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.

We are very much in support of the method suggested by Lord Alton of Liverpool.

We 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.

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

April 2019