

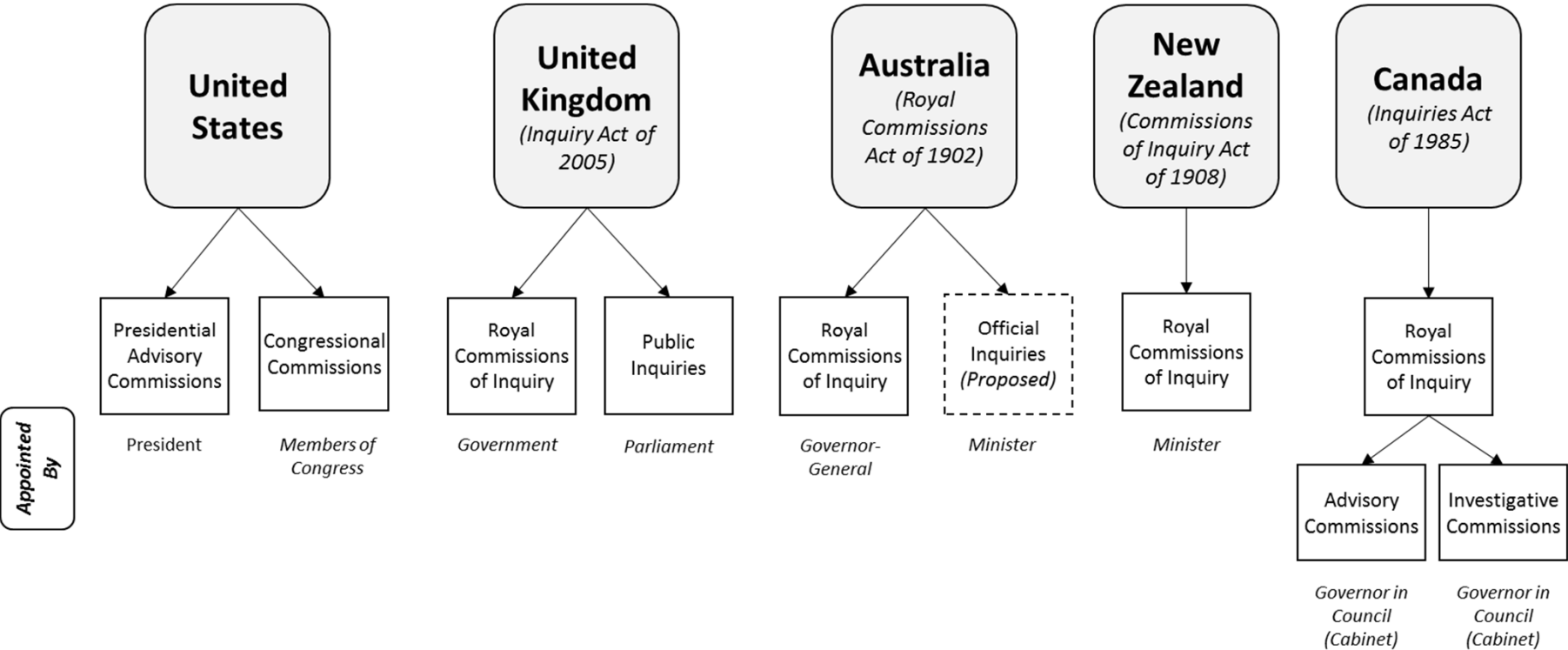
# Commissions of Inquiry and Crisis Events

Regulatory Disaster Scene Investigation

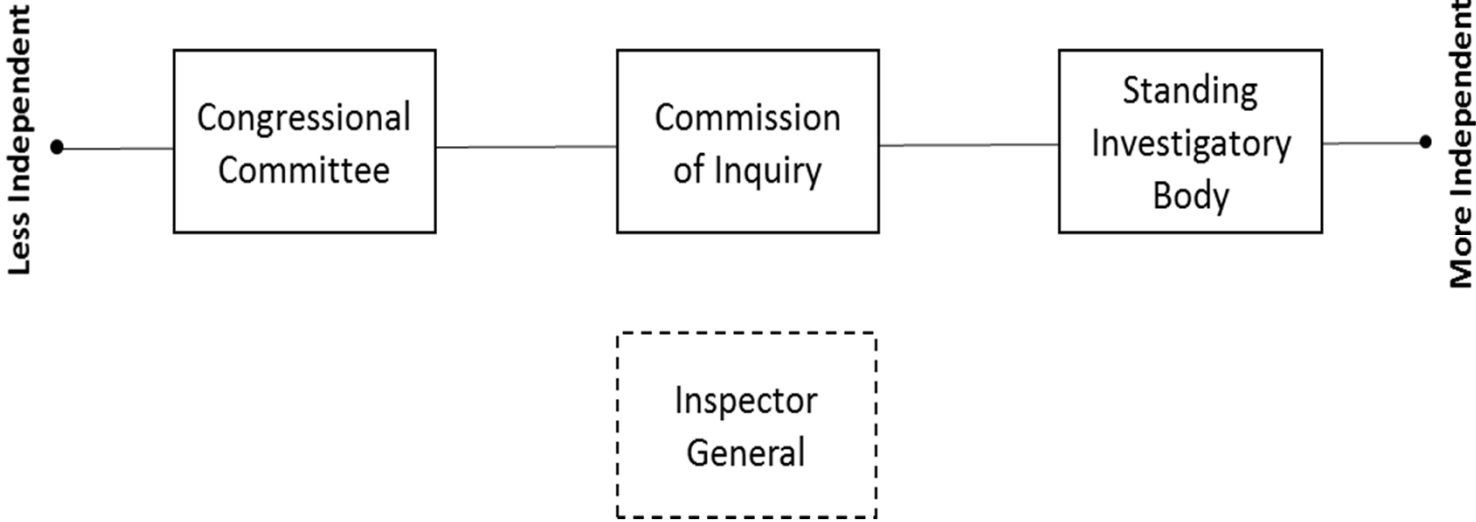
Bass Connections – Summer 2014

Emily Pechar

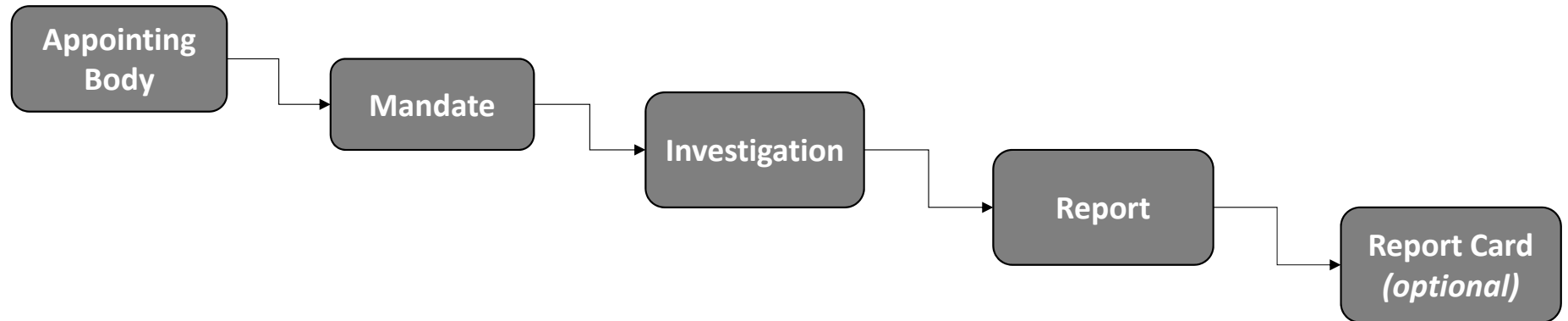
# Forms of National Commissions of Inquiry in Five Case Countries



# Independence Spectrum of Policy Investigative Bodies [United States]



## Commission of Inquiry Process



Commission	Country	Date	Duration	Appointment	Size	Subpoena	Unanimous
Warren Commission	US	November 29, 1963	10 months	Presidential	7 Commissioners; 12 staff	Yes	Yes
Kerner Commission	US	July 28, 1967	7 months	Presidential	11 Commissioners; 115 staff	Yes	Yes
Scranton Commission	US	June 13, 1970	3 months	Presidential	9 Commissioners; 172 staff	Yes	Yes
Kemeny Commission	US	April 1, 1979	5 months	Presidential	12 Commissioners; 16 staff	Yes	Yes
The Mahon Royal Commission	NZ	April 21, 1980	11 months	Government/ Prime Minister	1 Commissioner; 3 staff	Yes	Yes
Rogers Commission	US	February 6, 1986	3 months	Presidential	13 Commissioners	No	Yes
The Piper Alpha Cullen Inquiry	UK	January 19, 1988	1 year, 1 month	Government/ Prime Minister	1 Commissioner	Yes	Yes
Alaska Oil Commission	US	May 1, 1989	8 months	Gubernatorial	7 Commissioners; 11 staff	Yes	Yes

Commission	Country	Date	Duration	Appointment	Size	Subpoena	Unanimous
Seaview Commission	AUS	October 25, 1994	2 years	Government/ Prime Minister	1 Commissioner	Yes	Yes
Aspin-Brown Commission	US	March 1, 1995	1 year	Joint (Presidential/ Congressional)	17 Commissioners; 23 staff		Yes
Ladbroke Grove/ Southhall Rail Cullen Inquiry	UK	October 8, 1999	1 year, 2 months	Government/ Prime Minister	1 Commissioner; 24 staff	Yes	Yes
9/11 Commission	US	November 27, 2002	1 year, 8 months	Congressional	10 Commissioners; 80 staff	Yes	Yes
Major Commission	CA	June 21, 2006	4 years	Government/ Prime Minister	14 Commissioners; 35 staff	Yes	Yes
Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission	US	May 9, 2009	1 year, 9 months	Congressional	10 Commissioners; 87 staff	Yes	No
Deepwater Horizon Commission	US	May 21, 2010	7 months 22 days	Presidential	7 Commissioners; 80 staff	No	Yes
Royal Commission on the Pike River Coal Mine Tragedy	NZ	November 29, 2010	1 year, 11 months	Government/ Prime Minister	3 Commissioners; 4 staff	Yes	Yes

## Evaluating Policy Influence

- Executive branch appointment
- Reorganization over legislation
- Transparent investigation
- Policy entrepreneurs

## COIs and Crisis Events

### **Advantages**

- Sidestepping partisan politics
- Neutral experts
- Flexibility and thoroughness
- Small countries

### **Disadvantages**

- Blame avoidance tool
- Power of appointing org
- Lack standing relationships
- Expensive



## Best Practices for COIs

- Transparency in investigation
- Quick start-up
- Avoid political divisions
- Provide and protect autonomy