



Mr Speaker

Speaker's House Westminster London SW1A 0AA

17 December 2013

Dear Member

I am writing to you for three reasons. First, I would like to thank those Members who participated in both the tributes to Nelson Mandela in the House on Monday 9 December and the special commemorative event held in Westminster Hall on Thursday 12 December.

I hope that you like me will feel immensely proud that our Parliament gave such a touching yet fitting farewell to South Africa's former President.

Second, I wanted to take the opportunity to offer an update following my speech to the Hansard Society on 27 November, announcing the setting up of a new Digital Democracy Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to consider the effect of the digital revolution on representative democracy and it is designed to work in a fast and flexible fashion – its focus is the future. Meg Hillier MP and Robert Halfon MP have kindly agreed to serve on the core group of the Digital Democracy Commission, which, I can announce will also include the Chief Executive of the Tinder Foundation, Helen Milner. It is anticipated that other members will be announced after the Christmas Recess.

This core group of eight people will be supplemented by a wider circle of experts and practitioners, including civil society, business, technical experts and academia.

My third reason for writing to you is to wish colleagues all the peace and joy of the season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Bercow'.

John Bercow  
Speaker