

I respectfully submit the following points for consideration by the committee in view of the present turmoil in Parliament.

1. To consider a move to a system of Proportional Representation for all future elections in the UK. Tony Blair commissioned Roy Jenkins to look at all the options not long after he became Prime Minister. I presume that his findings could provide a basis for change. Some form of PR would provide more democratic solution than the existing system where only 25% of the electorate voted for the present elected government. The present arrangement does not reflect the majority of the electorate to any fair degree.
2. Voting by MPs in Parliament to be secret and so do away with the power of the whips. This would allow individual MPs to vote according to their conscience and /or reflect their constituents views. I understand that in most Western European Parliaments they have an electronic secret voting system.
3. Reduce the number of MPs. Compared with other Western European countries we seem to have too many on a per capita basis.
4. Give bodies such as yourself complete independence from political pressures and to ensure that recommendations from such bodies have to be accepted in full by Parliament.

The current fuss about the MPs expenses is only one aspect of the fundamental flaws of our parliamentary system

E Nicholson