

## **Q & A – REFORM OF THE VOTING SYSTEM**

### **1. What is the Government's view of Lord Jenkins' recommended system (AV+)?**

We are very grateful to Lord Jenkins and the Commission for their report. From the time of its publication we made it clear that we wished to see a full and frank debate, across the country, on the merits or otherwise of Lord Jenkins' proposals before taking a view.

### **2. Why are you taking so long to hold the referendum?**

Lord Jenkins himself acknowledged that the Commission's recommended system could not be in place before the next general election. Consequently, holding the referendum in the next Parliament became a possibility. The current position is that we have not yet come to a decision as to when the referendum should be held or what question should be asked.

### **3. Is it the case that the referendum will offer AV instead of Lord Jenkins' AV+ as the alternative to First Past the post?**

I have already made it clear that we have take no decisions on the question which will be asked in the referendum.

### **4. How will you ensure that the referendum is fairly conducted?**

The Electoral Commission will be responsible for the conduct of any referendum.

### **5. Why not introduce PR for local elections to increase turnout?**

There is no evidence that turnout would be increased by the introduction of PR. We think that the changes we are introducing to the structure of local government, such as directly elected mayors, as well as encouraging local authorities to experiment with different ways of voting, will make a much greater impact on turnout than a change in the electoral system.

### **6. Will PR be produced for Scottish local elections?**

That is a matter for the Scottish Parliament.