



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government



Easy  
Read

# Stopping other countries from changing our politics

## What the government should do



**This is an Easy Read version of ‘Report of the Independent Review into Countering Foreign Financial Influence and Interference in UK Politics’**

# What is in this report

About this report.....	3
What is politics? .....	4
Why I have written this report .....	6
What I believe .....	9
Social media .....	11
Money in politics.....	13
What I think should happen.....	15

# About this report



I am Philip Rycroft.

In December 2025, the **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government** asked me to write this report.



The **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government** is a part of the government.



The report is about how to protect our **politics** from people in other countries who want to harm it.

We will explain what our **politics** is on the next page.

# What is politics?



**Politics** is how people work together to make decisions, create rules and decide what is right for a community or a country.



The people who work in politics are called **politicians**.



Some politicians work together in groups, called **political parties**.

Labour, The Conservatives, Reform UK, The Liberal Democrats and The Green Party are some of the political parties in the UK.



**Democracy** means people in the UK who can vote get to choose their leaders.



This can be for things like a local council or for the national government.



We do this by **voting** for the politicians that we think should speak up for us.



When people vote, it is called an **election**.

Elections let people have their voices heard by those in power.

# Why I have written this report



Remember, **politics** is how we make decisions about how to run the UK.

These decisions could affect things like schools, the Army and the NHS.



Some people and organisations in other countries want to change these decisions.



But our politics should only be decided by:

- People from the UK.
- People who live in the UK.

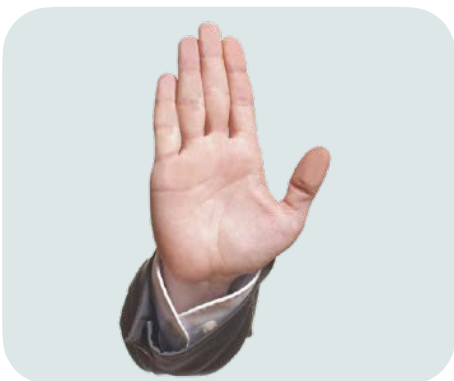
The people in other countries who try to change our politics do it in 2 main ways:



1. Get our politicians to change their decisions.



2. Make people lose trust in politicians, political parties and how they run our country.



Sometimes, these countries want us to stop doing very important things.



In 2021, a group called the **Committee on Standards in Public Life** wrote a report.



The report had ideas on how to protect our politics from people who wanted to change it.



The government has written a plan for a new law, that uses a lot of ideas from that report.

The new plan is called the **Representation of the People Bill 2026**.



I want this report to help make that plan even better for when it becomes law.

# What I believe



I believe that:

- People in different countries should be able to share ideas about politics.



- People should be able to say what they think about politics and politicians, as long as it does not break the law.



But people should only try to affect our politics if they are open and honest about it.



People and organisations should not be allowed to try to secretly change our politics.



People should be able to give money to **political parties**.

Remember, **political parties** are groups of people who work together. They have the same beliefs about how a country should be run.



Political parties should be open and honest about who gives them money.



They should not take money from people and organisations in other countries.

# Social media



**Social media** is apps and websites like Instagram, Facebook and TikTok.



A lot of people worry about social media affecting our politics.



This is because:

- Some people on social media are very nasty.



- People can lie about politics on social media.



Social media can help people to talk about politics.



But people in other countries can use social media to cause problems in the UK.



They can tell people that our politics is too broken to fix.



This might make some people want to fix their problems in other ways.

# Money in politics



Political parties get a little bit of money from the government.



But this money does not pay for everything that political parties need to do.



So they can also get money from other people and organisations.



But people might give money to political parties to try and get politicians to change their decisions.



There are rules about who can give money to political parties.



But these rules are very complicated.



I think they should be easier to understand and follow.



This will help to stop people and organisations from other countries from giving money to political parties.

# What I think should happen

## British voters who live in other countries



Some British people who live in other countries can give money to political parties.



But I think that they should only be able to give a certain amount.

For example, they might only be allowed to give political parties £100,000 a year.

## Companies that give money to political parties



Companies can give money to political parties.



But they should not be allowed to give more money than their **profit** in that year.

**Profit** is the amount of money a company has left after it has paid all its costs.

# Cryptoassets



**Cryptoassets** are digital money like Bitcoin.



The government should stop political parties from taking money in cryptoassets.



This is because it is difficult to tell who someone is when they use cryptoassets.



So people might use them to hide who the money is really coming from.

## Spending money



Some people spend money in politics without giving money to political parties.



They might spend money trying to get people to vote for a politician or a political party.

This is called a **campaign**.



Campaigns should be open and honest about who gives them money.

## Checking who gives money to political parties



There should be stricter rules to make sure that political parties check who is giving them money.



This will make sure that they only get money from people in the UK.

## Political party rules



Political parties should write rules.

These rules should help them stop people and organisations in other countries from affecting their decisions.

## Looking out for problems



The government and the police should tell political parties about problems to look out for.



This will help political parties to make sure they are safe from other countries trying to change their decisions.

## The Electoral Commission

# The Electoral Commission

The **Electoral Commission** is an organisation that makes sure that our democracy is fair.



They should have more power to get information to check people are following the rules.



## The police

There should be special police officers who know a lot about the rules about money and politics.



This will make it easier to find out if people are breaking the rules.

## Breaking the law



Some people try to cheat during elections so that they win unfairly.



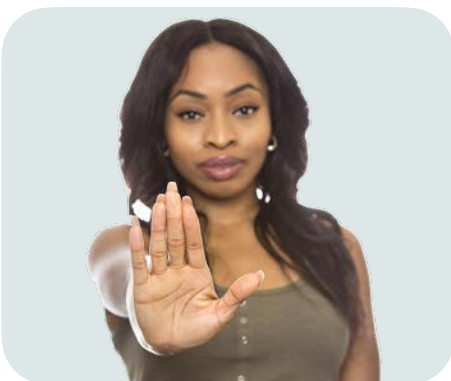
This is very serious and against the law.

It should be easier to punish people who do this.

## Online problems



Other countries could try to ruin our democracy using the internet.



The government should take this more seriously.

## Political adverts online



Many people see adverts about politics online.

These adverts might try to make them change their minds about who to vote for.



Sometimes, people in other countries are paying for these adverts.



The government should have stricter rules to stop this.

# Lobbying



**Lobbying** is when groups talk to politicians to try and change their minds about something.



Lobbying is allowed, but there are laws about how to do it.



The government should change the law, so that lobbying groups from other countries have to say they are lobbying.



The government should also look at how people in other countries use lobbying to change our politics.

## Putting someone in charge



The government should take this very seriously.



They should put someone in charge of protecting our politics from people in other countries.

This Easy Read booklet was produced by [easy-read-online.co.uk](http://easy-read-online.co.uk)  
The booklet includes images licensed from Shutterstock.