



## Referendums and Democracy QSD on 13 June 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Soley to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the increased use of referenda on the functioning of representative democracy in the United Kingdom.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

### Key Information

- House of Lords Library, [Referendums and Parliamentary Democracy](#), 13 July 2018

*Briefing discussing the use of referendums in the UK, including commentary on how they fit within the system of parliamentary democracy.*

- House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, [Lessons Learned from the EU Referendum](#), 12 April 2017, HC 496 of session 2016–17, pp 8–14; and [Government Response](#), December 2017, Cm 9553, p 1

*Chapter on referendums and representative democracy in the UK, and the Government response to the committee's views on the issue.*

- Constitution Unit, [Report of the Independent Commission on Referendums](#), 10 July 2018, pp 31–46 and 57–70

*Executive summary and chapters on the use of referendums in the UK and their relationship with democratic principles, from the report of the independent commission on referendums.*

### Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- [Debate on 'Referendums: Parliamentary Democracy'](#), HL Hansard, 19 July 2018, cols 1340–77
- [Oral Question on 'EU Referendum: Lessons Learned'](#), HL Hansard, 20 May 2019, cols 1767–9

## Press Articles and Comment

- Meg Russell, '[Take More Care with Referendums—Democracy Depends On It](#)', *Financial Times* (£), 10 July 2018
- Nat Le Roux, '[Is There a Tension Between Parliamentary Democracy and Referendums?](#)', Constitution Society, 18 November 2016

## Further Information

- Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, [Oral Evidence: Independent Commission on Referendums, HC 1143](#), 24 July 2018
- [Debate on 'EU Membership: Second Referendum'](#), *HC Hansard*, 3 December 2018, cols 245–64WH
- House of Lords Constitution Committee, [Referendums in the United Kingdom](#), 7 April 2010, HL Paper 99 of session 2009–10
- Lucy Atkinson and Andrew Blick, [Referendums and the Constitution](#), Constitution Society, 2017
- Claudio Martinelli, '[How to Use Referendums Correctly in British Democracy](#)', London School of Economics and Political Science Blog, 15 May 2019
- AC Grayling, '[Are Referendums Good for Democracy?](#)', *Prospect*, 3 February 2017

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