1. This is an extremely hasty submission in a few minutes due to my only computer access being the public access computers at the library when I can get there around workshifts.

2. My sources of information on national current affairs: BBC Radio 4 and World Service, local weekly papers, using online access at library for parliamentary press releases. No TV since 2012, no library access to BBC TV written/televised material since 2016 changes to TV licensing. Sometimes buy local daily paper covering urban and rural areas, but never national dailies. ALL newspapers and magazines now withdrawn from library.

3. I think that the current democratic input into the UK’s development of treaties is entirely unsatisfactory, to the point of being anti-democratic, and plays to the advantage of specialist interest groups rather than what is best for UK voters as a whole, the most glaring example being the asymmetric system with the USA on the extradition of suspects in legal cases.

4. Another terrifying example was the conduct of the Transatlantic Trade Initiatives Partnership negotiations via the EU until they were fortuitously put a stop to by the election of president Trump.

5. As someone who has contributed to and followed dozens of Parliamentary, local government, and EU consultations and inquiries, I say that the system of Parliamentary Scrutiny committees is exemplary because the questions are qualitative rather than quantitative, and so allow for rigorous and deep inquiry, contemplation, and conclusion.

6. Their weakness is that governments are not obliged to take any proper notice or action on their conclusions.

7. I WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF A PARLIAMENTARY TREATIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, but as to the detail of how and when different levels of scrutiny should be applied, and to what extent they should be able to affect the progress of treaties, I think that there is an infinite range of possible unintended consequences, so PERHAPS THE BASELINE FOR A MINIMAL LEVEL OF SCRUTINY SHOULD BE SET VERY LOW, BUT WITH STRONG POWERS FOR MPS AND VOTERS TO REQUIRE MUCH GREATER AND MORE FREQUENT LEVELS OF SCRUTINY ACCORDING TO THEIR CONCERN.
8. There should certainly be a presumption in favour of much greater transparency, with the default being absolute transparency, during treaty negotiations.

6 December 2018