

T108 - Arguments against proportional representation

I support Mr Wragg's challenge to the view that proportional representation would be more democratic than our present method at Westminster (letter, 9 May 2005).

The Liberal Democrat leader Mr Charles Kennedy has hailed the arrival of a three-party system. If you have three parties you get three different manifestos. There is unlikely to be a majority for any one of these.

The necessary consequence is one or other of the following.

One of the three forms a strong government on a minority vote, as we have under the Westminster system now. Alternatively two of the three join together in a coalition, as in the Scottish Parliament. There, they have a system of proportional representation. Out of a total of 129 MSPs, fifty Labour MSPs have joined with seventeen Liberal Democrat SMPs to form a coalition government. The supporters of neither party got the policies they voted for.

Instead they got a mishmash agreed in secret after the election. I do not call that democratic.