

Report of the Independent Commission on the Voting System: Volume 2

Submissions and correspondence from Members of Parliament

Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley MP

THE RT. HON. VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, M.P.

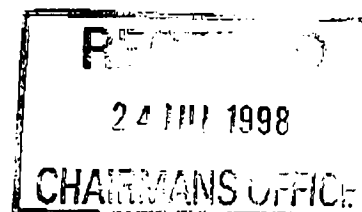


HOUSE OF COMMONS

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VB/ARS

22nd July, 1998

The Lord Alexander of Weedon, Q.C.,
Chairman,
NatWest Group,
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D. B.

I am grateful to you for writing so swiftly following your excellent address to the One Nation Dinner.

I am profoundly unhappy about the proposals for constitutional reform. It is significant that the House of Commons has a greater authority than other parliaments and, in general, the M.P.s are known for a greater independence of view than others. I am convinced this is an effect of the relationship between the Member and the constituency. M.P.s at Westminster are recognised for their personality as much as their Party. It encourages individual authority and independence rather than abject party subservience as the years go by.

Should you find time to join me on a constituency foray, I should greatly enjoy it.

With best wishes to you both,