

MPs' jobs are not going to be cut - thankfully

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There has been one welcome piece of news this morning. The Electoral Reform Society has just noted that:

The Government has abandoned proposals to cut the number of MPs in the House of Commons from 650 to 600.

Cabinet office minister Chloe Smith said ministers will scrap the previously-planned shake-up of UK constituencies, due to Parliament facing a 'greater workload' after Brexit.

I have long opposed this drive by the government to undermine our democracy by reducing the number of elected representatives that we have, just as I have always been happy to see a cap on the Lords, simply because they are not elected.

I welcome this move, even if an excuse had to be found for it.

At a time when democracy and government scrutiny is going to need all the help that it can get this is a rare bit of good news right now.

Next, of course, the electoral system needs reform. And even if that's not a job for today I sincerely hope someone is still working on it. Like so many issues, this will be one needing to be addressed when the post-coronavirus consensus (PCC) is established.