



Dr Simon Opher MP
Member of Parliament for Stroud
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 7116

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Sent via email

29 July 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: House of Lords Reform

We, the undersigned, are writing to urge you to establish a national commission to examine reform of the House of Lords.

This chamber represents more than half of the UK's legislature. Whilst we welcome the initial steps taken by the government to reform the upper chamber, we remain deeply concerned about the impact its current structure has on people's lives. This institution underpins the everyday realities of communities across the UK, and with trust in politics at an all-time low - it is crucial that we have a second chamber that is representative and accountable.

There is clear public demand for change. Polling from the UCL Constitution Unit and YouGov shows that the public overwhelmingly supports the government going further. 79% of the public support restricting the Prime Minister from appointing more new members of the House of Lords than those who leave, and 71% support limiting the size of the Lords so that it cannot exceed that of the Commons.

The Labour Party's 2024 manifesto declared that this government would be bold - "*Labour is committed to replacing the House of Lords with an alternative second chamber that is more representative of the regions and nations. Labour will consult on proposals, seeking the input of the British public on how politics can best serve them.*"

This is a clear commitment that the Government was elected on. Establishing a national commission of citizens and experts to examine proposals for reform would be a clear way in which this government could deliver on its pledge.

Given your remarks during the Makerfield by-election campaign, where you stated, "I don't think we can justify half of our national legislature being unelected," as well as your longstanding support for a Senate of the Regions and Nations, we are optimistic that you will seize this moment to work constructively across parties to carry out reform.

As you have committed to making regional representation a cornerstone of your Premiership, this is a significant opportunity to embed that principle into the UK's constitutional architecture.

Constituency Office:
5a Lansdown, Stroud, GL5 1BB
Tele: 01453 621304
Email address: simon.opher.mp@parliament.uk



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We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you and to work together towards a legislature that better serves people across every part of the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Simon Opher MP, Chair of the APPG for House of Lords Reform
Kit Malthouse MP, Co-Chair of the APPG for House of Lords Reform
Baroness Smith of Llanfaes, Vice-Chair of the APPG for House of Lords Reform
Dr Ellie Chowns MP, Vice-Chair of the APPG for House of Lords Reform
Dr Scott Arthur MP
Sean Woodcock MP
Luke Myer MP
Paul Davies MP
Bambos Charalambous MP
Kim Leadbeater MP
Sadik Al-Hassan MP
Mark Sowards MP
Chris Hinchcliff MP
Euan Stainbank MP
Andrew Ranger MP
Catherine West MP
Abtisam Mohamed MP
John Slinger MP
Neil Duncan-Jordan MP
Andrew George MP
Hannah Spencer MP
Lord Wigley
Paula Barker MP
Kim Johnson MP
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP
Nadia Whittome MP
Grahame Morris MP
Wera Hobhouse MP
Christine Jardine MP
Tom Gordon MP
John McDonnell MP
Sian Berry MP
Rebecca Long-Bailey MP
Zarah Sultana MP
Andy McDonald MP
Lorraine Beavers MP
Rachael Maskell MP
Lee Barron MP
Jon Trickett MP
Diane Abbott MP

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Chris Webb MP
Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP
James Naish MP
Imran Hussain MP
Clive Lewis MP
Ian Lavery MP
Brian Leishman MP
Ruth Cadbury MP
Liz Saville Roberts MP
Ben Lake MP
Ann Davies MP
Llinos Medi MP
Anna Sabine MP

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