Written evidence from Lord Alton of Liverpool – RIS0078

During last week’s exchanges on the floor of the House you invited a formal submission about ways in which members of the House might be involved in the selection of Ad Hoc Committees of Inquiry. This followed the concerns raised by Lord Campbell-Savours.

I would like to suggest that, once the initial sifting of applications by the Liaison Committee has been completed, a short-list of six should be put forward.

This short-list could then be offered to the whole House for consideration and be decided by an electronic ballot.

Those proposing the successful short-listed subjects for consideration should be offered the chance to provide a brief written summary of why their proposal should be accepted.

A similar approach is already adopted by Crossbench Peers when they choose subjects for debate in the House and it is administered without expense or difficulty (and a lot less cumbersome than, for instance, the by-elections for hereditary Peers’ vacancies).

This would help to address Lord Campbell-Savours’ concern but, even more importantly, it would also enable all Peers to be involved and create even further interest in this important aspect of the work of the House.

I will look forward to hearing the response of the Liaison Committee.

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