



Apologies made to the House of Commons since 1979

Parliamentary Information List

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Author: Department of Information Services

The Parliamentary Information List series covers various topics relating to Parliament; they include Bills, Committees, Constitution, Debates, Divisions, The House of Commons, Parliament and procedure.

There are numerous reasons why a Member might apologise to the House. Where an individual has been the subject of an investigation and report by the Committee on Standards and Privileges, the Committee may recommend that an apology be made. Other examples include apologies made for disorderly conduct or for the provision of inaccurate information during proceedings. This parliamentary information list attempts to collate all instances where an apology has been made to the House since 1979.

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Any comments or corrections to the lists would be gratefully received and should be sent to: [Parliamentary Information Lists Editor](#), Parliament & Constitution Centre, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Parliament of 1979-1983

Date	Member	Reason for Apology	Hansard Reference
01/03/1982	Nicholas Edwards	Suggested during a debate that another Member had been drinking.	Vol. 19 col. 21

Parliament of 1983-1987

Date	Member	Reason for Apology	Hansard Reference
07/02/1984	Peter Snape	Remarks made about British Rail Southern Region commuters.	Vol. 53 col. 772-3
07/05/1985	Dafydd Wigley	Damaging the Speaker's Chair during exchanges at the end of a debate.	Vol. 78 col. 656
16/05/1985	Ivan Lawrence	Asked a Parliamentary Question based on an erroneous press report about the activities of another Member in the Falklands.	Vol. 79 col. 522
26/07/1985	Nigel Spearing	Causing embarrassment to a former Foreign Secretary via a Parliamentary Question to the PM, and for incompleteness in parts of his minority report on the Belgrano.	Vol. 83 col. 1415
23/02/1987	Richard Hickmet	Remarks made outside the House which were critical of the Speaker.	Vol. 111 col. 22
24/02/1987	Andrew Faulds	Discourtesy and disregard for parliamentary conduct.	Vol. 111 col. 161
19/04/1987	Willie Hamilton	Remarks on the personal conduct of certain Members during a debate on law and order.	Vol. 113 col. 21

Parliament of 1987-1992

Date	Member	Reason for Apology	Hansard Reference
19/04/1988	Ron Brown	Throwing the ceremonial mace to the floor.	Vol. 131 col. 679-81
27/07/1988	Anthony Meyer	Comments made about another Members' chairmanship of the Welsh Grand Committee.	Vol. 138 col. 413
20/12/1988	Martin Brandon-Bravo	Inaccurate allegations about another Member.	Vol. 144 col. 298
19/01/1989	Tim Devlin	Making allegations about the conduct of another Member.	Vol. 145 col. 494
07/12./1989	Tristan Garel-Jones	Using unparliamentary language.	Vol. 163 col. 569
22/01/1990	Kenneth Baker	Allowing a party official to occupy the civil servants' box (Apology received by letter to Speaker).	Vol. 165 col. 558
07/03/1990	John Browne	Failing to declare certain interests.	Vol. 168 col. 889-92

13/02/1991	Douglas Hogg	Lack of notification given to a Member when questions are to be grouped.	Vol. 185 col. 855
20/05/1991	Tony Favell	Using unparliamentary language.	Vol. 191 col. 661-2
04/12/1991	Geraint Howells	Leaving the Chamber after moving an amendment.	Vol. 200 col. 343
05/02/1992	Robert Hayward	Accidentally misleading several Members over his intentions, in speaking during 2nd reading of the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill.	Vol. 203 col. 287

Parliament of 1992-1997

Date	Member	Reason for Apology	Hansard Reference
01/12/1993	Andrew Faulds	Rudeness when requesting an apology from Secretary of State for Education.	Vol. 233 col. 1062
10/05/1994	Nicholas Scott	Stated wrongly that the DSS had played no part in drafting amendments to the above bill.	Vol. 243 col. 155
25/05/1994	Olga Maitland	Misleading the House about authorship of amendments to the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill (Apology received by letter to Speaker).	Vol. 244 col. 342
18/07/1994	Peter Hain	Giving inadequate notice of his intention to refer to certain Members during debate on Members' interests.	Vol. 247 col. 35
15/02/1995	Clive Soley	Making allegations about the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry and Prince Bandar.	Vol. 254 col. 1010
22/05/1995	Jerry Wiggin	Tabled amendments to a bill in Standing Committee, in the name of another Member, without his consent.	Vol. 260 col. 612
15/01/1996	Ann Widdecombe	Misleading the House about concerns the of Whittington Hospital on the handcuffing of prisoners who attend the hospital.	Vol. 269 col. 409
05/02/1997	Michael Forsyth	Alleging incorrectly that another Member had visited Libya.	Vol. 289 col. 1067

Parliament of 1997- 2001

Date	Member	Reason for Apology	Hansard Reference
08/07/1998	Peter Kilfoyle	Referred to a Member in debate without giving way to that Member.	Vol. 315 col. 1096
02/11/1998	Ron Davies	Error of judgement in failing to protect his personal safety and becoming a victim of crime.	Vol. 318 col. 575-6

18/11/1998	Geoffrey Robinson	Late registration of shareholdings and directorships in the Register of Members' Interests.	Vol. 319 col. 952
20/05/1999	Teresa Gorman	Inadequate and incomplete entry in Register of Members' Interests.	Vol. 331 col. 1226
12/07/1999	Ernie Ross	Disclosed draft Foreign Affairs Committee report on Sierra Leone.	Vol. 335 col. 23
13/07/1999	Donald Anderson	Inaccuracies in a statement and letter about knowledge of disclosure of parts of Foreign Affairs Committee's report and of its deliberations on Sierra Leone.	Vol. 335 col. 165
27/07/1999	Kali Mountford	Disclosed a draft report of the Social Security Select Committee.	Vol. 336 col. 149
27/07/1999	Don Touhig	Receiving the above leaked report.	Vol. 336 col. 149
16/03/2000	James Gray	Using unparliamentary language.	Vol. 346 col. 520
20/03/2000	Ken Livingstone	Failing to provide sufficient detail on outside earnings in the Register of MPs' Interests.	Vol. 346 col. 719
23/03/2000	Tony Baldry	Not making clear to the Lord Chancellor's Department, when giving a reference for a person for an honour, that the person concerned had recently given him a loan.	Vol. 346 col. 1121
10/04/2000	Michael Portillo	Failing to declare a registered interest during conclusion of budget debate.	Vol. 348 col. 33
10/05/2000	Gareth R Thomas	Referring to an issue directly relating to Michael Fallon's constituency without giving Mr Fallon prior notification.	Vol. 349 col. 841
28/06/2000	Peter Lilley	Having used an improper word.	Vol. 352 col. 921
29/03/2001	Roy Beggs	Failure to register interests in land and property in his constituency in the Register of Members' Interests.	Vol. 365 col. 1120

Parliament of 2001- 2005

Date	Member	Reason for Apology	Hansard Reference
31/10/2001	Geoffrey Robinson	Failure to register a conditional contract in the Register of Members' Interests.	Vol. 373 col. 884
13/02/2002	Keith Vaz	Breaches in the Code of Conduct in his response to the investigation of allegations made against him, investigated by the Commissioner.	Vol. 380 col. 213
07/03/2002	George Galloway	Using unparliamentary language to describe Ben Bradshaw during a Westminster Hall debate.	Vol. 381 col. 450

07/03/2002	Ben Bradshaw	Remarks made on the character and conduct of George Galloway during a Westminster Hall debate.	Vol. 381 col. 450
13/02/2003	Michael Trend	Improper use of the Additional Costs Allowance.	Vol. 399 col. 1073
20/05/2003	Ben Bradshaw	Inaccurate assertion that the Opposition had not taken up the full allocation of time to debate the Criminal Justice Bill.	Vol. 405 col. 861-2
17/07/2003	Clive Betts	Error of judgement in appointing a staff member that might have exposed the House to a security risk or damaged the reputation of the House.	Vol. 409 col. 473
29/01/2004	Diane Abbott	Failure to declare work for the BBC in the Register of Members' Interests.	Vol. 417 col. 405
23/03/2005	Jonathan Sayeed	Improper use of Commons Stationery and additional cost allowance claims	Vol. 432 col. 893

Parliament of 2005-

Date	Member	Reason for Apology	Hansard Reference
21/07/2005	Tony Baldry	Breached the Code of Conduct for Members as Chairmen of Select Committees.	Vol. 436 col. 1429-30
17/10/2005	Stephen Byers	Inaccurate evidence given to the Transport Select Committee regarding Railtrack.	Vol. 437 col. 639
01/02/2006	Stephen Byers	Offered apologies for not saying sorry at the time of Personal Statement on 17 October 2005.	Vol. 442 col. 319
11/05/2006	Ellyn Llwyd	Apologised for failing to give the Secretary of State for Wales notice of intention to name him during Business Questions.	Vol. 446 col.505
28/01/2008	Derek Conway	Apologised for employing his son as a researcher and parliamentary assistant.	Vol. 471 col.21
26/01/2009	Peter Hain	Failure to declare to the Registrar of Members' Interests, within the time required, all the donations to his campaign for the deputy leadership of the Labour party	Vol. 487 col. 21
12/03/2009	Bernard Jenkin	Believed he may have breached the new rules on the use of Commons dining facilities for political fundraising.	Vol. 489 col.480
12/10/2009	Jacqui Smith	Apologised for wrongly claiming for the cost of films, alongside the cost of her broadband and cable connection.	Vol. 497 col 43
29/10/2009	Tony McNulty	Apologised for making mistakes regarding mortgage interest and council tax claims	Vol. 498 col. 455
29/01/2010	Harry Cohen	Apologised for wrongly claiming on his allowances	Vol. 504 col.1044

Source: Hansard and Sessional Indexes