Bibliography

Other sources reviewed

This is a list of additional texts which informed the Commission's wider thinking but which are not specifically cited in under Supplementary Materials by reference to individual Recommendations

STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

Implementing Codes of Conduct in Public Institutions (Transparency International, October2014)

A cross-country analysis of how codes of conduct have been implemented, and the impact these have had on transparency and integrity in government. This paper also attempts to consider how successful implementation of such codes have been, and the contextual factors which may aid this process.

The impact of the Code of Good Practice: Building partnerships between government departments and public bodies (Institute for Government, September 2018)

This report examines the origins of the Code of Good Practice for arms-length bodies, established in 2017, due to inconsistent management practices across Whitehall. The report surveys Chief Executives of these public bodies to assess the Code's impact, finding little positive improvement in management, sharing of skills across bodies, and ability to resolve disputes between bodies and government departments.

Brexit, Cabinet Norms and the Ministerial Code: Are we living in a Post-Nolan era? (Andrews, November 2019)

An academic article examining the decline in adherence to the Nolan Principles since 2017. This article argues that governments face a choice between following regulations on standards in public life and maintaining party unity, causing a dilemma which was exacerbated by Brexit.

The Cabinet Manual (Institute for Government, August 2020)

A brief explainer on what the cabinet manual is, what it contains and how it is used and enforced, and the potential for updating the manual in the future.

Overview of Executive Codes of Conduct and Ministerial Codes (Transparency International, March 2021)

A comparative study of codes of conduct for public officials in the executive branch of government across Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the US and the UK. Finds that enforcement of ministerial codes/ministerial discipline is an issue across contexts and relies on specific sanctions and enforcement by an independent body.

The Boardman Review: What the review into standards in public life got right- and what it missed (Institute for Government, October 2021)

An analysis of the feasibility and effectiveness of the 19 formal recommendations made by the Boardman review, on issues varying from second jobs to the ministerial code.

Five steps to higher standards in public life: What should happen now (Institute for Government, November 2021)

A paper published in the aftermath of the Owen Paterson case, offering five proposals to improve standards in public life. These include guaranteeing the independence of regulators in law, improving transparency requirements for Ministers, clarification of the ministerial code, and requiring figures in public life to swear to abide any code of conduct.

Progress in Implementing Recommendations of the Second Boardman Review (Cabinet Office, February 2022)

A letter from the-then Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office to the chair of the PAC Committee, outlining the Government's progress on implementation of the Boardman review as of February 2022.

Seven Principles of Public Life (House of Commons Library, August 2022)

A short introductory briefing from the House of Commons Library, summarising the Nolan Principles, their origin, and their application via the Committee for Standards in Public Life and various codes of conduct.

Leading in Practice (Committee on Standards in Public Life, January 2023)

A consideration of the contextual factors which may encourage or discourage adherence to the Principles of Public Life. Factors identified by the CSPL include the prominence of person-facing roles, leadership, workplace culture and hostility, availability of training, and recruitment practices.

Standards in public life: What are they, and why do they matter? (The Constitution Unit, March 2023)

A short briefing from the UCL Constitution Unit giving background to the argument around ethical standards and the Nolan Principles, theorising that a lack of adherence could lead to calls for a more formalised constitution.

QUALITY OF DECISION MAKING

Releasing Resources to the Front Line (Gershon, July 2004)

A public sector efficiency review carried out by Sir Peter Gershon in 2003, ahead of the Spending Review the following year. Aims to examine how transparency and auditing gains can benefit public sector efficiency, and cut civil service numbers, with affecting service delivery.

Making Policy Better (Institute for Government, April 2011)

This report aims to identify 'good fundamentals' of the policymaking process, and assess how to build these elements into current policymaking models, alongside increased focus on

accountability and effectiveness. These principles include goal clarity, rigorous design, responsive external engagement, and effective mechanisms for feedback. Proposed measures to implement these principles include the appointment of policy directors in departments, streamlined policy assessments, greater clarity from ministers on high-level policy goals and targets, and better use of external expertise.

Improving decision making in Whitehall: Effective use of management information (Institute for Government, May 2012)

A report examining the use of management information in Whitehall departments to evaluate the effectiveness and value for money of public projects. The report examines the use of management information across various government departments- including those that deliver most services via arm's length bodies- and where this has been most effective.

Evidence and Evaluation in Policymaking (Jill Rutter, September 2012)

A review of the use of evidence-based policymaking in Whitehall by Ministers and Civil Servants. Jill finds that relatively experimental techniques have been in use by government departments, especially via open data and internet surveys, but that this is not systematic. Staff often do not have time to conduct long-form research and evaluations and demand for this kind of policymaking is not systematic, rather dependent on the Minister in post.

Getting the centre of Whitehall into Shape (Institute for Government, March 2015)

A brief breakdown of the challenges facing an incoming government. This briefing states that many of these impositions come from the centre of Whitehall- for example, the lack of a 'prime ministerial' department, a lack of financial and commercial skills within departments, and a lack of cross departmental coordination. The briefing outlines 'easy challenges' with relatively simple solutions, and some longer-term priorities for reform.

The introduction of design to policymaking: Policy Lab and the UK Government (Bailey and Lloyd, June 2016)

An qualitative research paper examining the use of new policy-design methods in Whitehall departments.

Making policy stick: Tackling long-term challenges in government (Institute for Government, December 2016)

This report conducts four case studies of long-term policies which have been successfully implemented and continued despite change of government. This policy finds that there are ways that policy projects can survive changes of government. These include wider strategic capabilities across Whitehall, building political consensus, cycles of target setting, and taking advantage of contextual factors such as rising salience around a policy issue.

How the Government can work with academia (Institute for Government, 2018)

A report examining how Government can use academic evidence in policy formulation, focusing particularly on the engagement of officials. A particular issue is found to be the difficulty between analytical and policy staff within departments, with more evidence-based staff unlikely to interact with those briefing ministers and engaging with the policy process day-to-day.

Managing consultants: a guide for working with consultants in government (Institute for Government, June 2020)

A short slide pack on the use of outside consultancy in government between 2010-2019. This pack outlines the financial rules governing outside engagement and framework contracts, and the pros and cons of external support.

UK parliamentary select committees: crowdsourcing for evidence-based policy or grandstanding? (LSE GV314, 2020)

An article considering the influence of select committees upon the policymaking process. The article considers the impact of witness selection, interrogation and evidence submissions upon the findings and analysis of select committees, and the role of committees a source of 'evidence' for policymaking processes.

Governance Risk and Resilience Framework: The seven characteristics (Centre for Governance and Security, March 2021)

Guidance issued to councillors on how to best identify risks to good governance, manage that risk, and improve relationships between external organisations and governmental institutions.

Judicial review and policy making: The role of legal advice in government (Institute for Government, April 2021)

A paper examining the use of judicial review in the UK, justifications for this process and the impact JR has had on policy making in government. The paper supports the better use of legal advice throughout the policy making process, and advocates for a position where government uses the Courts to improve policy as opposed to solely ensuring its implementation.

Smarter government: Assessing the Commission for Smart Government's 'four steps' for reform (Institute for Government, July 2021)

A review by the IfG of the Commission for Smart Government's proposals for modernising government and Whitehall decision making. The report agrees with the CfSG that the Prime Minister does not receive sufficient support to set direction across government departments, and that the Civil Service fails to engage with talent from outside of government to improve the institution's capacity, amongst other recommendations.

Assessing value for money in central government (House of Commons Library, November 2021)

An introduction to the Public Value Framework and its application to government departments by the Treasury. This briefing also gives background to other initiatives used by governments to assess value for money and the implementation of policies over time, and examines the remit of the National Audit Office and other bodies.

Better policy making (Institute for Government, March 2022)

A report assessing blockades to good governance in the UK, and how these may be resolved. Key issues are deemed to be short-termism in Westminster, a lack of specialist assistance with policy development and implementation, and a lack of cross-government working. The report proposes amendments to counteract these, focusing particularly on the importance of

expertise, institutional reform, and increased accountability throughout the policy development process.

Managing as a minister: How personal style and gender norms affect leadership in government (Institute for Government and the University of Southampton, June 2022)

A qualitative analysis drawing on interviews with 100+ former ministers from over the last forty years. Identifies trends in ministerial management and relationships with civil service which range from transactional (i.e., a minister sees the civil services as either a political risk to be managed, or a useful, if peripheral, policy resource) to transformational (the minister shares their objectives with department staff and works collaboratively to achieve these).

What is effective government? (The Scottish Finance and Public Administration Committee, February 2023)

An assessment of the definition of 'executive government' as framed by 'public value'. The Scottish

Government review assesses its progress on this measures in comparison to the UK, Welsh and New Zealand governments, and considers the benefits of long-term policymaking, evidence-based policy, and mutual learning as policy methods.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Effective scrutiny: tools and intended outcomes (Mark Sandford, February 2005)

A paper considering the options available to public institutions to carry out scrutiny and accountability practices. This paper also identifies the necessary conditions for scrutiny to take place at different tiers of government.

Open House? Freedom of information and its impact on the UK Parliament (Hazell et al., April2012)

An academic paper examining the impact of FOI upon Parliament and the democratic process. This includes public understanding of the role of MPs and Parliament, participation in this process, and

trust of democratic figures. It also examines how quickly Government and the House of Commons tend to respond to FOIs.

Who's accountable? Relationships between Government and arm's-length bodies (Public Administration Committee, November 2014)

A report by back raising concerns about the accountability arrangements between public bodies, Parliament and Government. The report raises concerns that non-departmental public bodies' arrangements have been reviews, but other bodies have not, with their organisational names and processes inconsistent. PAC called for a taxonomy of public bodies, clear appointment processes, and better sponsorship.

Cooling off periods: Regulating the revolving door (Transparency International, June 2015)

A paper considering post-public employment rules across Europe, and evaluating their success in avoiding conflict of interest in public institutions. Suggests that governments

should ensure measures are in place to avoid misuse of protected information and networks, such as 'cooling off' periods.

Improving Parliamentary Scrutiny of Public Appointments (Robert Hazell, January 2018)

An academic paper evaluating the value of pre-appointment scrutiny by House of Commons committees, particularly since the Grimstone Review of 2016.

Accountability in modern government: recommendations for change (Institute for Government, October 2018)

A report examining the benefits of strong accountability practices (such as greater degree of policy learning) and the weaknesses in the current governmental system preventing these from emerging. Such weaknesses include the tradition of secrecy between officials and ministers, the complex network of ministerial, departmental and public bodies which interact throughout the policymaking process, and a focus on sanctions over improvement.

Does more transparency improve accountability? (Transparency International, March 2019)

An examination of the assumption of a direct link between transparency and accountability. The study finds that the extent to which this assumption applies is dependent on how well mechanisms are designed to support each other. For example, how and why information is made available will determine the extent to which accountability is possible.

The good scrutiny guide (Centre for Public Scrutiny, June 2019)

A guide for local government on the operation of oversight and scrutiny procedures, following the government's issuing of statutory scrutiny guidance. This guide discusses the importance of scrutiny in theoretical and practical terms, and the importance of engagement with external stakeholders in the oversight process.

Governance of Corruption in the UK: Who is in Charge? (Barrington, 2020)

A review of previous measured implemented to oversee corruption in UK institutions. Points of analysis include the absence of an anti-corruption agency, civil service oversight, cross-government coordination on anti-corruption measures, and external accountability. Report finds the UK lacks an overall strategic approach to tackling institutional corruption with no single point of contact or oversight at ministerial or governmental level.

Government transparency and departmental releases: ministers and officials (Institute for Government, September 2021)

Analysis summarising the implementation of transparency measures across Government. The report considers how frequently department publish data on ministerial meetings, SpAds, and NEDs, and how detailed these publications are.

MP's paid directorships and consultancies (House of Commons Library, November 2021)

A briefing summarising the current rules guarding MP's and outside interests, including CSPL recommendations and guidelines since 2009.

MPs' second jobs: How to draw the line (Hannah White, November 2021)

An analysis of potential reforms to the rules governing MPs and outside interests. The author points out some key difficulties in reforming MPs' conduct of conduct, such as difficulty in defining the

'primary role' of Members, defining 'reasonable limits' on time to spend on outside work, and the weaknesses of the current system for investigating breaches of conduct.

Integrity training for public officials (Transparency International, March 2022)

This paper considers how integrity training for officials may facilitate better awareness of integrity and anti-corruption standards in office. The paper also looks at existing training in other European countries, and the areas such training may cover.

Rebuilding constitutional standards: five questions for the next Conservative leader (The Constitution Unit, July 2022)

Short document of potential recommendations on parliamentary scrutiny, rule of law, executive accountability and constitutional norms. This article also briefly covers standards on public life. The article reviews previous commitments and comments by the Government and Conservative ministers on these areas, and ongoing developments and controversies in these areas.

What could a UK integrity and ethics Commission look like? (Spotlight on Corruption, October2022)

A brief paper examining how a potential ethics or integrity commission could work in practice, considering examples from other countries such as Australia, the US and Canada.

Legislation to support data sharing (Institute for Government, December 2022)

This paper focuses on how increased data sharing post-Covid has impacted the policymaking process, and how to continue good practice in the use of data. Recommendations include engaging public users about why their data is important, exploring scenarios which could benefit from better data sharing, and improving data literacy amongst senior leaders.

Lobbying regulations and civil society organisations (Transparency International, January 2023)

A country-comparative analysis of lobbying regulations, including comparisons of disclosure requirements, registration of civil society organisations, and enforcement of sanctions. This report does consider the difference in lobbying regulations for for-profit organisations, and civil society organisations.

MPs' second jobs and outside interests (UK in a Changing Europe, January 2023)

A brief explainer on the regulations governing Members of Parliament and outside interests, as well as the receipt of money or donations from external sources.

Checks and balances: what are they, and why do they matter? (The Constitution Unit, January2023)

A brief summary of the role of checks and balances, focusing on Parliament, Courts, independent officials and civil society institutions. The explainer considers why checks and balances matter, how they can be safeguarded, and how they work in practice day-to-day.

Reviewing the Code of Conduct for MPs (House of Commons Library, February 2023)

A briefing summarising the most recent review of the HoC Code of Conduct for Members, which began in September 2022. The most recent version of the Code was agreed by the House in December 2022, and came into effect in March 2023. It was also agreed that the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards will review the Code at least once each Parliament, from June 2023.

THE CIVIL SERVICE

Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (UK Parliament, July 2010)

A summary of the Act which established a statutory basis for the management of the civil service.

Has the Whitehall Model survived? (Edward Page, September 2010)

An academic analysis of the implementation of the Civil Service code, and the challenges to these values in the modern British political system. This article frames the civil service-ministerial relationship in managerial terms as opposed to one based on policy advice. This shift is due to two key factors- the range of other bodies now offering policy advice, such as consultants, SpAds and think tanks, and the collapse of confidence in the civil service from Ministers.

Reforming Civil Service Accountability: Lessons from New Zealand and Australia (Institute for Government, November 2012)

A cross-country comparison of civil service accountability. This analysis looks at reforms conducted in New Zealand (where the roles of ministers and permanent secretaries was clearly differentiated and fixed term contracts were introduced) and Australia (where the controls of ministers and the PM were strengthened) to consider the potential of such reforms in the UK.

Accountability at the top: Supporting effective leadership in Whitehall (Institute for Government, December 2013)

A report analysing the accountability of permanent secretaries and management of their relationships with secretaries of state. The report proposes streamlining and clarifying the role of the permanent secretary, and reforming the process used to hold officials to account, in order to improve SoS-PS trust.

The Civil Service Code (House of Commons Library, March 2015)

A note summarising the Civil Service Code, as established by the 2010 Constitutional Reform and Governance Act. This note also sets out the background to the code, and the remit of the Civil Service Commission.

Professionalising Whitehall (Institute for Government, September 2017)

A report examining previous reforms to the Civil Service aimed at improving its specialist capabilities, and the impact these have had on the institution's competence in various areas. These include policymaking, financial management, and commercial procurement. Key issues

noted in the report (with according proposals for reform) are staff turnover, a lack of funding and resources, and constraints imposed by the civil service code.

The Civil Service Code (Institute for Government, January 2021)

A brief explainer of the civil service code, its origins and enforcement, and the constitutional status of the code.

The answer to Dominic Cummings' critique: 10 essential reforms to government (Institute for Government, June 2021)

A paper by the IfG based on Dominic Cummings testimony to the Health and Social Care and Science and Technology Committees. The paper highlights reforms that could respond to the critique of Cummings, such as clarification of the minister-civil servant relationship, better pay, reducing staff turnover, recruiting more specialists, and moving more staff outside of London.

A new statutory role for the civil service (Institute for Government, March 2022)

An examination of leadership structures and management in the civil service, and their impact on policy co-ordination, implementation, and constitutional monitoring. This report proposes a new statutory role for the civil service to address these issues, and clearly outline the institution's values, objectives and leadership model, strengthening the ministerial-civil servant relationship.

After Boris Johnson, what now for the Civil Service? (Institute for Government, July 2022)

A report assessing the status of the Civil Service in the aftermath of Johnson's resignation. The report makes varied suggestions including strengthening the remit of the Civil Service and clarifying responsibilities between ministers and officials, implementing a clear chain of command within Number 10, reviving capability reviews to reassure sceptical ministers, and creating a new civil service workforce plan.

Civil Service-ministerial relations: time for a reset (Jill Rutter, December 2022)

A paper examining the dilemma facing civil servants of serving the government of the day, and abiding by the civil service code. The paper examines the source of this problem (citing Brexit, the specific context of the previous government, the pandemic, unclear boundaries of ministerial behaviour and ongoing internal divisions within the governing party) and a potential reforms, based on new statutes and comparative measures in other countries.

Appointed on merit: the value of an impartial civil service (Institute for Government, May 2023)

An analysis of the concept of impartiality and how this works in practice within the Civil Service, in comparison to politicised models seen in other countries such as the US. The analysis highlights the value of an impartial service to the system of UK governance, whilst acknowledging civil servants must prove this worth to administrations.

SPECIAL ADVISERS

Supporting Ministers to Lead: Rethinking the ministerial private office (Institute for Government, March 2013)

A report examining the support to Secretaries of State across government, outside of the civil service machine. This report makes comparisons to the resources available to ministers elsewhere, such as in the EU and other European countries, and touches on the expertise offered by SpAds.

Being a Special Adviser (The Constitution Unit, February 2014)

Research project into the role of SpAds in central government and the effectiveness and responsibilities of them. Framed as a 'how to' guide for those aiming to enter government in this position.

In Defence of Special Advisers: Lessons from personal experience (Nick Hillman, March 2014)

An essay by a former SpAd to David Willets, former Minister for Universities and Science under David Cameron. This is a personal account focusing on the appointment, role, day-to-day job and ultimate exit of Nick Hillman from his time at BEIS. The paper highlights the particular lack of training and induction for SpAds, and the valuable contribution they can often make to the policymaking process. Proposals to clarify the role of SpAds includes a clearer pay scale, a code of conduct, and the abolition of number caps on SpAds.

The appointment and conduct of departmental NEDs (Institute for Government, July 2021)

An introduction to the role of non-executive directors on the boards of government departments, and their role chairing departmental audit and risk committees. The report finds that respect for these boards varies across departments, but they can be particularly powerful, to the extent they may recommend the dismissal of a Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister. The report also identifies instances of conflict of interest in the appointment of NEDs, as in the case of Gina Coladangelo, and an overall lack of transparency in the appointment process.

EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS

Defining the boundaries within the Executive: Ministers, Special Advisers and the permanent Civil Service (The Committee on Standards in Public Life, April 2003)

The ninth report of the CSPL, summarising a series of reviews made by the Committee on the reach of the Executive and their power over Ministers, the appointment SpAds, and the relationship between ministers and permanent secretaries.

The Governance of Britain (Jack Straw MP, Then-Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, July 2007)

An outline of the then-Brown Government's proposals for constitutional change, focusing particularly on limiting the powers of the executive and improving its accountability, and reinvigorating democracy as a whole, including the use of citizenship education and reducing voting ages.

Parliamentary Conventions (Jacqy Sharpe, June 2010)

An analysis of standard conventions in Parliament, their origins, and whether they continue to be regularly observed.

Enhancing the Role of Backbench MPs: proposals for reform of Private Members' Bills (The Hansard Society, 2011)

A reflection upon the role of PMBs in political representation and government scrutiny, and the procedural obstacles preventing the effectiveness of these measures. The authors consider the difficulty of Friday sitting times, filibustering, complex procedural and voting thresholds, and the resources made available to backbenchers to draft such bills.

'Never allow a crisis to go to waste': The Wright Committee reforms to strengthen the House of Commons (Meg Russell, October 2011)

An academic review of the Wright Reforms and their impact on parliamentary business, including changes to select committee membership and the creation of backbench business days.

Does the Executive Dominate the Westminster Legislative Process? Six reasons for doubt (Meg Russel et al., April 2016)

An academic analysis of amendments to government bills and qualitative research, considering if the adage that the Executive branch dominates the legislative process is true. The authors find that there is a tendency to overstate government success in making amendments to bills, and exaggerate the failures of Opposition parties. There is also often a failure to consider parliamentary influence before and after the formal legislative process takes place.

Collective Responsibility (House of Commons Library, November 2016)

A briefing summarising the concept of collective responsibility, its conventions, and when it applies. This briefing also clarifies the difference between collective and individual ministerial responsibility, the origins and enforcement of the concept, and provides examples of where the convention may be disapplied.

Taking back control: Why the House of Commons should govern its own time (The Constitution Unit, January 2021)

A report reflecting on the Wright Committee's finding the time in the Commons should be under the control of the parliamentary majority, which is not necessarily the government. The report analyses the day-to-day of the chamber in which the Government often controls the agenda, as well as nongovernment business days, such as Opposition days and backbench business.

The Legislative Process: How to empower Parliament (Institute for Government and the Bennett Institute for Public Policy, December 2022)

A paper examining the ability of the UK Parliament to carry out its scrutiny and legislative responsibilities under the current constitutional settlement. Particular concern is raised around the use of delegated powers to avoid primary legislation, limiting Parliament's ability to check the executive, and the role of the House of Lords.

Options paper: Executive Reform (Commission on Political Power, date unknown)

Reform proposal from a Commission aiming to generate debate on legislative and structural reform. Key recommendations include placing the roles of Cabinet and MPs on a statutory footing, as well as the Ministerial Code and Royal Prerogative, and giving control to Parliament over legislative timetables and the scrutiny process.

THE CONSTITUTION AND RULE OF LAW

The Process of Constitutional Change (House of Lords Constitution Committee, July 2011)

A report by the House of Lords Constitution Committee proposing the steps any government should take before undertaking significant constitutional reform. These include subjecting proposals to detailed scrutiny in Cabinet, consulting widely, proposing green and white papers, and subjecting any bill to pre-legislative scrutiny.

To Codify or Not to Codify: Lessons from consolidating the United Kingdom's Constitutional Statutes (The Constitution Unit, March 2015)

A cross-country comparison of the written elements of the UK constitution to other states' constitutional texts. The analysis finds that much of the UK's constitutional conventions are already 'written down' in some form, but many details about the executive-legislative relationship are based entirely on convention. However, codification beyond this is not deemed essential, due to the existence of the Cabinet Manual and other texts.

Conventions on the relationship between the Commons and the Lords (House of Commons Library, January 2016)

Commons briefing paper on the relationship between the two Houses as governed by various conventions.

A framework for reviewing the UK constitution (The Institution for Government and the Bennett Institute, February 2022)

A wide-ranging analysis into the constitutional issues facing the United Kingdom. These vary from the tendency of constitutional actors to ignore conventions, to arguments around executive-Parliament balance of power and the UK's territorial constitution. The paper also reflects on citizen disenchantment and apathy towards the political process, and makes proposals of how to instil public confidence in the UK's institutions.

Constitution and Governance in the UK (UK in a Changing Europe, March 2022)

A summary report of the impact of Covid, Brexit and constitutional reform on the role of Parliament, political-judicial relationships, the ministerial code and the rule of law.

UK government law officers: understanding the role of the attorney and solicitor general (Sir Robert Buckland KC MP, June 2022)

A summary of the roles and responsibilities of the attorney and solicitor general from a previous office holder, along with some suggestions for how these could be improved. Suggests that there is a low level of understanding of the responsibilities of these roles amongst those in government, and that law officers can be unaware of the resources available to help them. Recommends reform the relationship between law officers and the Government Legal Department to improve its accountability.

Restoring the UK's economic credibility requires rule of law leadership (Murray Hunt, November 2022)

An article for the Bingham Centre in which the author theorises that the UK's democratic backsliding and violations of rule of law, such as the breaching of the UK Internal Market Bill, has had an impact on the UK's credibility in economic markets.

The erratic evolution of the British Constitution since 1997 (Philip Rycroft, November 2022)

A paper recapping developments in the British constitution and governmental reform, accompanied by analysis of why there has not been much of a coherent programme or enduring change in this time. Rycroft cites a lack of system capacity in government and civic society, and the lack of checks and balances in the constitutional reform process.

The rule of law: what is it, and why does it matter? (The Constitution Unit, December 2022)

A brief explainer of the rule of law and its place in the UK Constitution. This explainer also details the application of the rule of law to ministers, officials and public bodies, and how RoL is upheld in public life.

Five things we've learned about the Brown Commission on the UK's future (Institute for Government, December 2022)

A review of the feasibility and impact of the key recommendations of the Brown Review (a report by the Commission on the UK's Future). Analysts consider the feasibility of further decentralisation, constitutional protections for devolution settlements, civil service reform, and the enforcement of ethical standards.

The roles of the Lord Chancellor and the Law Officers (House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution, January 2023)

An outline of the responsibilities of law officers and the reforms to this role since 2005.

House of Lords reform: navigating the obstacles (Meg Russell, March 2023)

This paper assess the evolution of the House of Lords and its role, and various proposals to reform the institution over time. The paper also contains international comparisons to other bicameral systems, public attitudes to lords reform, and potential broad objectives for reform going forward, and an assessment of the feasibility of these.

The Constitution in Review: Fourth report from the United Kingdom Constitution Monitoring Group (UK Constitution Monitoring Group, March 2023)

A continuing review of the constitutional position of the UK, particularly its executive. This report consider standards and integrity in public life, constitutional change, elections, legislative rules, and ministerial-civil service relations.

Constitutional regulators: what are they, and how do they work? (The Constitution Unit, April 2023)

An explainer of the existence, role and strength of constitutional regulators in the United Kingdom, and the principles which underpin these watchdogs.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Participatory law-making, public consultations and petitions (Transparency International, September 2016)

A cross-country comparison of public consultations in law-making processes, and how these vary (for example, in the issues up for consultation, who is consulted, types of documents and timeline). Examples of legislation for submitting petitions to parliament, and the formality these have, is also compared.

The Public and Parliament: more engaged, less satisfied (House of Commons Library, April2017)

A briefing based on the Hansard Society's audit of political engagement. The audit found that though many citizens recognise the essential nature of Parliament, there is a low level of knowledge on how it operates and low rates of identification with Parliament or MPs, yet an increased engagement with debates/committee meetings/e-petitions.

Defending our democracy in the digital age (APPG on Electoral Campaigning Transparency, January 2020)

A report calling for improvements in election monitoring and transparency, and better deterrents for election interfering. Proposals include regulation of voter targeting, standardised financial reporting, increased regulatory power for the Electoral Commission, and unlimited fines for election offenses, as well as prosecution capability for the Electoral Commission.

Eroding the independence of the Electoral Commission: the introduction of a government strategy and policy statement (The Constitution Society, October 2021)

A summary of the provisions of the Elections Bill and its ramifications for the Electoral Commission, centring on the independence of the Commission, impartiality, and public responsiveness

What Kind of Democracy do People Want? Results of a survey of the UK population (The Constitution Unit, January 2022)

Part of UCL's 'Democracy in the UK after Brexit' project. This is the survey element of the project, which looks at attitudes towards the fundamentals of the democratic system amongst 6,500 responses. The survey finds that most people are broadly satisfied with UK democracy, but do not trust politicians. Respondents would also prefer power to not be concentrated in a single branch but dispersed amongst institutions, and there is some (minimal) support for referendums and citizen's assemblies.

Road to renewal: Elections, parties and the case for democratic reform (IPPR, April 2022)

A report into the status of democracy in the UK, accusing mainstream institutions of failing to respond to dissatisfaction about the electoral and democratic process. The report suggests strengthening links between parties and civil society, devolving decision making responsibilities, and stricter rules around lobbying and financial donations.

Standards in public life and the democratic process (House of Lords Library, June 2022)

A short briefing on the origin and implementation of the Nolan Principles, and the impact enforcement of standards has said on public opinion and trust in politics over time.

The Work of the Electoral Commission (House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, October 2022)

A review by PACAC of what they deem to be significant challenges facing the Electoral Commission. A particular focus is the 'complexity' of electoral law and particularly the implementation of voter ID provisions before the next General Election. The Committee also deems the six-month delay in reporting spending returns leads to delays in investigation and enforcement, and the advance of digital campaigning and consequent regulation, as concerns.

Strategy and policy statement for the Electoral Commission (House of Commons Library, December 2022)

The most recent statement from the Government on Electoral Commission, which it is required to issue under the Elections Act 2022. The statement says the Commission should aim to deliver secure and transparent elections away from government interference.

Government communications in 2023 and Beyond (Institute for Government, February 2023)

An analysis of effective instances of government communication and why these are so important for public engagement. Particular attention is paid the role of government communication in informing voters, as well as achieving government priorities.

Public Preferences for Integrity and Accountability in Politics: Results of a second survey of the UK population (The Constitution Unit, March 2023)

Part of UCL's 'Democracy in the UK after Brexit' project. This is the survey element of the project, which looks at attitudes towards the democratic system and public trust. Respondents showed low trust in politicians and appetite for stronger accountability and standards. Attitudes on other measures, such as Lords reform or electoral reform, were more mixed.

Reforming electoral law (The Electoral Commission, date unknown but post-2022)

A brief summary from the Electoral Commissions on proposals to consolidate and simplify electoral law in the UK.

Spotlight on Corruption Submission to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (Spotlight on Corruption, date unknown)

A submission to PACAC's review of the Electoral Commission in 2022. The campaign proposes increased sanctioning powers and a clearer mandate for the Electoral Commission. Specific proposals include increased financial sanctions for the EC, to be benchmarked at a percentage of the campaign's total spend, a mandate to act as a specialist prosecutor for electoral offences, and powers to compel social media companies to release data on parties' online advertising spend.