

Sir,

I am writing regarding the current proposals to reform the House of Lords. The Coalition has set out to rebuild confidence in our political system, yet they propose to entrench special interests at the heart of Government in the form of the 'Lords Spiritual'.

Opinion polls have consistently shown significant public opposition to the privileged access to Parliament afforded to bishops of the Church of England. An ICM Omnibus poll found some 74% of the public – and even 70% of Christians – oppose reserving seats, *ex officio*, for representatives of the Church of England in Parliament.

Over two days of Parliamentary debate on Lords reform, the Government's proposals to retain Church of England bishops in the legislature came under sustained attack. In all, around one in every five speakers made reference to the role of the Lords Spiritual in a reformed House.

Despite the popular and parliamentary outcry, the Government proposes to continue reserving seats in the legislature exclusively for men of the Church of England. I urge readers to write to their MP asking they raise concerns directly with Cabinet Office ministers.

Yours,