

**Our electoral system is dangerously broken; LETTER OF THE DAY:  
PERSONAL INTEGRITY Letters writeback@belfasttelegraph.co.uk Letters to  
the Editor, Belfast Telegraph, 33 Clarendon Road, Belfast BT1 3BG**

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## **Body**

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THE prorogation shambles has highlighted the weakness in our constitution: we're constantly just a hair's breadth from chaos.

And the gentlemen's agreements that hold our fragile democracy together are often only as good as the paper they're (not) written on.

The rusted levers of our democracy are long overdue an upgrade. Take the Lords: the fact that over half our Parliament is unelected ignores the voice of voters. And Westminster's undemocratic voting system leaves millions of voters ignored at every election.

The winner-takes-all mentality of first-past-the-post elections encourages parties to ignore everyone except the base they need to win. It's no surprise our politics is so polarised and toxic.

Countries with fairer electoral systems see cross-party collaboration not as a betrayal but as something essential for the common good.

We can no longer avoid discussing how to reform our broken system. It's now time to set out a positive path for how politics works via a "constitutional convention" of citizens.

We can all agree that power is too distant, out-of-touch and centralised. Now, we urge all parties to back the Electoral Reform Society and others' call to do what's right and work together to find a way forward.

DARREN HUGHES Chief executive Electoral Reform Society Please note that **letters** should be short and to the point. **Letters** will be edited as deemed necessary and should be authenticated with a full name and postal address, not necessarily for publication. A daytime telephone number would also be useful.

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