

Written evidence submitted by Caroline Lucas MP (CSL 02)

Thank you for circulating your survey in relation to how MPs are meant to directly scrutinise Lord David Cameron, who has been appointed as Foreign Secretary despite not being an MP.

I looked at the survey and noted the opening question:

"Should Secretaries of State in the House of Lords be more directly accountable to the House of Commons?"

This appears to accept the principle of having a Secretary of State in the House of Lords. If I answered no to your question, it would signal acceptance of that principle, whilst a yes response would also indicate support, albeit with democratic structures created to accommodate the scenario. Neither represents my position: I cannot agree to anything that would create a precedent and help legitimise the degrading of the primacy of the Commons embodied by the appointment of an unelected Foreign Secretary.

It is clearly a significant problem that Lord Cameron cannot come to the dispatch box in the Commons, but it is one that the Prime Minister needs to solve by appointing one of his 349 elected and accountable Conservative colleagues to the role.

I should be grateful if you could record this as my formal response.