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Hedgerows Protection:

I believe that politicians need to play by the same rules as everyone else. That is why I support a number of reforms. These include the creation of an independent Integrity and Ethics Commission with the power to investigate MPs and ministers accused of breaking the rules.

With regard to changing the way Members of Parliament are elected, I recognise that the flaws in the current system are contributing to the distrust and alienation we see in politics. However, I would note that there is no consensus for an alternative. In my view, any proposed change to our voting system must be carefully thought through.

I want to see Parliament better represent communities across our country and better reflect different views and concerns. In pursuit of this goal, the Leader of the Opposition established a constitutional commission in 2020, chaired by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, which reported in December 2022. That report made a number of recommendations. This includes proposals to reform the House of Lords and to devolve powers from Westminster to local communities. I know the Leader of the Opposition is examining these suggestions as the Opposition Frontbench works on the next steps for its constitutional policy commitments in the run up to the next general election. I think that approach is the right one.

More widely, while political reform is important, I believe the principle focus of the next government should be to give Britain its future back by restoring our country's economic stability, lifting living standards for all Britons, making work pay, rebuilding our public services and investing in homegrown industries in every corner of our country.

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