



# Monitor Supplement: April 2005

## The General Election and the Constitution

*Since the Monitor went to press, the general election campaign has kicked off in earnest. This special general election supplement compares the main parties' manifesto commitments in the field of constitutional policy.*

Policy Area	Labour	Conservatives	
House of Commons	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lords procedural conventions and limit time most bills spend in Lords to 60 days. Form s of scrutiny in Lords to complement rather than replicate those of the Commons?</b></p> <p>Support for reforms that improve parliamentary accountability and scrutiny led by the Commons Modernisation Committee.</p>	<p>The party will 'seek cross-party consensus for a substantially elected Lords'.</p> <p>Number of MPs to be cut by 20%. Select Committees to be strengthened and more legislative scrutiny time allowed. Scots MPs to be barred from voting on English laws.</p>	<p>The current Lords will be replaced with a 'predominantly elected second chamber'.</p> <p>The scrutiny powers of the Commons will be</p>
The European Union	<p>Joining single currency to remain subject to mee</p>	<p>Regulations also to undergo 'sunset reviews' to ensure that their imposition has created more benefits than costs for business.</p>	<p>Royal Prerogative powers exercised by Prime Minister (e.g. on going to war) will be 'subject to parliamentary accountability'. The DTI will be abolished and the number of government ministers cut by a third. 'Sunset clauses' will be inserted in regulations affecting business.</p>

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservatives</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>
Devolution	Welsh Assembly to be given 'enhanced legislative powers' and		u