

subscriptions, including political levies, deducted from their salary, and strengthen members' political freedoms by letting them choose which political party they wish to support through such automatic payments. We will encourage wider participation in trade union ballots through electronic voting.

- ♦ Introduce votes at age 16 for elections and referendums across the UK, and make it easier to register to vote in schools and colleges.
- ♦ Reform the House of Lords with a proper democratic mandate, starting from the proposals in the 2012 Bill.
- ♦ Reform our voting systems for elections to local government and Westminster to ensure more proportional representation. We will introduce the Single Transferable Vote for local government elections in England and for electing MPs across the UK. We will reduce the number of MPs but only as part of the introduction of a reformed, fair, voting system.
- ♦ Cancel the boundary review due to report in 2018. While new constituencies would need to be established for a new voting system, we believe constituency boundary reviews should respect natural geographical communities, with greater flexibility for the Boundary Commission to deviate from exact equality to take account of community ties and continuity of representation.
- ♦ Explore options to strengthen and simplify the voting rights of UK citizens living abroad and address disenfranchisement experienced by some.
- ♦ Work with the broadcasters to formalise the process for Leaders' Debates in General Elections, helping ensure they happen and setting a clear threshold for those eligible to participate.
- ♦ Strengthen and expand the lobbying register and prohibit MPs from accepting paid lobbying work. We will consider carefully the work of the independent reviewer into the impact of third party spending regulations to ensure the right balance has been struck. We will also remove the discrimination against third parties by requiring political parties to include the cost of staffing in their national expense limits in the same way as third parties now do.

To reform Parliament in particular we will:

- ♦ Strengthen the role of MPs in amending the Budget and scrutinising government spending proposals.
- ♦ Make Parliament more family-friendly, and establish a review to pave the way for MP jobsharing arrangements.
- ♦ Implement a House Business committee to ensure that Parliament and not the executive decides the Parliamentary timetable, ending the 'talking out' of private members' business. Building on the Wright Committee recommendations of 2009, and experiences