

Parliament is the United Kingdom's supreme body that has the authority to make the country's laws.

It is made up of three parts -the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Crown.

This is the Monarch.

The monarch is the head of State and approves all laws.

They have limited powers and are politically impartial.

This means they cannot allow their personal political views to colour any advice they give or their actions.

The House of Commons and the House of Lords make up the two chambers of the UK Parliament.

The House of Commons is the elected chamber of Parliament.

This means that the Commons members known as the Members of Parliament or MPs, are elected by UK citizens to represent their views and make decisions on their behalf.

This makes the UK a representative democracy.

There are 650 MPs in the House of Commons.

One MP for each geographical area they represent - their constituency.

Most MPs represent a political party, though some are independent of a party.

The political party that wins the most constituencies is given the opportunity to form the new government and its leader becomes Prime Minister.

MPs work between their constituency and the UK Parliament.

MPs also need to juggle the interests of their constituency, the country and those of their national party.

One way they do this is by debating issues on the floor of the House of Commons.

MPs can propose, debate and suggest changes to draft laws or bills.

Members of the House of Lords can do this too.

The House of Lords is independent from the House of Commons, but shares the task of making and shaping laws and checking and challenging the work of the Government.

Lords are not elected and not all of them have a political background.

They represent a wide range of professions and are often chosen for their experience or specialist knowledge.

The House of Lords also includes Lords spiritual, Bishops from the Church of England, as well as a few hereditary peers who inherit their seat in the Lords from a parent.

There's often a lot of back and forth between the two houses as they check and make amendments to bills.

But both houses must agree to the final text of the bill before it can be signed off by the Monarch, Royal Assent, and become an Act of Parliament, Law.

So how does Parliament hold the government to account for the public?

Each Wednesday, the Prime Minister takes questions in the House of Commons.

This gives MPs a chance to question the government directly, including the Prime Minister, about government decisions and express their constituents' concerns.

Another opportunity for Parliament to check the work of the government is through investigative select committees.

This is where selected MPs and Lords work together across parties to look in detail at proposed legislation and government departments.

They also have the power to question government ministers, including the PM, on their decisions and make recommendations if they feel the government are not working on behalf of the people.

In all these ways, Parliament is set up with the aim of ensuring the country is governed effectively on behalf of everyone in the UK.