

The Realism Amendments

The following is a proposal I am putting forward to effectively amend our election and government formation process in the hopes of better simulating the United Kingdom Government. This also includes giving Parliament power to reimplement the FPTA if they so wish, restoring the prerogative power to set the election date, restoring certain bills as bills of confidence, and proposing that MPs own their seats if they win it in a constituency. Next, I want to more clearly put forward that we should follow the rules of the House whenever possible, including Royal Recommendation (the idea that a money bill needs the approval of cabinet to go to a vote if RR is called). Finally there is a third proposal to actually mandate an activity check time, as this is not done for whatever reason. These are split into proposals and should be voted on separately. I think these will provide a more realistic sim, and considering that we are trying to simulate the procedures of the UK and its politics to a degree, I think following IRL would be better and solve a lot of issues we run into with sim precedent overriding IRL. None of these would come into force until after the next general election, and would govern the next government formation.

With Proposal 1, most of the procedures for elections won't change, though I did clean up the section and remove things that really shouldn't be in the constitution. The big changes are the introduction of the IRL procedures, where the PM can request dissolution and set the date. Also allows parliament to legislate on term lengths and elections besides MMP.

With Prop 2, we have the simple change of each MP being elected to a constituency owning the constituency seat, preserving the defection dynamic. It feels kinda silly that this isn't a thing and gives more power to the back bench.

With Prop 3, it effectively clarifies that the standing orders are a base, and includes a catch all to preserve most of the existing procedure. It essentially makes IRL precedent king, and also makes section 48 actually enforced. Section 48 not being enforced can lead to some weird situations where oppositions can force a minority government to take on a giant spending package that screws over their budget.

Proposal 1 - Elections, Dissolution, and Formation of Government and Opposition.

Article 9 section 1 is repealed and replaced with the following

General elections to elect the House of Commons are to be held from time to time following these procedures.

- I. The maximum term length is to be set by the Commons speaker, but must be no more than 6 months after the opening of parliament except for extreme circumstance, in which Quad may give an exception.
- II. Unless Parliament states otherwise through legislation, then the following will govern how elections are called
 - A. Once 5 months have passed since the opening of Parliament, The Prime Minister must give the Quad the date they request the dissolution of Parliament and the date on which they request an election be held.
 - B. The Prime Minister, at any time, may request the dissolution of Parliament and hold an early election, and for the purposes of any negative modifiers the quad wishes to give to simulate electoral fatigue, an election is considered early if it is held less than 5 months after the previous election. However, if the quad can find another Prime Minister who could govern for a reasonable period with a working majority in the House of Commons the quad may invite that person to form a government in accordance with the lascelles principles.
 - C. In events where no government holds the confidence of the House, then it is the PM who last held the confidence of the House who shall determine these dates.
 - D. When dropping the writ of election, the date of the election and the date in which parliament opens must be posted.
 - E. The Quad may amend the date the election is to be held only in the event that they need extra time to run the election or it violates the time periods set in this constitution.
- III. There is to be at least 2 weeks and no more than 3 weeks between the dissolution of Parliament and the date of the election, and there is to be no more than 1 week between the day of election and the opening of Parliament.
 - A. In the event of emergency circumstances, the date of the opening of Parliament may be extended at the request of the incoming Prime Minister.
- IV. General elections are to be normally held by the Commons Speaker, unless the Commons Speaker requests that they be held by another member of the Quadrumvirate.
- V. The Procedures for Candidate Selection, maximum posts, debates, transmission of results, and all things related to the preparation for a general election are to be determined by the mod holding that election.
- VI. The length of the campaign period is to be determined by the Prime Minister in conjunction with the Quad but cannot be shorter than 5 days.
- VII. The system for elections is to be the same as the previous election, with any changes to the voting system, constituencies, etc needing the approval of the community as if it were an amendment to the Constitution.
- VIII. These rules also apply to the devolved assemblies, with the devolved speaker taking the role of the Commons speaker.

Article 10 is replaced with the following

Article 10, Government Formation, Confidence, and Opposition

This article outlines the procedures for the formation of government, with the Head Mod playing the role of the sovereign. These are meant to play out like they are in real life, with this section of the constitution serving as reference and adapting the rules to MHOC. This article shall also apply to the devolved assemblies as appropriate, with exceptions taken to emulate each assembly's unique precedents i.e. government formation in Northern Ireland.

Section 1 - After an election

- I. The day after the election results are certified and announced, the sovereign will approach someone to form a government.
- II. The incumbent Prime Minister has the right to try to form government first except in cases of a party or coalition of parties holding a majority themselves, in which the leader of that party or coalition will be invited to form a government first.
 - A. If they accept, then they will have until the opening of Parliament to write a King's Speech and transmit it to the moderation team.
 - B. If they refuse, then the Sovereign will invite the leader of the largest party to not be invited, and if they refuse then they shall keep descending until someone accepts or it is clear that nobody has confidence and a new election is to be held.
- III. Once Parliament opens, then a King's speech and reply are to be posted as soon as possible and then voted on in the House of Commons.
 - A. If no speech has been transmitted then "my government will serve with dignity and honor" shall serve as a valid emergency program.
 - B. If the speech is passed, then the government has the confidence of the House
 - C. If the speech is voted down, then the Prime Minister has failed to get the confidence of the House and a new leader will be invited to form government or, if no viable path is present, then an election will be called.

Section 2 - Confidence Votes, resignation, and Matters of Confidence

- I. At any time, an opposition party may table a motion of no confidence in the government, and if that motion succeeds then the government has lost the confidence of the House and a new government must form or an election be called.
- II. There may also be certain bills or motions that come from the government which will be considered confidence votes, and if the government fails to pass these, then the government has lost confidence and a new Prime Minister will be appointed or an election will be called.
 - A. Budgets and the King's Speech will always be considered Confidence Votes.
 - B. The government may designate a bill as having the weight of a confidence vote and will inform the speakership as such.
- III. In the event the incumbent Prime Minister transmits their intention to resign, then the sovereign has the power to invite a new member to form a government following Westminster principles.

Section 3 - Opposition

- I. Any organized group of Members of Parliament is considered part of the opposition, and is split into official opposition and unofficial opposition
- II. The Official Opposition is the largest group of MPs in opposition that is not part of a confidence agreement with the government.

Proposal 2 - Owningty of Seats, By-Elections, and Activity Checks

Article 9 section 2 “By elections” is amended as follows.

For the opening paragraph, remove the word “independent” and replace it with “constituency”

Subsection III is amended to read “at a date fixed by the mods, with the cooperation of the Prime Minister”

Article 13 section 1 “members of Parliament” is to be amended as follows.

In subsection I, after “Speaker” insert “on the first Monday of each month after the opening of Parliament.”

Subsection V is amended to read: “An MP elected to a constituency is the owner of that constituency, and cannot be deprived of that seat except in the case of resignation or in the case of a failed activity check.”

Subsection VI is amended to read: “List Seats won in a general election belong to the Party and are distributed according to the Party list, however, an MP on a list seat may only be dismissed with approval of the MP or of the moderation team and redistributed to another member of the party. Consequently, in the event of a merger, the rights to the seats go to the new party as if they were won in the last general election by that party. The party, if elected to more lists than they have active members, may also double up on list seats as long as they are as even as possible within the party, also allowing new members to fill into spare seats.”

Proposal 3 - Standing Orders of Parliament

Article 14 Part 1 - Legislation is amended to read

Bills, Motions, and the Procedures of the House

The House of Parliament and their legislative practices are identical to the Standing Orders of Parliament and may be amended as the standing orders are except for exemptions provided for by this section.

- I. The Commons Speaker does not hold a seat elected in a general election, and are instead the meta position outlined in this Constitution and selected as such.

- II. Readings and Votes are to hold a procedure adequate for the asynchronous nature of MHOC as determined by the Commons speaker with particular preference for the ongoing practices of the sim.
- III. Comments posted on the subreddit are fit for the record of the Houses
- IV. For the carrying out of prerogative power, the Quad or any designated agent may carry it out, and as is the case in real procedure, they act through the advice and consent of the government i.e. for section 48.
 - A. To save time, the moderation team, in exercising prerogative power may delegate it to the cabinet directly. For example, if specified by the moderation team, then a cabinet minister may be all that is necessary to grant a money bill recommendation under section 48
- V. Any non-MP may speak in the House of Commons, write and submit legislation, and move to amend legislation.
- VI. Any other rule the speakership deems practical for the purposes of the sim with the exception of-
 - A. Procedures in the MHOC constitution without a meta amendment.
 - B. Parts of procedure established by legislation.
 - C. Rules regarding unparliamentary language or decorum.