government since the second world war has been either a Labour or Conservative government, this fact along with the shortcomings of the “first past the post” election system meaning smaller parties with spread out following may struggle to see power is evidence perhaps of a weaker democracy. Electoral choice also exists in that there is more than just voting in general elections to exercise democratic power, you can also vote in European elections expanding your power as a citizen and protecting the values of democracy, however the European Parliament could also be considered a weakness of UK democracy. You could argue that by taking away some of the power of the UK parliament the European parliament undermines the power of the people when voting in a general election (the most important part of any parliamentary democracy) and as such weakens the UK’s democracy.

One more strong point of the UK’s political model is its ability to support and protect minority groups. In any true democracy it is expected that the minorities be protected so as to avoid the “Tyranny of the Majority”. In the UK petitions put forward by the public are often discussed by parliament with relatively small backing, and many groups are able to get the attention of the government. However one may argue that regardless of the government’s intent, the smaller groups will always be ignored as they are not able to afford as much publicity and advertising so as to raise awareness for their issue. The first past the post voting system employed in the UK is another example of the minorities not being well represented. This system of electing MPs allows for smaller parties to get a great number of votes without getting many seats in parliament and as such real power for example in the 2015 general election UKIP attained 12.6% of the votes yet only received 0.0015% percent of the seats (1/650). It is easy to argue that this first past the post system is not in the interest of protecting the minorities and is a weakness in the UK’s democracy.

I think that whilst there are some definite shortcomings in democracy within the UK I think that it is as strong as it can be whilst still remaining practical. It can be seen in the form of a direct democracy that you can increase democratic integrity at the expense of practicality and the UK still sees a good compromise. However reform would no doubt be good for the UK the act of going through that reform would be a challenging test to the UK parliamentary system.