



Cabinet Office

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional
Affairs Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

Our reference: MC2020/16443

Baroness Taylor of Bolton
Chair, Lords Constitution Committee
House of Lords
SW1A 0AA

2 November 2020

Dear William and Anne,

Government response to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee Report - The Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 (6th Report of Session 2019-21) and Government response to the Lords Constitution Committee report - A Question of Confidence? The Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 (12th Report of Session 2019-21)

We are writing to thank both the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee and the Lords Constitution Committee for your recent reports into the Fixed-term Parliaments Act which we read with interest.

As you will know, the Government's manifesto made a commitment to repeal the Fixed-term Parliaments Act (FTPA) and progress has been made in developing the policy to ensure that what replaces the FTPA operates effectively. It is imperative that this important element of our constitution, the right to call an election, operates in a way that is both recognisable and commonly understood. It is for this reason that the Government has emphasised the need for proper parliamentary scrutiny of this policy. The work of your Committees, in identifying some of the issues with the existing legislation and considering the policy issues that will need to be resolved when the Act is repealed, has been useful in this regard.

Announcements about the Government's policy intentions will be made in due course. In advance of such announcements, we would like to extend an offer of a private meeting to provide you with an update on the policy work that has taken place. We look forward to hearing



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from you on this point and working with you to develop understanding of and consensus around the Government's policy.

Chloe Smith MP
Minister of State for the Constitution
and Devolution

Lord True CBE
Minister of State