

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

Submissions and correspondence from Members of Parliament

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Dear Roy

I was disappointed that parliamentary business prevented me from attending your meeting in the Grand Committee Room.

Over the years I have spent some time considering our voting system and looked with interest at the operation of alternative systems in other countries. Were there to be any change in the present electoral system for parliamentary constituencies I think it essential that we preserve the constituency link. The link is fundamental to the principle of British Parliamentary Democracy and the role of the MP, as an identifiable link between the electorate and Parliament, is the key to a healthy democratic relationship between voters and voted.

The ideal member is active in every aspect of his/her constituency, town and region and should play a leading, facilitating and networking role across the community he/she represents. Furthermore, the member should have a clear responsibility and duty to look forward to the future development and prosperity of their patch and take a vigorous lead in building partnerships which will address the problems and opportunities that constituents will face in the next 10-20 years.

Yours sincerely

Barry Sheerman