

Summary: Defensive Constitutional Reform

1. *What is happening in the US today could happen here*

- The US constitution was designed to guard against authoritarianism
- **It hasn't worked.** Its democratic safeguards are being systematically dismantled
- The UK has fewer constitutional protections than the US had
- Our system assumes 'good chaps' in power. **That is no longer a safe assumption**

2. *The threats are clear*

- We can see bad actors – hostile foreign states, some Big Tech, the global far-right – who have made clear their intentions to unwind UK (and European) democracy
- They see enormous opportunity and have enormous resources to deploy
- They have built a powerful influence system which can distort elections
- MI6 has warned **the UK is in “a state between peace and war”**

3. *Without action, the chances of bad actors succeeding are of the order of 35% – we are playing Russian roulette with British democracy*

- Polls suggest that if an election were held tomorrow, there is almost 60% chance of Reform being the dominant party
- Our assessment of the risk of a far-right party winning in 2029 is lower: 45%±10%. **That is still too high**

4. *There are actions we could take to minimise the risk to UK democracy and our social contract*

- We CAN take steps to preserve the integrity of our elections – tackling dark money, disinformation, etc
- We CAN take steps to protect against bad actors in government, should they gain power – making it harder to unwind our democracy, human rights and post-war social contract

5. *There is still time to act; there is not time to delay*

- UK democracy, and its corresponding rights and freedoms, are **at risk like never before**
- We must corral cross-party efforts to urge the government to act now
- In the uneasy “space between peace and war,” the greatest mistake is delay

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Democracy on the Brink



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