

AM text plus ...

WJW comments

2/2 Create an upper legislative chamber, comprised of around 400 'working members' of the highest integrity and most insightful experience to scrutinise and improve legislation proposed by the primary chamber of elected MPs.

Yes. Except that I would not fix the total. How about "up to".

2/3 Remove the ability of sitting or resigning Prime Ministers to appoint individuals to the upper chamber. This would, at a stroke, achieve more than anything else towards the elimination of cronyism and corruption in British politics. Instead, design and implement an optimal system for appointing members to the upper chamber by a dedicated appointments commission accountable to the primary chamber.

Yes, no more appointments of mates, donors and elderly politicians.

And I hate other people's proposals for an elected chamber: more elections, more promises, an even lower turnout, and another tier of politicians.

I like the idea of an appointments commission, but in addition to rather than instead of my own proposal. I'll grant your commission 50 or so places for representatives of specific professional bodies and religious institutions, and perhaps up to 100 more for citizens of demonstrable merit and capability. The rest I'll have for my own form of democracy: details available on request.

Incidentally, do you know anything of the Economic and Social Committee?

Notes:

- Future members of the upper chamber must all be 'working members', just as MPs must be 'working members' of the primary chamber.

Debatable. I would be happy for them to turn up only when they know what they are talking about. And to have full-time jobs elsewhere.

- Existing Lords not appointed as 'working members' of the upper chamber should be allowed to use the title of 'Honorary Lord/Baroness' but would not be entitled to a daily attendance allowance (currently £342.00) or travel expenses.

Yes. Except I see no point in imposing "Honorary". That suggests that other Lords are somehow real Lords. Let them all carry the same badge, if they want it.