

Dear John,

Many thanks for getting in touch and for your questions about electoral reform.

Parliament needs to be representative of all communities, and our political institutions should be fully connected to the wider electorate. I would like to see a Constitutional Convention to answer crucial questions about how power is distributed in the UK today, how nations and regions can best relate to each other, and how power can most effectively be put in the hands of the people.

If elected deputy leader, I will launch a Labour Campaign for Britain's Future:

- We must have a proper Constitutional Convention so we can galvanise the public and the party around how all the nations and regions of the UK are governed in a post-Brexit Britain. Taking power at Westminster and then giving it away.
- In the short-term, pro-Europe voices are needed to ensure that trade negotiations put the UK on the side of higher standards and not a race to the bottom with a Trump trade deal. We need to set the bar high.
- Following the end of the Brexit transition period, the Labour movement must make the case for a closer relationship.
- This will enhance Britain's place in the world and ensure that jobs and livelihoods are protected, and the UK's economy can grow.
- In the long-term, Labour must never rule out campaigning to be part of the EU again in the future, if it is in the national interest.

Addressing your other questions, there are, of course, strengths and weaknesses to all voting systems. Proportional Representation is well established in the UK, with proportional systems used in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and in London, for the Assembly elections. As a result, most voters in the UK have now used more than one electoral system. As a former councillor in Edinburgh, I supported the introduction of STV for local council elections in Scotland and would welcome this being introduced in other parts of the UK.

When it comes to General Elections, FPTP is well-established and understood in the UK. It retains the constituency link between MPs and their constituents, and I believe that a geographical link must always be preserved.

I will always welcome debate about the best way to ensure that people are engaged with our political system. However, we must also accept that changing the voting system alone will not fix the disconnect that some voters feel about our political process. For many people, they believe that politics does not work. I will therefore continue to support efforts to increase democratic engagement, and to build a vibrant and active democracy in which all eligible voters have their say.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian Murray' in a cursive style.

Ian Murray MP
ian@murrayfordeputy.co.uk
www.murrayfordeputy.co.uk

