

House of Lords,

LONDON, SW1A OPW

Dear Mr Clegg,

My attention has been drawn to remarks of yours (World at One, 22<sup>nd</sup> June) where you said that my calculations of the £500m cost of Lords' reform were "complete nonsense - fictional numbers literally {sic} cooked up on the back of an envelope."

It would be quite some envelope. The press release runs to four closely-typed pages explaining the calculations in detail. These calculations were done with the help of the House of Lords library which checked both the sources and the sums. Those who study the numbers will be able to judge who is talking complete nonsense, you or me.

You also claimed it was not possible to cost the government's proposals as they have not yet been published. Indeed, which is why I did no such thing. I costed the recommendations of the Richard Committee, set up by the government to examine its original proposals. I still regret the government's failure to publish the costings it had prepared of those proposals; the Richard committee's failure to publish its costings; and the continued attempt by you and the government to keep the cover up going as long as possible.

At least ministers have now said they will publish their costings when they produce their new proposals. I only hope they are done with the same rigour as I did mine.

Yours sincerely,

David Lipsey