



Joint Committee on Human Rights

House of Commons · 7 Millbank · London · SW1P 3JA

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From Dr. Hywel Francis MP, Chair

11 January 2011

The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Dear Nick,

Right of Peers to vote in general elections

The Joint Committee on Human Rights is considering whether the disqualification of Peers who are members of the House of Lords from voting in general elections is compatible with the right to participate in free and fair elections in Article 3 Protocol 1 ECHR.

I would be grateful if you could provide us with answers to the following questions:

1. What is the justification for disqualifying Peers from voting in general elections?
2. Does the Government plan to remove the disqualification and, if so, when?

I would be grateful if you could reply by **26 January 2011** and if an electronic copy of your reply, in Word, could be emailed to jchr@parliament.uk.

Yours sincerely,

DR. HYWEL FRANCIS MP
Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights