

Press Release

**From Barry Stamp
Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesperson
Stafford Constituency**

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Use: Immediate

David Kidney Must Say Goodbye to Cronyism, Says Local Lib Dem

Stafford's Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesperson has challenged local MP, David Kidney, to vote for an end to cronyism.

Barry Stamp issued the challenge just hours after the government publish their proposals for reform of the House of Lords which if implemented would see half the representatives still being appointed to their seats.

"I, like most other people in the Country believe it is time for the House of Lords to be reformed. However I am appalled that the proposals outlined today by the Government would still see half the seats being handed out by political parties. Over the last few weeks we have seen where this leads as the Prime Minister and his friends are facing questions over the cash for honours scandal! It is time that this way of selecting the upper house is done away with. I believe the vast majority of peers should be elected and MPs, like David Kidney, should stand up for Stafford and demand fair representation for local people. Reform of the House of Lords is long overdue, but the government still want to be able to appoint their cronies to make our laws. Electing just half of the House is just not good enough. If we are to have a fair and representative second chamber, we need the vast majority of peers to be elected and for politicians to have no hand in picking the rest. I challenge David to say exactly where he stands on this issue and to vote with my Liberal Democrat colleagues in the House of Commons to bring an end to cronyism," said Barry Stamp.

Further details from:
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Notes to editors

The government's White Paper was published today (Wednesday 8th Feb) and proposes that:

i) Half of peers to be elected, 30% political appointees and 20% appointed by the independent appointments commission

ii) No new hereditary peers be appointed

iii) No new life peers appointed

iv) Members should hold office for a non-renewable term of 15 years;

Liberal Democrats believe:

i) The majority of the House of Lords should be elected, with no more than 20% appointed by an Independent Appointments Commission

ii) There should be no additional political appointees

iii) No more hereditary or life peers be created. Hereditary peers should cease to serve at the date of the first elections

iv) Members should be elected under a system that gives voters real choice (such as the Single Transferable Vote)

v) Lib Dems propose three fixed 4 year terms, i.e 12 years non-renewable