

Listening MPs – An Introduction

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Hansard Society

- ◆ Educational charity with parliamentary focus
- ◆ Established 1944
- ◆ Promoting Democracy – Strengthening Parliament
- ◆ 5 Programmes of work
- ◆ eDemocracy Programme established in 1997

State of play

- ◆ 1994 – first MP gets website
- ◆ 1997 – first online consultation
- ◆ 2003 – first MP blogs

- ◆ Blogs, wikis, web/podcasting, mobile, RSS, forums - going mainstream?
- ◆ 60% UK households online
- ◆ 67% of UK adults 'regularly online'

Why technology? INFORMATION

- ◆ Knowledge key to political engagement

- ◆ Aggregation
- ◆ Accessibility
- ◆ User-generated
- ◆ Tracking

Why technology? PARTICIPATION

- ◆ Participative structures vital to credible, vibrant democracy
- ◆ Organisation
- ◆ Networks
- ◆ Deliberation
- ◆ Asynchronous

Next 5 Years...?

- ◆ Technology advances – processes develop
- ◆ New challenges raised by new technology
- ◆ Questions about quality of citizen participation
- ◆ Macro-issues
- ◆ Developing use of mobile devices and interactive TV for political engagement
- ◆ eDemocracy policy in Parliament and Government

Thank you

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