



November 2023

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the House of Lords.

The House of Lords has an important role in scrutinising and improving draft legislation. 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.

As a revising chamber, comprised of peers with a wide variety of experience, the House of Lords plays an important role in Parliament. Our political system has benefited from the expertise of peers who have been able to scrutinise and improve legislation.

Reforms to the House of Lords include allowing peers to retire and the expulsion of peers due to poor conduct. The Government was elected on a manifesto commitment to look at the broader aspects of our constitution, including the role of the House of Lords and the relationship between the Government, Parliament and the courts. This is something I will continue to follow closely.

The Conservative Party manifesto 2019 committed to looking at the role of the House of Lords, but reform needs careful consideration.

I understand that the Government does not want reform to be achieved in a piecemeal way. It would also be important to understand the issues that any changes may create.

This is a complex area, and a review is not currently underway.

Important changes were introduced in 2014 and 2015. These have enabled peers to retire, automatically remove peers for non-attendance if they are sent to prison and allow the House to expel members.

Since the introduction of the House of Lords Reform Act 2014, well over 100 peers have retired, and 20 peers retired in the calendar year 2022.

As you will know in my time as a Member of Parliament we have had an opportunity to vote for Lords reform - and I did vote for reform at that point.

I'm interested in this debate, although I very much doubt there will be any votes on this anytime soon.



Chris Heaton-Harris
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Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY