



Craig Whittaker MP

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Abolition of the House of Lords

Thank you for contacting me about the House of Lords.

While I understand that there is concern that the Lords might be overreaching themselves in certain areas, I do believe the House of Lords plays an incredibly valuable role in our parliamentary democracy. The Government is committed to ensuring that the House of Lords continues to fulfil its constitutional role as a revising and scrutinising chamber which respects the primacy of the House of Commons.

For over a century, the Parliament Act has ensured that the House of Lords does not overturn legislation passed by the elected House of Commons.

I believe the House of Lords plays an important role as a revising chamber, made up as it is of peers with a wide variety of experience and expertise. Through the appointment of peers, our political system has benefited from the wisdom of a great many distinguished experts in their fields who have been able to scrutinise and improve legislation, to the nation's significant benefit.

While comprehensive reform of the House of Lords is not a priority in the current parliament, you may be interested to know that the Prime Minister is addressing immediate issues, such as the size and cost of the House of Lords. Thanks to her restrained approach to appointments, and Conservative reforms to allow the retirement of peers and expulsion of those whose conduct is poor, the House of Lords membership has decreased since July 2016, and retirement is becoming part of the culture of the House.

I believe this approach strikes the right balance between ensuring our parliamentary democracy is representative of the people's wishes and continues to be a system which welcomes the expertise and wisdom of people from all areas of public life, as well as being best value for the country.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker'.

Craig Whittaker MP