

50 MPs out: 40 Lords in

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I have never believed there to be a good reason for reducing the number of UK MPs from 650 to 600. Gerrymandering is an explanation: it is not a good reason.

If cost was that explanation David Cameron's plan to create 40 new peers, leaked today in The Times, blows that apart. It is true that peers are not as expensive per head as MPs but let's not also pretend they are costless

So this policy is what most of us always presumed it to be, which is an exercise in increasing Conservative Party control of government, whether democratically justified or otherwise.

The march from democracy continues. And the cost will be born by those whose voices will no longer be heard, which is why this matters to me.