



## DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2019-0094, 18 April 2019

# Proportional representation

## Summary

A debate will be held on proportional representation for elections to the House of Commons in Westminster Hall on Tuesday 23 April 2019, 4.30-6.00pm.

The debate is sponsored by Angela Smith.

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Background

Elections to the House of Commons currently take place using the first past the post system (FPTP).

The same system is currently used in local elections in England and Wales, and in Scottish National Park authority elections.

Other electoral systems are used in elections in the UK. These are summarised in the Library briefing, [Background to Voting systems in the UK](#).

The table below, taken from that briefing, shows which voting system is applied to each type of election in the UK.

<b>Voting System</b>	<b>Where used</b>
First Past the Post	House of Commons
	Local elections in England and Wales
	Scottish National Park authorities
The Supplementary Vote	Mayor of London and all other elected Mayors in England and Wales where there are more than two candidates.
	Police and Crime Commissioners.
Single Transferable Vote (STV)	Northern Ireland Assembly
	European Parliament elections in Northern Ireland
	Local elections in Scotland
	Local elections in Northern Ireland
Additional Member System	Scottish Parliament
	National Assembly for Wales
	London Assembly
Closed Party List System	European Parliament elections in Great Britain.
Alternative Vote (AV)	Excepted hereditary peers in the House of Lords.
	Elected members of the Scottish Crofting Commission

Elections to the UK Parliament are a reserved matter and can only be altered by passing legislation in the UK Parliament.

## 2. First past the post

In 2017, the House of Commons [debated an e-petition](#) calling for the adoption of proportional representation that received over 100,000 votes.

The current Government's written response to that petition rejected adopting proportional representation:

First Past The Post (FPTP) is a robust method of electing MPs. A referendum on changing the voting system was held in 2011 and the public voted overwhelmingly in favour of keeping the FPTP system.

The Government's manifesto made a commitment to respect the will of the British people as expressed in the 2011 UK Parliamentary elections voting system referendum and keep the First Past the Post system for elections to the House of Commons. The Government, therefore, has no plans to change the voting system for elections to the House of Commons.

The Government is concerned that proportional voting systems would weaken the direct constituency link which is a key feature of our Parliamentary system, and under a proportional system the voting process is more complicated for the voter.

The Government's view is that the First Past the Post voting system is the best system for elections to the House of Commons. The system is well established and understood by voters and provides a clear link between constituents and their representatives in Parliament. More often than not, it results in a government with a working majority in Parliament making decisive government possible.

At the voting system referendum in May 2011, electors were asked whether the Alternative Vote system (AV) should be used instead of the First Past the Post system for electing members of the House of Commons. The referendum produced a clear result with over 13 million voters rejecting the option for change to move away from the First Past the Post system, compared to over 6 million voters who voted for change.

[Another e-petition](#) that calls for proportional representation for Westminster elections is currently open. It has over 50,000 signatures to date.

The last major review of voting systems by Government was conducted by the Labour Government in 2008.<sup>1</sup> It summarised the pros and cons of the existing FPTP system as follows:

Main advantages:

- It is a well-established system in the UK. It is easy to understand, and everyone knows how it works.
- Ballot papers are easy to complete – a cross by a single candidate. Counting, equally, is relatively easy – the candidate with the most

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<sup>1</sup> [Review of Voting Systems: the experience of new voting systems in the United Kingdom since 1997](#), Cm 7304, January 2008

votes wins the constituency election and represents the people of that constituency at Westminster.

- Members of Parliament represent constituents within a defined geographical area, which makes it possible to identify constituents and their representatives and to build links between them. It is possible for an MP to be reasonably independent of his or her party, if he or she retains the support of the local party.
- The winner-takes-all aspect of the system encourages the major parties to maintain a broad appeal, thus discouraging extremism. It is also difficult for extremist parties to establish a strong enough base to win seats at Westminster.
- The system allows the electorate to be decisive about who should be the party of government. Unpopular parties can be removed completely from power
- More often than not, governments have a working majority in Parliament, so that decisive government is possible. This enables the formation of a clear opposition in Parliament who can present themselves as an alternative to, and check on, the government of the day.

Main disadvantages:

- It can deliver highly disproportional outcomes at the national level. Governments can be elected without a majority of the popular vote and can even win a majority of seats without winning more votes than any other party.
- Many constituencies are 'safe' seats for particular parties, with little prospect of changes. Therefore, people who do not support the majority party have no prospect of making their vote 'count'. Similarly, even voters supporting the winning candidate may feel that their votes serve only to increase an already large majority.
- Campaigning, particularly by the national parties, is strongly focused on a few marginal constituencies (and even specific areas within these constituencies). This trend is accentuated as campaigning technology becomes ever more sophisticated.
- Movements of opinion can be heavily exaggerated, with large swings in seats from one major party to another. Landslide majorities may not reflect public opinion.
- Governing parties equipped with large majorities may not pay sufficient heed to opinion in Parliament or amongst the general public.
- Small parties tend to be excluded from parliament unless they have a strong base in a particular region. Those with an even spread of support across the country are particularly penalised. This reduces the diversity of views expressed in Parliament and alienates voters who do not wish to vote for the major parties.

- In areas where most constituents do not vote for their elected MP, it can be difficult for them to feel properly represented.

## 2.1 2017 manifesto commitments

The **Conservative Party** manifesto included a commitment to retain first past the post elections (FPTP) for the House Commons. It also contained a new commitment to extend FPTP to police and crime commissioner and mayoral elections.<sup>2</sup>

The **Labour Party** manifesto included a commitment to “establish a Constitutional Convention to examine and advise on reforming of the way Britain works at a fundamental level.”<sup>3</sup>

It did not explicitly mention voting system reform but stated:

The Convention would look at extending democracy locally, regionally and nationally, considering the option of a more federalised country.

The manifesto committed the Party to an elected House of Lords but without any detail of how this would be achieved.

The **Liberal Democrats** have long supported electoral reform. Their 2017 General Election manifesto pledged to introduce STV for local government elections in England and for elections to the House of Commons.<sup>4</sup> It also included a commitment to a reformed and democratic House of Lords but without explicitly mentioning a preferred electoral system.

The Scottish National Party also supports introducing STV for elections to the House of Commons.<sup>5</sup>

**UKIP** included a manifesto commitment to PR:

UKIP wants a fairer, more proportional voting system that makes seats match votes, and ends the inbuilt advantage the establishment parties have over smaller parties. A proportional electoral system that delivers a parliament representative of the number of votes cast, while retaining a constituency link, is one we strongly advocate.<sup>6</sup>

The **Green Party** supports proportional representation for Parliamentary and local elections.<sup>7</sup>

**Plaid Cymru’s** manifesto also supported a more proportional system of voting.<sup>8</sup>

Of the main political parties in Northern Ireland, only the **Alliance Party** manifesto contained a specific pledge to support proposals for a more proportional system for House of Commons elections. The party’s

<sup>2</sup> Forward, Together: Our Plan for a Stronger Britain and a Prosperous Future Conservative Party Manifesto 2017, p 43

<sup>3</sup> Labour Party, For the Many not the Few, The Labour party Manifesto 2017, p102

<sup>4</sup> Change Britain’s Future: Liberal Democrat Manifesto, p90

<sup>5</sup> Stronger for Scotland: 2017 Manifesto, p41

<sup>6</sup> Britain Together: UKIP 2017 Manifesto, p58

<sup>7</sup> The Green Party for a Confident and Caring Britain, p24

<sup>8</sup> Plaid Cymru, Defending Wales: Action Plan 2017, p15

preferred system is STV. The party also supported direct elections to the House of Lords.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Alliance Party, Change Direction: Westminster Manifesto 2017, p11

## 3. Statistics

### 3.1 What might the House of Commons have looked like under PR?

Predicting what the results of the 2017 General Election could have been under different voting systems, using the known number of votes and vote share, is not simple. The election was conducted under the FPTP system and the voting behaviour of the electorate may have been specific to that electoral system. If a different electoral system had been in place, people's voting behaviour and voting preferences may have differed.

The Electoral Reform Society, an organisation that campaigns in favour of proportional representation, produced a report following the 2017 election.<sup>10</sup> The report included projections of the result under different systems based on a post-election poll of 13,273 people to understand how they would have voted under the Alternative Vote, Additional Member System, and Single Transferrable Vote electoral systems.

To calculate the projected results for the Alternative Vote, the ERS calculated first, second, third (etc) preference share for a party in each constituency based on what the preference share was for that party in the region total.

For the Additional Member System and Single Transferrable Vote system the ERS needed to artificially create new multi-member constituencies and regional constituencies (by combining existing constituencies together). Once done, the ERS applied the voting methodology used for the Alternative Vote to the artificial constituencies.

The table below shows a summary of the ERS's estimates on how many seats each party may have received under the alternative voting systems, along with their difference to the actual 2017 General Election result.

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<sup>10</sup> ERS, *The 2017 General Election: Volatile Voting, Random Results report*. Similar exercises after previous elections are detailed in the [ERS general elections reports](#), available on the ERS website

PROJECTIONS OF THE 2017 GENERAL ELECTION WITH ALTERNATIVE ELECTORAL SYSTEMS							
	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GREEN	SNP	PC
<b>First past the post</b>	317	262	12	0	1	35	4
<b>Alternative vote</b>	304	286	11	0	1	27	2
Difference to FPTP	-13	+24	-1	0	0	-8	-2
<b>Additional member system</b>	274	274	39	11	8	21	4
Difference to FPTP	-43	+12	+27	+11	+7	-14	0
<b>Single transferrable vote</b>	282	297	29	1	1	18	3
Difference to FPTP	-35	+35	+17	+1	0	-17	-1

Source: Electoral Reform Society, The 2017 General Election: Volatile Voting, Random Results

## 3.2 Opinion polling

Pollsters have not routinely asked questions on what people think about changing the UK electoral system to one of proportional representation. Questions about proportional representation tend to be included in opinion polls at times when the results of an election are a subject of public debate, or when campaign groups specifically commission polls on the subject.

Because of the infrequency of opinion poll questions on proportional representation it is hard to measure trends in the level of support for and opposition to proportional representation over time. The tables below present the most recent polling data on attitudes to proportional representation: the 2017 British Election Study and two polls conducted since 2015 for which the full breakdown of results is publicly available.<sup>11,12</sup> The full question is shown along with the response categories offered. A link to the original source is provided beneath each table.

The polling company Ipsos-MORI has an archive of half a dozen opinion polls where respondents' views on proportional representation were asked from the late 1970s to 2001, although as the majority of these were conducted in the 1990s (and are over 20 years old) they have not been included here.

<sup>11</sup> The [Make Votes Matter](#) website has published summary results from a total of four opinion polls on proportional representation in this period. The full breakdown of results, as reported by the polling company, rather than a newspaper article, could only be found for two of the opinion polls. Only these have been reported here.

<sup>12</sup> Every effort has been taken to identify relevant opinion polls, and no opinion poll on proportional representation conducted by a BPC member during this period has been intentionally excluded (with exceptions listed in footnote 1) but it is possible some polls asking about proportional representation have not been identified. The polls shown here should therefore be treated as indicative of polling results, but the list of polls may not be comprehensive

## BRITISH ELECTION STUDY 2017

SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT WE SHOULD CHANGE THE VOTING SYSTEM TO ALLOW SMALLER POLITICAL PARTIES TO GET A FAIRER SHARE OF MPS. OTHERS SAY THAT WE SHOULD KEEP THE VOTING SYSTEM AS IT IS TO PRODUCE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT. WHICH VIEW COMES CLOSER TO YOUR OWN?

	We should change the voting system	Keep it as it is	Don't know	Unweighted base	Weighted base
<b>All respondents</b>	35%	54%	11%	2,194	2,139
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	35%	55%	11%	1,001	1,047
Female	35%	53%	12%	1,193	1,092
<b>Age</b>					
18-34	37%	46%	17%	454	570
35-54	38%	50%	13%	692	714
55+	31%	62%	7%	1,029	855
<b>Social class</b>					
Middle class	40%	54%	6%	464	426
Working class	32%	53%	15%	825	832
No class identific	35%	54%	10%	848	828
Other	33%	50%	18%	57	53

Source: [British Election Study 2017: face to face post-election survey, June-Oct 2017](#)

## ICM-MAKE VOTES MATTER: APRIL 2017

IN PRINCIPLE, WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE UK CHANGING THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM FROM FIRST PAST THE POST TO A SYSTEM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION?

	Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Unweighted base	Weighted base
<b>All respondents</b>	26%	35%	19%	6%	4%	2,578	2,578
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	32%	32%	17%	7%	7%	1,308	1,263
Female	21%	38%	21%	5%	2%	1,270	1,315
<b>Age</b>							
18-24	20%	38%	20%	4%	2%	249	309
25-34	27%	35%	21%	3%	3%	469	413
35-44	25%	36%	18%	5%	3%	493	490
45-54	27%	33%	20%	8%	3%	457	438
55-64	33%	28%	16%	9%	7%	460	387
65-74	28%	34%	18%	8%	7%	324	284
75+	23%	40%	16%	8%	8%	126	258
<b>Social class</b>							
AB	29%	37%	15%	7%	7%	893	696
C1	25%	35%	18%	8%	4%	714	748
C2	26%	37%	22%	4%	2%	339	541
DE	26%	30%	22%	5%	4%	632	593

Source: [ICM – Make Votes Matter, April 2017](#)

BMG-ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY: APRIL 2015							
DO YOU AGREE, OR DISAGREE, THAT THE NUMBER OF SEATS A PARTY GETS SHOULD BROADLY REFLECT IT'S PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST?							
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>Weighted base</i>
<b>All respondents</b>	34%	40%	20%	4%	2%	1,013	1,013
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	41%	38%	15%	6%	1%	488	492
Female	29%	41%	25%	3%	2%	525	521
<b>Age</b>							
15-34	34%	39%	23%	3%	1%	250	291
35-54	30%	40%	22%	6%	2%	317	358
55+	39%	40%	16%	4%	2%	446	364
<b>Social class</b>							
AB	43%	36%	17%	3%	1%	252	271
C1	29%	44%	22%	4%	1%	388	284
C2	37%	39%	16%	5%	3%	240	219
DE	29%	40%	25%	6%	2%	133	239

Source: [BMG-Electoral Reform Society, April 2015](#)

## 4. The 2011 AV referendum

A referendum was held on 5 May 2011 on whether the electoral system used for UK general elections should be changed from the first past the post system to the AV system.<sup>13</sup> The referendum rejected the adoption of the AV. Library Research Paper 11/44, [Alternative Vote Referendum 2011](#), provides a full analysis of the result. In brief:

- 6.2 million 'Yes' votes (32.1%) in favour of the change.
- 13.0 million 'No' votes (67.9%) opposing the change.

All three major political parties had included sections on the electoral system in their manifestos for the 2010 general election. The Conservative manifesto stated that the party supported the first past the post system; the Liberal Democrat manifesto supported STV; and the Labour manifesto included a commitment to hold a referendum on moving to AV.

AV is not a form of proportional representation. In some circumstances the result in an AV election can be less proportional than FPTP. FullFact published a piece in the run up to the AV referendum in 2011 which included the following:

Models of what past election results would have been in the UK under a system of AV give a mixed result. They show that in 1997 when Labour gained a big majority, AV would have produced more unrepresentative results. On the other hand, the three elections previous to Labour's 1997 landslide would have seen more representative results under AV. Both AV and First Past the Post (FPTP) produce unrepresentative results, in terms of how closely the make-up of MPs in parliament would represent the way people vote. This is in comparison to full Proportional Representation (PR) systems of election which produce very representative results, but lose the constituency link that AV and FPTP maintain.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> The referendum question, which was modified on the advice of the Electoral Commission, was "At present, the UK uses the "first past the post" system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the "alternative vote" system be used instead?"

<sup>14</sup> FullFact, [Does AV lead to more representative governments?](#), 5 April 2011

## 5. Press Articles

*Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.*

[Proportional Representation could help us fix the Brexit crisis](#)

Jason Reed, Reaction

18 March 2019

[Why does Labour like first-past-the-post? No other socialist party supports it](#)

Joe Sousek, LabourList

16 February 2019

[Do proportional representation enthusiasts know the chaos and extremism it would unleash?](#) First past the post is the glue that holds together the Conservatives and Labour

Tom Harris, Telegraph (subscription required)

11 September 2018

[Britain is a country where elections can still be bought](#): A new report shows parties are dodging electoral law. Under first-past-the-post they always will

Polly Toynbee, Guardian

12 Sep 2017

[How would parliament look under Proportional Representation?](#)

Martin Williams, Channel 4 News

24 Aug 2017

[Tactical voting surged in general election as voters tried to 'game' system, research finds](#): Voters switched allegiance at unprecedented rate in 2017 general election

Sam Lister, Independent

21 Aug 2017

[Ditching first-past-the-post really would be 'taking back control'](#): The underlying issue of Brexit was that British people are inadequately served by the current electoral system. This must change for the good of the country

Phil McDuff, the Guardian

1 Aug 2017

[Make Votes Matter campaign for voting reform gathers pace after election](#): During the 2017 election, as many as 68 per cent of votes were wasted because of the first past the post system. One non-profit venture wants to change that

Hazel Sheffield, Independent

19 Jun 2017

[Why don't we elect MPs by proportional representation?](#)

BBC News

17 May 2017

[Labour eyes proportional representation as party's elections minister backs voting shake-up](#): Shadow minister for elections backs the policy days before manifesto announcement

Jon Stone, Independent

4 May 2017

[Indy 100: Here's what the UK electoral map would look like with Proportional Representation](#): Earlier this week, the UK awoke to a hung parliament for the second time in a decade.

Louise Dore, Independent

4 May 2017

[MPs set to debate changing Britain's voting system to proportional representation](#): A petition calling for the change has hit 100,000 signatures

Jon Stone, Independent

15 Mar 2017

[Labour eyes proportional representation as party's elections minister backs voting shake-up](#): Shadow minister for elections backs the policy days before manifesto announcement

Jon Stone, Independent

4 May 2017

[No, Britain does not want proportional representation](#): the Electoral Reform Society keeps trying to push the same old nonsense - despite repeatedly being proven wrong.

Dan Hodges, Telegraph

1 June 2015

[UKIP joins cross-party push for electoral reform](#)

BBC News

18 May 2015

## 6. Parliamentary debates

### [Proportional Representation](#)

#### **E-petitions debate – Westminster Hall**

##### **HC Deb 30 October 2017**

Steve Double (St Austell and Newquay) (Con)

That this House has considered e-petition 168657 relating to proportional representation.

### [Electoral Reform \(Proportional Representation and Reduction of Voting Age\)](#)

#### **Ten-Minute Rule Bill**

##### **HC Deb 20 July 2016**

Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion) (Green)

That leave be given to bring in a bill to amend the Representation of the People Acts to provide for the introduction of proportional representation as a method for electing Members of the House of Commons; to reduce the voting age to 16 in all UK elections and referendums; and for connected purposes.

### [Representation of the People \(Proportional Representation\) \(House of Commons\)](#)

#### **Ten-Minute Rule Bill**

##### **HC Deb 16 December 2015**

Jonathan Reynolds (Stalybridge and Hyde) (Lab/Co-op)

That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Acts to provide for the introduction of proportional representation as a method for electing a certain number of Members of the House of Commons; to make provision about changing existing constituencies and reducing their number; and for connected purposes.

### [Elections: Voting Systems](#)

#### **HL Debate 13 March 2008**

Lord Tyler rose to call attention to the Review of Voting Systems: The Experience of New Voting Systems in the United Kingdom since 1997; and to move for Papers.

## Proportional representation

### **Opposition Day Debate**

**HC Deb 23 June 1999**

Sir George Young (North-West Hampshire) (Conservative)

That this House, in the light of experience of recent elections held on the basis of proportional representation, believes that this is not an appropriate basis for election to the House of Commons; and urges the Government to resolve the uncertainty it has caused on this matter either by abandoning its commitment to hold a referendum, or by holding the referendum forthwith.

## 7. Further reading

### **Commons Library briefing**

[Background to Voting systems in the UK](#) , 26 Oct 2017

This Commons Library briefing paper provides brief details of the different voting systems currently used in the United Kingdom. It also notes recent developments relating to voting systems in the UK and provides information about previous government reviews into voting systems. The final section gives details of the voting systems used in selected overseas countries.

### **[The Governance of Britain Review of Voting Systems: The experience of new voting systems in the United Kingdom since 1997, Cm 7304, January 2008](#)**

The Review does not make any recommendations for reform but describes the strengths and weaknesses of different voting systems to inform the continuing debate on electoral reform.

### **[The Case against Proportional Representation](#)**

An article in the Canadian Parliamentary review from 2004/5. Canada uses a FPTP based on the Westminster system for elections to the federal Parliament of Canada.

This was written by a former member of the British Columbia Legislature, which also uses FPTP. He wrote:

Proportional representation tends to foster minority government and history would suggest most citizens do not want minority government. British Columbia elections have been held along party lines since 1903 and there have been only three instances of a minority government resulting from a general election — in 1924, 1941 and 1952. If the voters of British Columbia believed minority government was the preferred option then the results of those elections would reflect that opinion. Of the 28 governments elected since 1903 twenty five have been majorities.

Coalition governments leave much to be desired. Too often a small faction can hold the balance of power and use that to secure objectives considered important or urgent by a small number of people but not always in the best interest of the general public.

### **[How democratic is the Westminster 'plurality rule' electoral system?](#)**

Patrick Dunleavy examines how well does the electoral system (in this case the Westminster plurality rule, aka 'first-past-the-post') convert votes into seats?

### **Electoral Reform Society**

The Electoral Reform Society is an independent campaigning organisation that supports electoral reform. The ERS publish reports on the pros and cons on different voting systems and provide analysis of how UK elections may have resulted if different voting systems had been used. It produced a [Parliamentary briefing for the Westminster Hall e-petition debate on PR held on 30th October 2017](#)

The ERS also produced a report in 2017 arguing that FPTP was failing to deliver one of its supposed benefits, decisive election results, [The 2017 General Election: Volatile Voting, Random Results](#)

The ERS have also published a report entitled, [Northern Blues The Conservative case for local electoral reform.](#)

### **Make Votes Matter**

A cross-party campaign to introduce Proportional Representation to the House of Commons

### **Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform**

The Campaign published a report in 2017, [The Many, Not the Few: Proportional Representation & Labour in the 21 st Century.](#)

The Executive summary of the report opens with:

A critical review of First Past the Post reveals that it fails to perform even the most basic tasks expected of a voting system. It is, for example, unable to guarantee that a party receiving the most votes wins the most seats. In our elections major parties routinely gain votes but lose seats or lose votes but gain seats, meaning that political power is divorced from public support. (page5)

### **Why proportional representation is now right for the Commons**

In a piece written for the ConservativeHome website, Daniel Hannan, a Conservative MEP for South-East England, wrote in favour of proportional representation:

First-past-the-post is groaning and swaying under the strain. Our voting system was designed for two blocs: a government and an opposition. You can see it in the layout of the Commons chamber. But over the past five years we have moved from a two-and-a-quarter party system to a five or six party system. The old argument for first-past-the-post – that it boosts the larger party and so provides stable government – no longer applies. These days, it throws up anomalous, unpredictable results that are only distantly related to how many people supported each party.

He went on to say:

Every system has its pros and cons, obviously, but you can learn a lot from the way in which opponents attack something. In Ireland, STV is popular with almost everyone except (in private) politicians. Why don't Ireland's TDs and MEPs like it? Because, as a Fine Gael

friend put it to me, "Instead of acting in the national interest, I have to do what my constituents want."

**[The Independent Group at the Local Government Association](#)**

The Independent Group at the Local Government Association (LGA) set up a task and finish group to consider alternative systems for both UK Parliamentary and Local Elections

**[The UK needs a new electoral system, not a new political party](#)**

LSE Blog arguing that the first step in fixing politics at the centre is to reform the electoral system.

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