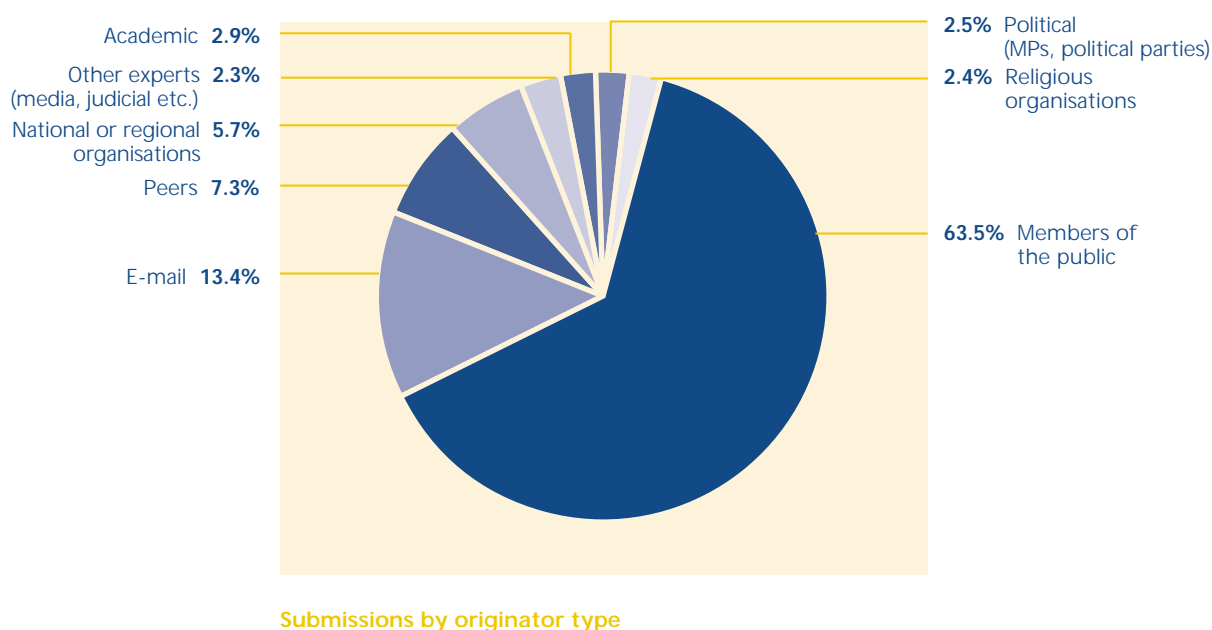


Appendix A – Consultation process

Analysis of submissions

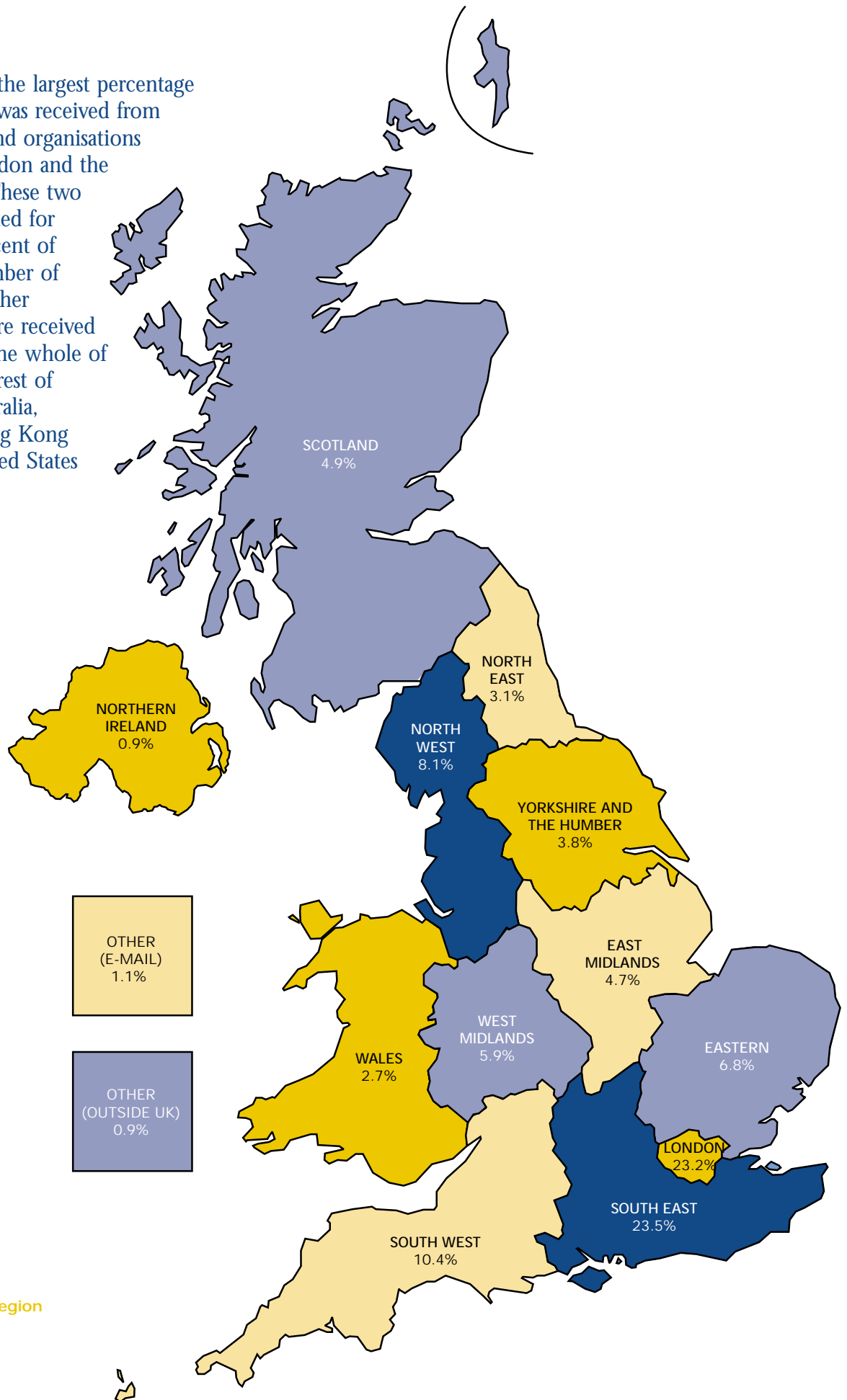
A.1 We received a total of 1,734 pieces of written evidence.¹ These were mainly sent in response to the consultation paper, but many were stimulated by our public meetings and through wider media publicity.

A.2 Members of the public were responsible for sending in the largest number of submissions, over 76 per cent of the total. Members and former members of the House of Lords submitted 127 pieces of evidence, 7.3 per cent of the total. The other evidence was submitted by a wide range of organisations and individuals, providing a good cross section of background information, views and suggestions on the wide range of complex issues we had to consider.



¹ This figure includes 233 pieces of evidence submitted through our website.

A.3 By far the largest percentage of responses was received from individuals and organisations based in London and the South East. These two areas accounted for over 46 per cent of the total number of responses. Other responses were received from across the whole of the UK, the rest of Europe, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and the United States of America.



Responses by region

Analysis of questionnaires

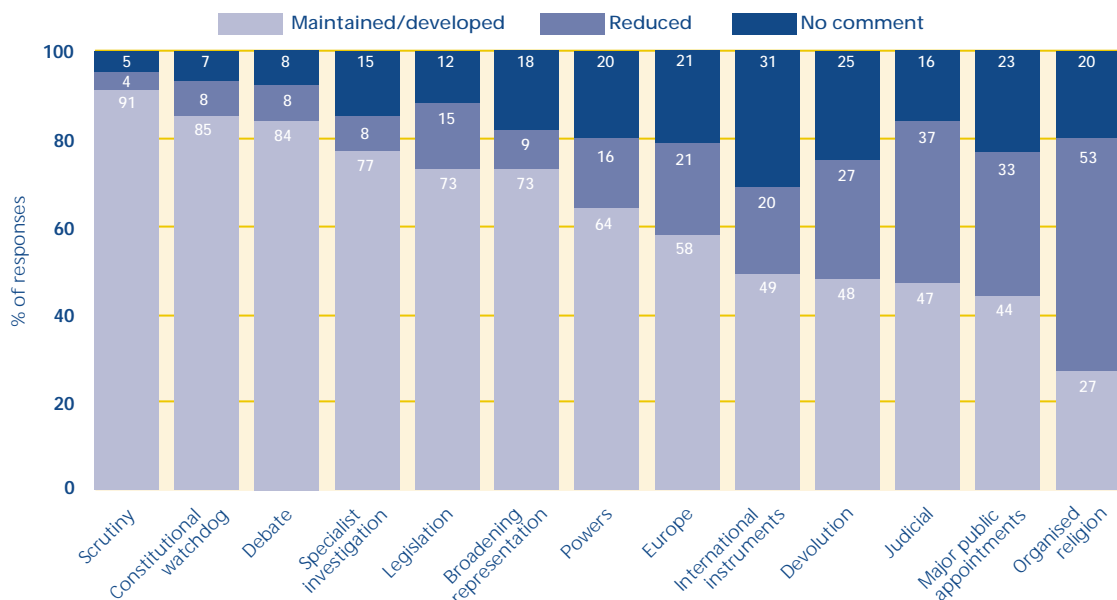
A.4 We held a total of 21 sessions of public hearings to take oral evidence from witnesses. These were attended by 1,026 people. Over 58 per cent of those attending completed questionnaires to help us gauge public opinion on some of the major issues affecting the reform. The adjacent table gives a breakdown of the number of people who attended each public hearing, and the number of questionnaires completed at each.

Location of hearing	Number of attendees	Number of completed questionnaires	Response rate	% of total number completed
London (May)	140	105	75.0%	17.5%
Exeter	82	40	48.8%	6.7%
Peterborough	26	19	73.1%	3.2%
Newcastle	52	35	67.3%	5.8%
Manchester	105	69	65.7%	11.5%
Birmingham	100	42	42.0%	7.0%
Edinburgh	64	42	65.6%	7.0%
Cardiff	113	47	41.6%	7.9%
London (July)	344	200	58.1%	33.4%
Total	1,026	599	58.4%	100.0%

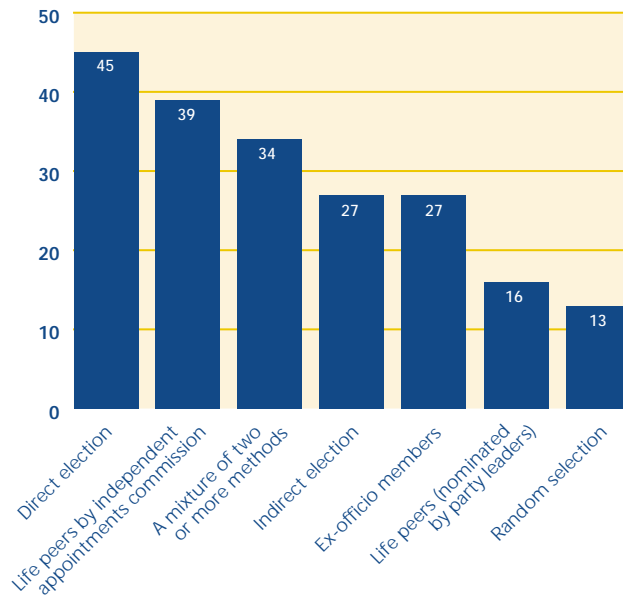
Public Hearing statistics

A.5 In addition to the questionnaires from the public hearings, we also received 340 responses to the copy of the questionnaire which was available on our website.

A.6 The following chart indicates the extent to which respondents to the questionnaire wanted the various functions of the present House of Lords to be maintained (and/or developed) or reduced. The chart has been arranged to show the function areas in order of the level of support which they attracted. Thus, the scrutiny function attracted most support (91 per cent), while only 27 per cent supported a function relating to organised religion within the reformed chamber. The large number of ‘no comment’ responses against some of the functions listed in the questionnaire suggests that a considerable proportion of respondents were uncertain as to the possible role of the second chamber in those areas, notably international treaties, devolution and major public appointments.



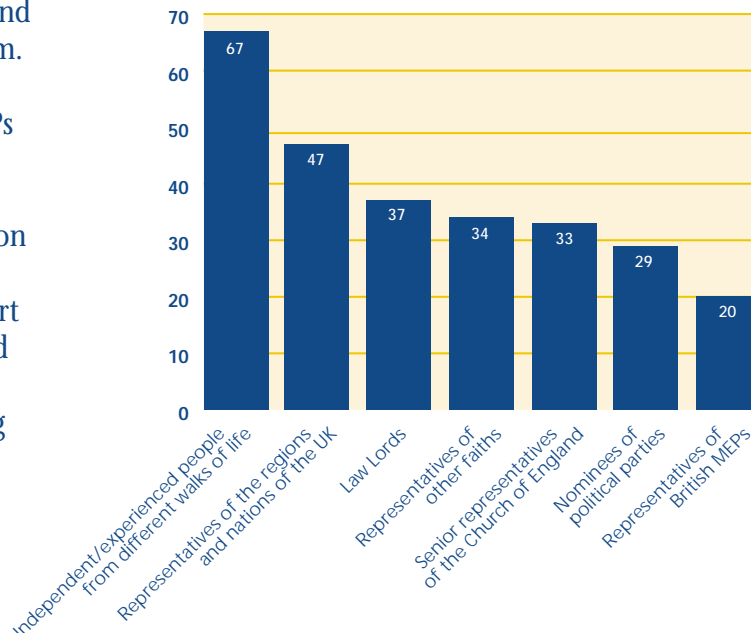
A.7 The charts on this page summarise the results of the questions regarding the composition of a reformed second chamber and the method or methods which should be used to select members. The responses are again shown in order of the support they gained. Direct election received most support: nearly half the respondents favoured this method. Life peers selected by an independent Appointments Commission were supported by nearly 40 per cent, compared to only 16 per cent who thought they should be chosen by party leaders. Over one-third indicated support for a mixed chamber. In addition, some respondents chose more than one method of selection without specifying that the chamber should be mixed. Random selection received the support of only 13 per cent.



Responses to questionnaires – selection systems

Responders could select more than one option. Consequently, the figures do not sum to 100 per cent.

A.8 On composition, 67 per cent of the respondents wanted to include independent/experienced people in the second chamber. Nearly half indicated that they would like to see representatives of the nations and regions of the United Kingdom. At the other end of the scale, representation for British MEPs received the support of only 20 per cent of respondents, although this rose at the London hearings. Perhaps curiously, in view of the low level of support for a role concerning organised religion, almost one-third of respondents favoured including Church of England bishops in the membership – more than favoured political nominees.



Responses to questionnaires – composition

Responders could select more than one option. Consequently, the figures do not sum to 100 per cent.