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Lymington
Hants
August 25, 09

Committee on Standards in Public Life
Houses of Parliament
London SW

Attn Sir Christopher Kelly

Dear Sir,

There is a widespread public perception that membership of the House has attracted a political class, members who know only political life and practice. They study politics at college, become political dogsbodies, and eventually find their way into Westminster, without ever having experience of normal employment and its attendant practices.

May I suggest that your committee consider restricting membership to only two Parliaments or 10 years consecutively. This would inhibit the development of a professional political class, yet would permit in a two-Parliaments term enough experience for potential ministerial candidates.

To illustrate: elected 2010, serves till 2014, re-elected 2014, retires 2019. Eligible to stand again, 2024. This would have the effect of refreshing Parliament, would free members from Whip tyranny in their second term, and would enable members to "spend more time with their families".

With best wishes for your committee and its work

Yours faithfully

A.W. Neill