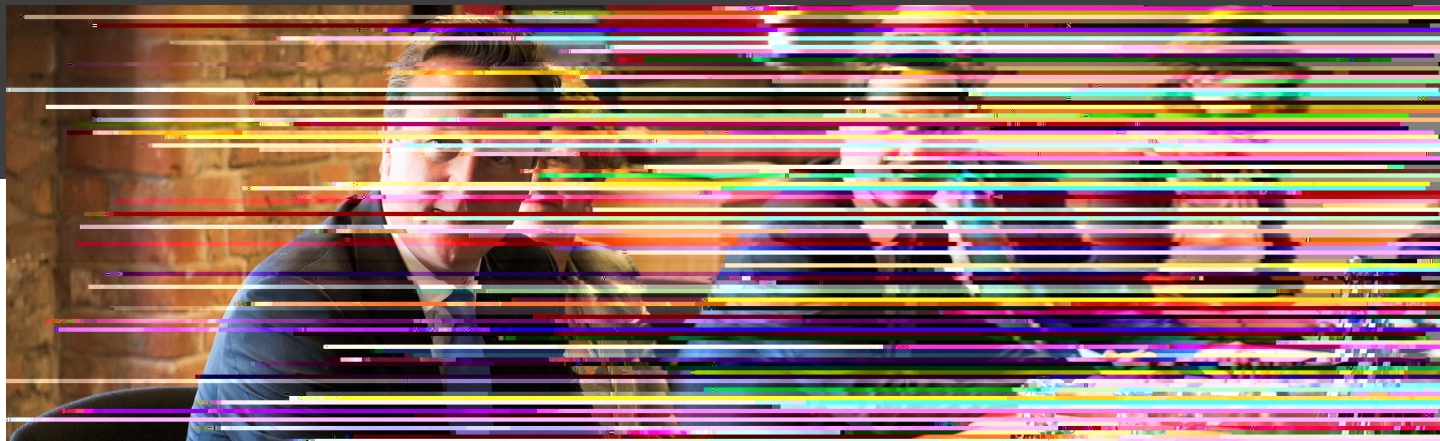


Constitution Unit

Monitor 61 / October 2015



The new government's constitutional reform programme

The extent of the government's programme of constitutional reforms, guided by a new Cabinet Committee on Constitutional Reform chaired by Oliver Letwin, is not generally appreciated. The agenda includes a referendum on Britain's membership of the =M\$ka_f ɸ[YfI' 'njI']j'hgo]jk'gj'K[glɔf\ \$Yf\ 'njI']j' powers for Wales, for Northern Ireland, and for city regions in England. The government has also promised to introduce English votes for English laws; repeal the Human Rights Act, and replace it with a British bill of rights; and reduce the size of the House of Commons

The [Local Government Act 2012](#) has been passed by the Lords, and had its second reading in the Commons on 12 July. The bill gives the deal agreed with Greater Manchester last year, it is only to areas willing to form combined authorities with a directly elected metro mayor. The bill itself devolves powers, with details of which powers depending on each area agreement.

The government also intended an early start for English votes for English laws, with plans set out in the [Conservative manifesto](#) which bills, or provisions in bills, are England (or England and Wales) only. The new Leader of the Commons, Chris Grayling, published proposed amendments to standing orders in July, but when it became clear that the Conservatives were split, the debate to approve the new standing orders was postponed. On the other side, the government may also face opposition from the Labour Party and spending – which might have implications

A constitutional convention?

Lord Hogg (Z) [lo]] f' l'] K[gl]k' f' \ h] f' \ f [] j] j] f' \ m' e' f' K] h] e Z] j' * () , ' Yf' \ ' l'] ' _] f] j] Yd] d [l' a] f' f' ' E Yq' * () - ' kYo' e m' [' ' Yd' g' ^ l'] '] kIYZ' k' e] f' l' g' ^ kge] ' c' a' \ ' g' ^ [g' f' k' l' a' m' a] f' Yd [g' f' n] f' l' a] f' l' g' [g' f' k' a'] j' h' g' k' k' a' d' ' future reforms in the round. The election brought to hgo] j' l'] ' g' f] ' k' a' f' a' [Yf' l' h' g' d' a' YdhY] l' q' l' ' Yl' ' ' Y' \ ' f' g' l' [ge e a] l' \ ' l' g' ' g' d' a' _ ' k' m' ' ' Y [g' f' n] f' l' a] f' \$kg Yf' g' [a' d [g' f' n] f' l' a] f' f' ' l'] ' f] Y] ' m' m] ' k' n' f' d'] d' & k' [n' k' k' a] f' ' ' Yk\$ however, remained lively.

A [Constitutional Convention Bill](#) was introduced in the Dg] \ k' f' ' Bnf] ' Yk' Y' h' j' a' n] Yl] ' h]] j' Q' Z' a' d' Z' q' D' a' j] Yd <] e g [j] Yl' Dg] \ ' H' n] k' g' ^ Lo]] \ & A' h' j' g' n' a'] k' ' g' j' Y [g' f' n] f' l' a] f' \$Y' majority of whose members would not be politicians, which would address a broad constitutional agenda. At its [second reading](#) g' f') / ' B' m' d' l'] ' Z' a' d]] [] a' n] \ ' Z' j' g' Y' \ support away from the government benches. But the minister, Lord Bridges of Headley, suggested that such a convention was incompatible with the constitution's organic evolution.

An [identical private member's bill](#) was also introduced in the Commons in July by a cross-party group of members, including Jeremy Corbyn. In forming his K' \ ' l' go ; ' YZ' a'] l' \$; ' g' j' Z' q' f' ' Y' h' h' g' a' l'] \ ' B' g' f' ' L' j' a' c] l] l' Yk' Q' \ ' Y' l' go ' E' f' a' k' l' j] ' g' j' l'] ; ' g' f' k' l' a' m' a] f' Yd; ' g' f' n] f' l' a] f' Q' L' j' a' c] l] ' ' Yk' k' Y' a' l' ' Yl' ' D' Y' Z' g' n] ' f' l'] f' \ k' l' g'] k' I' Y' Z' k' ' ' Y' constitutional convention with a broad remit, albeit o' a' ' g' m' i' g' [a' d' _ g' n] j] f' e] f' l' ' Z' Y [c' a' f' _ & k' h] Yc' a' f' _ ' Yl' l'] ' ' D' Y' Z' g' n] ' H' Y] l' q' [g' f' j] j] f [] ' '] [set out](#) an ambitious vision l' g' Q'] \ ' k' a' f' ' g' m] ' h' g' d' a' k' O' Y' f' \ ' k' Y' a' l' ' ' Yl' ' '] ' o' g' m' d' ' d' c] ' to see meetings in 'town, village and church halls up and down the land'. He also announced that '[t]he ; ' g' f' n] f' l' a] f' ' o' a' d] Z] ' Y' e' Y' l' g] ' h' d' f' c' g' ^ ' D' Y' Z' g' n] ' Q' U' Y [l' a' n' a' q' a' f' ' the coming years'; however, there are as yet no details of what this will entail.

Most proposals for a convention involve a mixed body comprising politicians and ordinary citizens – as [advocated](#) Z' q' l'] ; ' g' f' k' l' a' m' a] f' ' M' f' a' Q' ' 9' d' f' ' j] f' o' a' c' i' a' f' ' 9' h' j' a' d' * () , & @] ' k' ' Y' e' g' f' _ ' Y' _ j' g' m' h' g' ^ Y [Y \] e' a' k' Y' f' \ others joining forces this autumn to [pilot](#) the operation of such an assembly.



House of Lords rows

The period since publication of the last has been a turbulent one for the Lords, for various reasons. That a' k' k' n] ' f' g' l' \ ' l'] ' ' d' c] ' d' l' j' g' m' Z' d' ' Y'] Y' \ ' g' j' l'] ; ' g' f' k' j' n' Yl' a' n] ' _ g' n] j] f' e] f' l' \$' ' Y' n' a' f' _ ' d' g' k' l' l'] ' k' n' h' g' j' l' ' g' ^ D' a' Z] j] Yd <] e g [j] Yl' h]] j] k' ' D' l'] ' ' c] q' ' O' a' n' g' l' Yd _ j' g' m' h' O' a' f' l'] ' [' ' Y' e' Z] j] & :] ' g' j] ' the summer recess this began to materialise through ten government defeats, mostly on the Cities and Local ? g' n] j] f' e] f' l' <] n' g' o' m' a] f' : ' a' d' \$' Z' m' Y' d' k' g' a' f' [d' h' a' f' _ ' g' f' ' ' g' f' Y' statutory instrument and another on the government's plans for English votes for English laws (see pages 4–5). The latter – with a majority against the government of 181 votes – was the third biggest since the Lords was j] ' g' j' e] \ ' a' f') 111&

; g' h' q' j' a' _ ' l' @ g' n' k] ' g' ^ D' g' j' \ k' * () - ' ' ' H' ' g' l' g' _ j' Y' h' ' q' Z' q' j' g' _ j] ' @ Y' j] j' a' k' & l' ' k' ' image is subject to [parliamentary copyright](#). o.o.o.k.Y.j.d.Y.e.l.f.l.&c

Over the summer, the chamber was in the news for all the wrong reasons. In July the Chairman of Committees, Dg] \ ' K] o] d' \$]] k' a' f'] \ ' g' n] j] Y' d] _ Yl' a] f' k' g' ^ a' e' h' j' g' h' j' a' l' q' & A' f' a' a' d' d' Y' h' h] Y] j] \ ' l' ' Yl' K] o] d' e' a' _ ' l' Z] [g' e] l'] ' ' b] k' l' n' a' l' a' e' g' ^ l'] ' f] o' . ' C' C' Q' 1' a' g' s' t' h' i' s' b' e' e' i' c' a' h' o' r' i' t' i' e' b' e' f' 0' g' s' T' T' e' . _ . V] _ V M' A' O' L' 0' 0' ' L' K' Y' P' C

calls for major reform, and led to numerous negative headlines about the Lords. These were further fuelled by the [latest peerage list](#), which was widely criticised for its perceived bias. In October, the size of the House of Lords was reduced to 260 members, with 20% of seats reserved for independent peers. This reform was frequently reported here, and documented in our [Enough is Enough](#) report (and prior to that [House Full](#)), there are widespread concerns both in the chamber and outside about the growth in numbers – which now seem to have reached fever pitch. In August, Labour leadership was criticised for its ['vandalising democracy'](#), while Conservative London Mayor Boris Johnson described the chamber as ['out of control'](#) and called for its numbers to be cut by half.

There are now suspicions that the discrediting of the chamber resulting from repeated large numbers of appointments could even be a [deliberate](#) government move. If the chamber's reputation declines this strengthens the government's hand in the face of Lords defeats. New research published by the Unit in August [demonstrated clearly](#) that media attitudes towards the Lords have become increasingly negative. The proposed reform of the House of Lords (to reach approximately 110, following new appointments) is particularly controversial, placing the third party in a very delicate position. At the Liberal Democrat conference, Lord Newby, and their new leader, Tim Farron, [stated their intention](#) to support the reform of Conservative policies. But if their pivotal status is not maintained, the House of Lords may be reduced to a mere advisory body. It is the Conservatives who need to adjust. Labour was defeated frequently in the Lords, but generally reached accommodation with peers to get most of its programme through.

Attention in the Lords itself is now closely focused on the reputational damage being done, and the need for reform of the House of Lords to address the size of the chamber. The [chamber debated](#) a proposal to cap the number of members at 200. Other proposals discussed included a cap on the size of the House, an

end to the hereditary by-elections, greater powers for the House of Lords Appointments Commission, an agreed balance between the parties for new appointments, and a 50:50 proportion of each party group. The Unit's research was frequently referenced. Three groups are now considering proposals to stem prime ministerial appointments by the Leader of the House of Lords. The Leader was criticised for his proposals to stem prime ministerial appointments – that this is a problem for the Lords to solve. The House of Lords is now being used to greater prime ministerial control.

English votes for English laws

L'] _gn]jfe] fl'gja_ fYd] f] f\ \ \ ' YI' E Hk' o' gnd' ng] 'gf' i'] [' Yf_] k' gf) - Bnd] f'] ' Y[] ' g^ka_ f_ p[Yf] ' ghhgk] af' ' jge ' DYZgn] ' Yf\ '] ' KFH' Yf\ ' mf] Yk] ' o' d' f' ; gf k] jnYlan] ' hYj] lq] jYfck\$` go] n] j\$] ' k' ng] ' ' Yk' fgo' Z]] f' hmk'] \ ' ZY[c' l' g' L' ' njk\ Yq' * * G[l' gZ] j&Gf] ' c] qYj] Y' of disagreement is over the decision to give English (or =f_ k' ' Yf\ ' O] k' ' !' E Hk' Y' O] l' g' O' g' Y'] [l] \ ' d_ k' d] l' af' - something that goes beyond the recommendations of the independent [McKay Commission](#). Another area of controversy concerns the treatment of policy decisions that relate primarily to England but have consequential

Executive

Central machinery for constitutional reform

Amongst the list of new cabinet committees is a Committee on Constitutional Reform chaired by Oliver



Jeremy Corbyn elected as Labour leader
Image credit © <Ynà @gd.

More important were the two other features. The old electoral college – which gave a third of the voting and trade unions – was replaced with ‘one person one vote’. And voting was opened up to non-members who cast by registered supporters – a quarter of the total. But fears that they would sway the result proved unfounded. while all three other candidates were far behind, plus that without the system’s openness to non-party members, the bandwagon that generated this victory would not have gathered speed.

DYZgnj`k`l`] `bjkl`MC`hYjlq`lg` Yn` nk` \ `kn[` `Yf`gh] f` hjæ Yjq`^gj`Y`d`Y\]jk` a`]`d` [l`af`&Kæ` aY]` [gf]l] klk` have, however, long been a feature of elections in the M`f`a]` \` KIYI]k`z`]]` hY_]k`)*%` +!`Yf`\` Yn` `Ydk`Z` [ge]` commonplace in recent years in countries such as Fps048004E00in coes such as

0%05LK:[TLp7UVUBIYVT8IVH[80

J#%\$E—i02Nnà`%P8%0\$NIOA%Q8PIN5`e\$VEPNEhry0EIN3b0eYENB8%A4AHS6A%0HOZqEN08IN8]LWVFKL8ZPWW 0

0 _____

of emphasis with the new leader stressing in [his speech](#) that Labour would 'stand up for the vision of a social Europe, a Europe of unity and solidarity' – in the party's [*\(\) - 'e Yfa\] klg](#) economic arguments had been central to Labour's case for continued EU membership. On [\\] ngaf \\$l` \]'g \[dghhgkaaf` remain supportive](#)



L`] e gkl jY\ d Ydhjgnkafk`Yj] `gf `o] dYj] &E* & Z adgf`
ogjI` `g^Z] f] Plk`o adZ] \] ngoh \ \$Zm`@gdjgg\ `o ad
Ydkg` Yn] `] `hgo] j`lg`lgh%h`MC`Z] f] Plk`]ge `ak`go f`
j] kgmj[] k`a`a` \g] k`fgl` d] `] ` [mk`O] kle `kl] j`e Yc] k&
L`] `hgd] k`g`^l` k`k`gZnagk2l`] `KFH`o ad` Yn] `lg`hml`

HYj d'e] f l : m d f _ k ' g ^ K l g j e g f l ' f :] d Y k l \$ f g j l ' j f ' A] d f \ &
Image credit © [O c f a ' 1 1 .](#)

With trust already in general decline, two recent murders in a gangland-type feud among IRA veterans were k] j a n k] f g m _ ' f [a] f l k ' l g ' k h Y j c ' Y m f a f k l ' o a ' \ j Y o Y d from the power-sharing executive, with the smaller M k l] j ' M f a f k l k ' \ j Y _ f _ ' l '] ' Z a _] j < M H Y 1] j l '] e & L ' k ' ' Y h h] f] \ '] n] f l ' g m _ ' K a f f ' > f a ' ' Y \ [g f \] e f] \ the murders and called for co-operation with the police. However, the unionists insisted that toleration of a godfather role for old IRA leaders, whether acting on behalf of the movement or not, violated the pledge to employ exclusively peaceful means in politics. They \] e Y f \ \ l ' Y l ' K a f f ' > f a ' k ' g m d] f k n j] ' l '] A ' 9 ' f g l ' g f d j] j e Y a f k ' a f Y [l a n] ' Z m ' \ k Y h h] Y j k Y d g _] l '] j & n i ' K a f f ' > f a ' o a d f g l _ g l ' Y l ' Y j & L '] j] ' k ' f g ' o Y q l ' Y l ' l '] q ' o a d denounce old warriors who are in some cases still part of the political leadership.

The question then arises as to whether the unionist [' Y d f _] ' l g ' K a f f ' > f a '] n] j ' ' Y \ Y f q ' ^ g h] ' g ^ k m [[]] \ a f _ ' Y f \ ' o Y k ' o g j l ' ' j a c c a f _ ' l '] ' m l n j] ' g ' l '] ' 9 k k] e Z d j ' g j & L '] answer to both questions is surely not. Internal unionist rivalries and frustration among the minor parties with < M H % K a f f ' >] a f ' \ g e a f Y f [] ' Y \ \ \ l g l '] ' e g e] f l n e ' ' g j ' Executive withdrawal. The question now is whether that momentum can be reversed.

As the basis for restoring political order, the UK government with Irish support has drafted a [K l g j e g f l ' House Agreement Bill](#) \$ Z Y k] \ ' g f l '] ' Y Z g j l a n] \] Y d j k l ' approved by all the parties last Christmas, but then \] f g m f [] \ Z q ' K a f f ' > f a ' o '] f l '] q j] Y d k] \ a ' e] Y f l ' accepting Treasury cuts to the devolved welfare system. L '] h Y j l q [g m d ' f g l ' Y g j \ l g ' Y [[]] h l [m k ' o ' a] Y l ' l '] same time mounting the main anti-austerity challenge in next year's elections in the Republic as well as the North.

G l '] j ' Y k h] [l k ' g ^ K l g j e g f l ' @ g n k] ' o] j] ' d g c a f _ ' e g j] ' hopeful, such as agreement over a beefed up independent Historic Investigations Unit into outstanding Troubles cases and a separate forum for revealing to victims' families what happened to their loved ones. In a single political reform the UK government proposes extending the time for executive formation from seven to 14 days. It is hoped that this will allow more time for the parties to agree a genuinely joint programme for government rather than head for \] Y \ d j [c ' g n] j j a n Y d o a k ' a k l k &

L '] ' _ g n] j f e] f l d ' a f k a l] f [] ' g f ' d f c a f _ ' l '] ' n f \ a f _ ' for a revived agreement to acceptance of the welfare [m k ' d g c k ' h j g Z d e Y l a d & L '] ' l a e a f _ ' e Y q l '] j] ' g j] ' Z] ' against early resolution. The government may yet have l g ' d _ a k d l] ' l g ' l Y c] ' o] d Y j] ' h g o] j k Z Y [c l] e h g j Y j a d j l g ']





Lord Thomas, LCJ, Judicial Independence closing conference
 Bnf] * () - &Ae Y_] [j] \ a © [Constitution Unit](#)

Yf \ 'Kj BYe] k'E nf Zq 'g] ' k]] ' gje k'g^Ye ad] bkl d] \$ and his speech neatly dovetailed with one given by the Lord Chief Justice the day before.

At the [closing conference](#) of the Unit's project on the [Hgd d k'g^Bn d d'f \ \ h\] f \ \] f \[\] 'gf ** 'Bnf \] \\$I` \]` Dgj \ ; ` d ^Bnkl d \] Yf \ 'Kj L\] \] f \[\] =l` \] \] lgf \\$` \] Y \ g^ l` \] ; ` Yf \[\] \] q < ankaf \\$khgc\] d' kae ad\] l \] je k'YZgmt` the 'most transformative court reform programme in a generation'. Modernising IT is central to improving the system, with plans for a common digital platform for criminal justice which will embrace the criminal courts Yf \ 'bn_\] k \\$I` \] ; jgo f 'Hjgk \[m\] af 'K\] jn d \] \\$I` \] ' hgd \] Yf \ ' \] ' hjgZYl af ' k\] jn d \] & kae ad\] d' f ' \] \[an d \[gm\] k \\$ there are plans to reduce the need for formal hearings, kh\] \] \ 'm \ \] \[k af 'e Ycf _ \\$Yf \ 'knZe d' Y\] 'e gj` information on line. The courts estate will be further rationalised, supplemented by the use of video technology.](#)

[Lord Thomas's speech](#) was titled Judicial Leadership. The Lord Chief Justice emphasised two things. First, that these reforms were being initiated by the judiciary, and their implementation was being led by the bn d d' j q \$o gjcf _ f [gf bnf [l af 'o d']] p [m] an` Yf \ ' hYj d' e] f l & k [gf \ \$I` Yl]] ' bn d d' j q f go 'gh] jYl] \ Y` more collective form of leadership, through the Judicial Executive Board and the Judges' Council. In the past the Lord Chancellor would have led the way; but increasingly l`] ' bn d d' j q Yj]] ' e k] d] k' l Ycf _ j] khgf kZ ad] q' g] running the justice system. The LCJ accepted that with that responsibility went greater accountability, in particular to parliament.



**Taking sides:
 The politics of the EU referendum**

The political debate about the UK's EU membership is intensifying in the run-up to a potentially decisive =njgh] Yf 'kne e d' f < [] e Z] j&K` ml d ` \ a d] e Y [q` between London and Brussels has increased, the campaigns are launching, and the political parties are positioning themselves during their annual conferences. O` ad] l`] ' Dd] jYd <] e g [jYk Yj] ' b] e d] h d [] \ f l`] ' 'In' camp, and Labour continues to be supportive of continued EU membership in spite of initial tensions after its leadership election, the Conservatives continue lg Z] \ 'an d] \ &G [d' ad] l`] ' hY] l q'o ad] k Yq f] m] jYd f l`] ' campaign, but [a recent study](#) by Open Europe suggests l` Yl Yk'e Yf q' Yk * (+ 'Lg] q' E Hk Yj] ' nf \] [d] \ &

The domestic debate in Britain is playing out against l`] ' ZY [c \] gh g^ f l] f k] ' hgd d] Yd [` Y ad] f _] k' f l`] ' =MYk` Y'o` g d \$o`]] l`] ' Kq] d' f] j] ' m]] [j k k Yf \ l`] ' d] f _ % l]] e ' f kl ant af Yde Yc] % h' g^ l`] ' =njgrgf] \ ge d' Yl] ' the agenda. Both questions are of crucial importance for the [Hjæ \] E f k l \] j @ Yll \] e hl \] g \] \] % \] gl d \] l \]](#) the UK's relationship with Europe. The refugee crisis has become entangled with the salient debate about immigration Yf \ ' hg]] f l ad] Y] [l k l`] ' Z' k' q] l' nf \] [d] \ ! læ d' _ g^ the referendum; recent proposals by France and the =njgh] Yf ; ge e k k af ' g] =njgrgf] j] ' gje [gm d' g] j] an opportunity to accommodate British re-negotiation requests – even if formal EU Treaty change will not happen before the referendum. The goals and the process of the re-negotiation itself remain opaque and are driven by the tension between the politically feasible and the domestically 'sellable'. Recent calls by Labour and the trade unions for the continuation of a 'social Europe' also underline that what may count as a re-negotiation success for the moderately Eurosceptic centre-right could cost support for continued EU membership on the centre-left.

The passage of the EU Referendum Bill

The [bill](#) enabling a referendum on the UK's EU membership completed its House of Commons and Lords. Its Commons passage was, however, far from straightforward. The government was forced into a series of concessions relating to the referendum timing, the referendum question, and the rules governing the referendum campaign.

Regarding timing, the government initially proposed a four-month notice period. The government also accepted a four-month notice period for the referendum.

The question 'Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?' was initially proposed. Following advice from the Electoral Commission, however, this was changed to 'Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?' and a successful campaign by advocates of 'Brexit', and now face the challenge of campaigning for an option called 'Remain'.

On campaign rules, the government proposed to increase the usual spending limits and this was agreed. But it faced bigger problems with its proposed relaxation of the so-called 'purdah' rules, which restrict the government's use of the Whitehall publicity machine during an election or referendum. They are intended to ensure a fair and level playing field for all candidates and the outcome. The government had originally argued that there should be no restrictions on the way that ministers could campaign in the run-up to the EU referendum. But it has since accepted that purdah should be in place, but with an exemption that would allow ministers 'to communicate a position on the referendum in restrained and moderate terms'.

L'argument principal est que l'application stricte des règles de purdah signifiait que le résultat du référendum serait truqué et 'invalid', tandis que le gouvernement maintenait que l'application stricte des règles de purdah signifiait que le référendum serait 'impossible'. Les ministres devaient continuer à rendre compte de leur gestion quotidienne avec l'UE, et aussi à expliquer le résultat des négociations de la gouvernance de la réintégration de la Grande-Bretagne à la population britannique. Les déclarations faites par les ministres relatives à l'UE pourraient être considérées comme potentiellement en violation des règles de purdah.

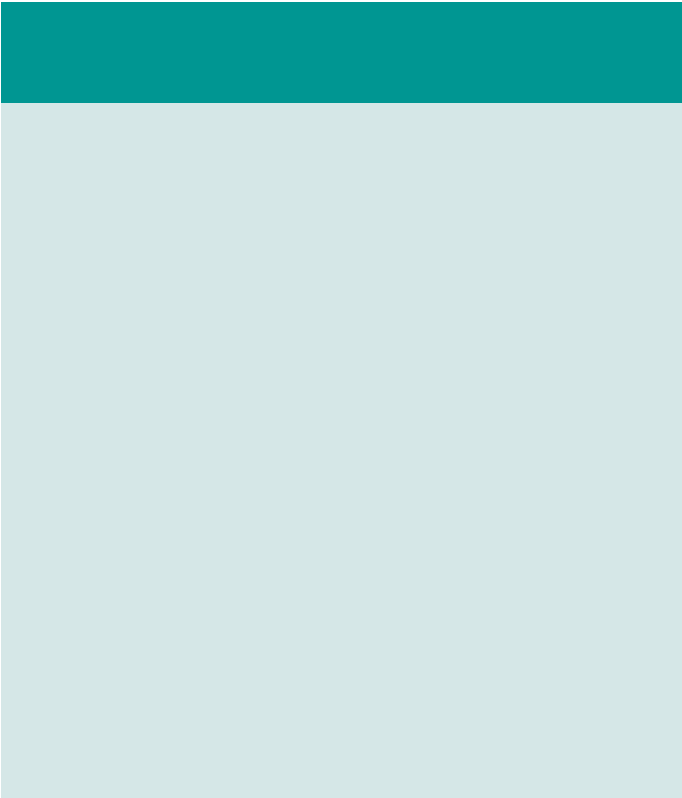
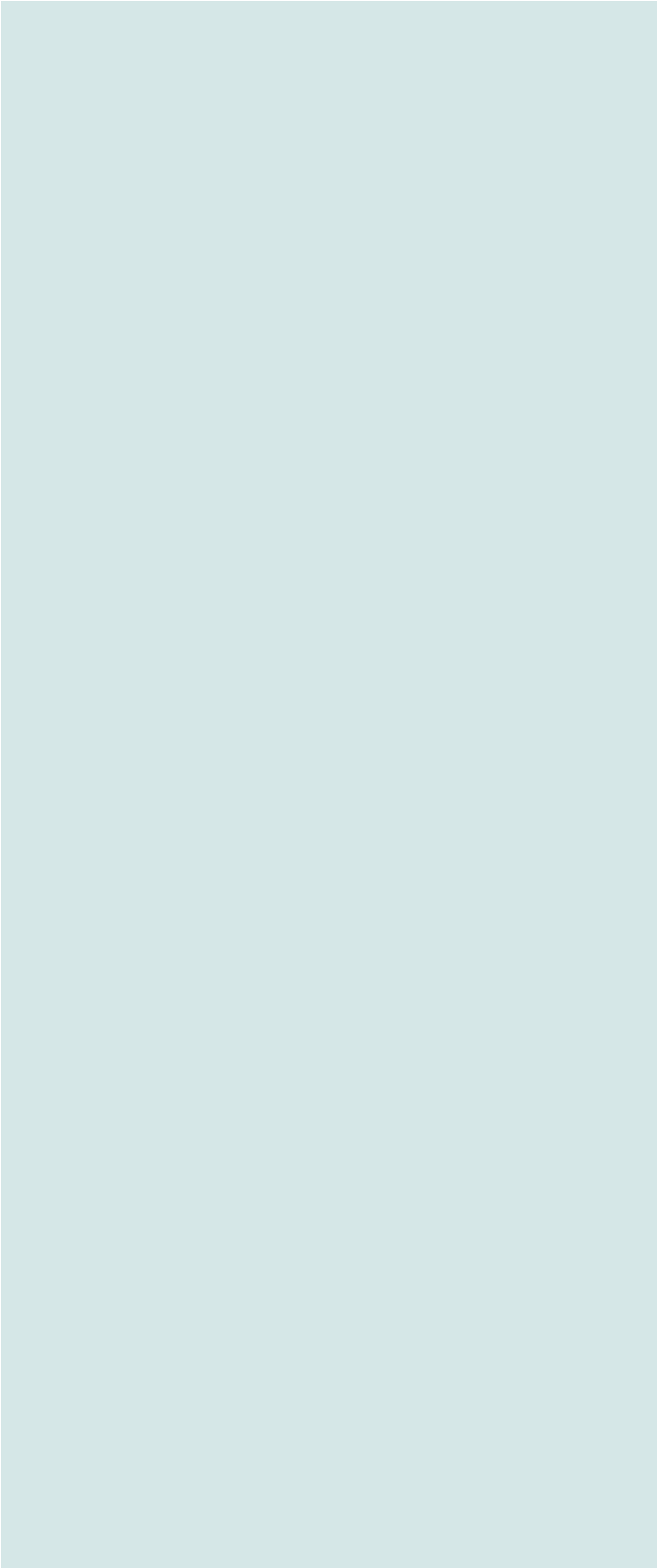
Les règles de purdah sont généralement appliquées dans les référendums de l'UE dans d'autres pays européens. Dans les référendums de l'UE, les ministres n'ont pas été interdits de présenter leur cas dans les débats. Il a été débattu que les restrictions de purdah ne devraient pas s'appliquer.



The race is on in the US primaries

The race for the White House is in full swing. Over 40 Republicans have declared themselves candidates, including Jeb Bush, son and brother of former Bush presidents Jeb Bush, and Carly Fiorina. Much of the attention has been on Trump's sizeable lead in the polls, despite clashes with fellow candidates and journalists, plus questionable performances in the two Republican debates held so far. It remains unclear whether Trump's populist policies and popularity are robust in light of increasing pressure and criticism from women and minority groups.

>gj i`] <] e g[jYlk i`] `g[nk` Yk Z]] f` d`j_] d`g f`
 Hillary Clinton, who leads all other candidates although
 her numbers have been slipping recently. Clinton's
 hghm d`jaq` Yk`km]j] \ `gj` lo g`hja` [d`Ydj] Ykgf k2nk] `g^
 Y`hja nYI] k] jn] j`gj`] % Yalk`o` a] `K] [j] lYjq`g^ KIYI] \$Yf \`
 l`] `af [j] Yka` _`hghm d`jaq`g^:] j f a] `KYf \] jk & KYf \] jk \$
 l`] `mf a] j` K] f Ylgj` `jge` `N] je gf l \$k` Yf` af \] h] f \] f l` o` g`
 [Ym [nk] k`o` a` i`] <] e g[jYlk`Zm` \] k [j a] k` a` k] d` Yk` Y`
 \] e g[jYl a] `kg [a` k l & @] \$ d`c] `B] j] e q` 1



Constitution Unit news

New leadership team, Associates and Fellows

The autumn has brought important changes at the top at the Constitution Unit. [Robert Hazell](#), who founded the Unit in 1999, stepped down in 2019 and has entered semi-retirement. He is succeeded as director by [Meg Russell](#). [Professor John F. W. Smeeth](#) joined UCL from the University of York, and [Professor David G. Colman](#) joined from the University of Cambridge. We are very happy to welcome them all.

[E-mail: \[enquiries@constitutionunit.org\]\(mailto:enquiries@constitutionunit.org\)](#)

Welcome to Alan Renwick

[Alan Renwick](#) is a Fellow of the British Academy and a former member of the Electoral Commission. He has previously held positions at Oxford University. He has particular expertise in electoral systems and electoral reform. [Alan Renwick](#) is a Fellow of the British Academy and a former member of the Electoral Commission. He has previously held positions at Oxford University. He has particular expertise in electoral systems and electoral reform.

[Alan Renwick](#) is due out with Oxford University Press on the conduct of referendums, and [options for a constitutional convention](#) for the UK. Alan is currently part of a [collaborative project](#) with the University of York and the University of Cambridge pilot citizens' assemblies. The project is funded by the Wellcome Trust and the National Endowment for Democracy. [Alan Renwick](#) will appear in future issues.

Other staff changes

We are very sorry to say goodbye to several valued members of staff. [Professor David G. Colman](#) is leaving the Unit to return to the University of Cambridge. [Professor John F. W. Smeeth](#) is leaving the Unit to return to the University of York. [Professor David G. Colman](#) is leaving the Unit to return to the University of Cambridge. [Professor John F. W. Smeeth](#) is leaving the Unit to return to the University of York. [Professor David G. Colman](#) is leaving the Unit to return to the University of Cambridge. [Professor John F. W. Smeeth](#) is leaving the Unit to return to the University of York.

New Constitution Unit Fellows

In October, alongside the change of leadership at the Unit, we are very pleased to welcome a new group of Constitution Unit Fellows. The eight Fellows are senior academics at other universities who will have strong research and events. Future editions of will provide occasional updates on their research.

Professor Justin Fisher



Justin Fisher is a senior lecturer in the School of Law at the University of London. He has acted as an adviser to many political bodies, including parliament, the Ministry of

Justice and the Electoral Commission and the Council of Europe. He is currently principal investigator of the 'The Electoral Commission and the Council of Europe' project. He is currently principal investigator of the 'The Electoral Commission and the Council of Europe' project.

Professor Michael Kenny



Michael Kenny is a senior lecturer in the School of Law at Queen Mary, University of London. He was awarded a Major Research Fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust in 2015. His research interests are in the cultural, political and constitutional dimensions of the English question and

the implementation of 'English votes for English laws', and is a Visiting Research Fellow at the [Centre on Constitutional Change](#).

Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira



Cristina Leston-Bandeira is a senior lecturer in the School of Law at the University of London. Her research interests are in the area of comparative legislatures. Cristina's research

has recently focused on parliament and public engagement and she is currently co-leading a project on how the UK parliament engages the public in the legislative process.

Professor Andrew Le Sueur



Andrew Le Sueur is a senior lecturer in the School of Law at the University of Essex and is involved in practical law reform issues as a member of the Jersey Law Commission. His interests span constitutional and administrative law, including courts and the 'justice infrastructure', judicial

review and the challenges faced by very small legal systems. He is part of the team leading development of the 'Justice Infrastructure' project.

Professor Kate Malleson



Kate Malleson is a senior lecturer in the School of Law at Queen Mary, University of London. Her main research interests are the judiciary, the legal system and the challenge of increasing diversity in the composition

of the judiciary. She is currently co-leading a three year AHRC funded project on 'The politics of judicial independence in the UK's changing constitution'. Its findings will be published in a book by Cambridge University Press.

Professor Nicola McEwen

Fellow of the British Academy, Professor of Law, University of Edinburgh, UK. Formerly, Director of the Centre for Constitutional Change, and Managing Editor of *Regional and Federal Law*.

Her research interests include multi-level government and nationalism, and is actively involved in informing debate within the wider public sphere through consultancy and public engagement.

Professor Petra Schleiter

Professor of Law, University of Edinburgh, UK. Formerly, Professor of Law and International Relations, Michigan State University, USA. Comparative political scientist whose research examines how political institutions shape representation and accountability. Her

research interests include multi-level government and nationalism, and is actively involved in informing debate within the wider public sphere through consultancy and public engagement.

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Unit publications

Graham Gee, Robert Hazell, Kate Malleson and

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