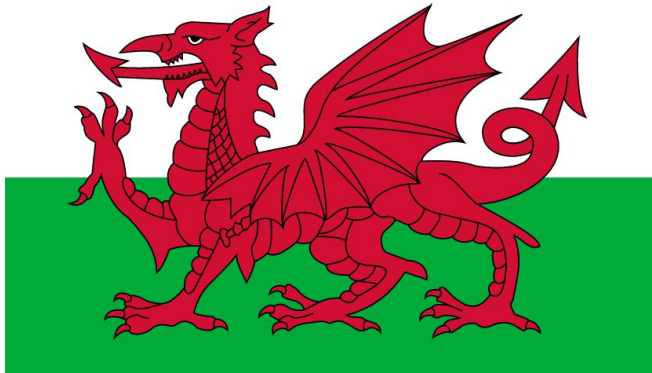
Takes up 53% of area of the UK

Wales and Scotland

Wales

22 Unitary authorities

5% of total population



Scotland

32 council areas

8% of total population



Northern Ireland

- **Parliamentary republic**
- **Executive branch includes**
Chief of state, head of Gov.,
and cabinet
- **Legislative branch includes**
Bicameral Parliament or
Oireachtas consists of 60
seats
- **Independence date: 6 Dec.**
1921

