

With party whips wielding so much power, Parliament has grown supine and often spineless. Instead of challenging ministers, too many MPs simply do what their whips tell them. Parliamentary Questions are planted. Debates are rigged. Prime Minister's Question Time generates a lot of heat, but sheds little light.

**UKIP wants far reaching political reform to ensure that government answers properly to Parliament and that Parliament is accountable to the people. We will introduce:**

- **The Citizens' Initiative:** Every two years we will allow a national referendum on the issues of greatest importance to the British public, gathered via an approved petition, provided the petition has more than two million signatures. The outcome of these referendums will be included in the Queen's Speech, therefore allowing the public to directly influence legislation. We will also pledge to put matters gathering over 100,000 signatures on the Commons' Order Paper, to make sure they are genuinely debated and voted upon, not simply brushed over, as currently happens
- **The Right of Recall:** UKIP will give voters real power to sack their MP and scrap the bogus Recall measures introduced by the Tory-led Coalition. Under our proposals, if twenty per cent of an MP's constituents demand it, within a period of eight weeks, a Recall ballot will be triggered. We will extend this Right of Recall to all elected politicians, e.g. councillors
- **An Open Primaries Bill:** UKIP will introduce an Open Primaries Bill to enable any political parties that wished to do so to widen their selection process to include every local voter. Open Primary ballots would help ensure candidates in winnable seats need not be Westminster insiders.

As well as making MPs more accountable to the public, UKIP will make Government answer more directly to Parliament. We will introduce:

- **Confirmation hearings:** These will require Commons Select Committees to vote to approve the appointment of any new minister, senior civil servant or senior diplomat before they get the job. They will also have the power to veto such appointments. The same rules will apply to senior appointments to quangos and inspection bodies, such as Ofsted
- **Expenditure hearings:** Until the 1930s, MPs were able to amend public spending plans. Since then they can only cheer or boo government spending plans, which are presented to them as a fait accompli. In order to control public spending and reduce taxes over time, UKIP will give the relevant Commons Select Committee the power to veto items of spending, but not increase them.

## VOTING REFORM

In an age of multi-party politics, our current first past the post Parliamentary election system is unfair and no longer fit for purpose. Most MPs are elected by a minority of their voters and perhaps with as little as 26 per cent of the vote share.

UKIP believes voters should know that every vote counts. We want an electoral system where each voter can vote for the party they really believe in, rather than against one they do not, for tactical reasons.

**UKIP will campaign for a new, proportional voting system that delivers a Parliament truly reflective of the number of votes cast, while retaining a constituency link, so every vote really does count.**

We will also:

- Restrict the entitlement to vote in British general elections to British citizens and, potentially, countries which have reciprocal voting rights for British citizens, such as Ireland
- Scrap the failing Electoral Commission and Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) and merge their functions into a new Political Standards Authority under new independent leadership and a cross-party board of governance with voting lay members
- Remove postal voting on demand. We will scrap the existing postal vote register completely and start again from scratch. Those wishing to have a postal vote must have a valid reason for applying.

**We will not allow postal voting on demand. It is open to fraud on such a scale that election rigging is now a real possibility and perhaps even a probability in some areas. We cannot allow 'banana republic' voting fraud in Britain.**

**BELIEVE *in* BRITAIN**