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## Factsheet P3 Procedure Series

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House of Commons Information Office

# Early Day Motions

Early day motion (EDM) is a colloquial term for a notice of motion given by a Member for which no date has been fixed for debate. EDMs exist to allow Members to put on record their opinion on a subject and canvass support for it from fellow Members. In effect, the primary function of an EDM is to form a kind of petition that MPs can sign and there is very little prospect of these motions being debated on the floor of the House.

This factsheet discusses the procedure Members follow to table an EDM and how information about these kinds of motions is compiled and distributed. The history of the EDM is also covered.

The full texts of all EDMs since the start of the 1989-90 Session are available on the internet at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/early-day-motions/>

This Factsheet is available on the internet at: <http://www.parliament.uk/factsheets>

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## Introduction

The early day motion (EDM) is a much-used device to publicise the views of individual Members of Parliament, and to demonstrate the extent of support among MPs for a particular cause or point of view. In parliamentary terms, the EDM virtually never has any direct consequence. Public interest in them, which is well known to Members, perhaps in itself, demonstrates their purpose. Even if an EDM does not attract wide national press coverage it may well receive attention locally or regionally.

The full text of all EDMs since the start of the 1989-90 session are available on the internet at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/early-day-motions/>

## Tabling of EDMs

Members give notice of an early day motion by handing in its text to the Table Office near the House of Commons Chamber, behind the Speaker's Chair. The Table Office is part of the Department of the Clerk of the House. A specially printed form is provided for Members on which to submit their Motions, but they are not obliged to use it. The forms provide spaces for six main sponsors and 50 further names, the short title of the motion and its text. The word "That" with which all motions begin is also printed.

Motions begin "That ..." because they must be expressed in the form of a resolution. Also, they must be in the form of a single sentence, which may, be broken up by use of brackets, semi-colons or colons; the maximum length of an EDM is 250 words. EDM 1701 of the 2001-02 session asked for the single sentence requirement to be changed. It received 25 signatures.

After the EDM has been checked for conformity with the rules of the House (which are the same for all motions, whether for a specified day or not) it is printed. The Table Office can advise on the rules of the House concerning the text of motions; however the final decision on whether a motion is in order rests with the Speaker. The main rules are:

- Motions should not be over 250 words
- Motions should not criticise other Members, Peers, judges or members of the royal family except as the main subject of the motion
- no reference should be made to matters before the courts
- no unparliamentary language or irony should be used
- titles must be purely descriptive

## Printing

EDMs are printed in the section of the Vote Bundle (see **Factsheet P16**) called Notices of Motions for which no days have been fixed. EDMs first appear in print in the Vote Bundle on the day after they are tabled, even when the House sits very late.

The title and text of the motion with the names of up to six sponsors are set out each time the EDM is printed. The first-named Member, who is normally the Member who brought the motion to the Table Office, is regarded as the Member in charge of the motion. The Member in charge may choose which five other names should appear among the six sponsors at the head of the motion. Other supporters are then set out following the sponsors' names, more or less in the order in which they were submitted. Each EDM is given a running number and this should be quoted with the session (e.g. EDM 387 06-07) as the numbers begin again at one each session. The pages of the Notice Paper concerning EDMs have a separate sequence of numbers from

those connected with Questions and other notices. The Notice Paper is colloquially known as the "Blues".

### **Privilege**

EDMs are formally proceedings in Parliament and as such enjoy a special status in any legal proceedings, such as libel suits or copyright claims. The Clerk of the House, or the Clerk of the Journals in the Department of the Clerk of the House, can advise Members on the possible implications where parliamentary privilege might be an issue. Anybody else, including reporters in the print or broadcast media, who seeks to shelter behind parliamentary privilege in reporting the content of an EDM, ought to take legal advice. It should not be assumed that just because an allegation has been made in an EDM it may be repeated in the media or elsewhere with no consequences.

### **Registration of interests**

The sponsor of any EDM, or any amendment, is required to declare whether they have a relevant registered financial interest to the Table Office at the time of tabling. Any such registered interest is now indicated on the Notice Paper by the letter R against the name of the relevant Member(s).

### **References to EDMs**

EDMs may be referred to in debate. In particular, they are often mentioned during business questions. The first time an EDM is mentioned at business questions, the text is set out in full, in the Official Report (Hansard). Members will often ask a supplementary question following the Thursday lunchtime business statement along the lines of "Can we have a debate next week on my motion EDM No. XXX, which ...." It is not necessary to read out the text of the EDM, as Hansard will insert the full text, but not the names of the signatories. The relevant Government department will have provided the Leader of the House with a "line to take" in response to a supplementary about an EDM at business questions. This requirement to prepare a briefing for a Cabinet Minister will alert civil servants to the strength of feeling on the topic raised in the EDM.

Some typical EDM entries in the Notice Paper are shown in Appendix C.

## **Types of EDMs**

EDMs tend to fall into several distinct groups. First, the Opposition may put down an EDM to pray against statutory instruments. Many appear in the name of the Leader of the Opposition or of another opposition party. This is how the Opposition gives public notice that it may seek to secure a debate on an SI; this type of EDM is generally the only one which can lead to a debate. Under Standing Order No. 118, the Government may refer a statutory instrument subject to negative procedure [see **Factsheet L7**] for debate in a Delegated Legislation Committee once a motion for its annulment has been tabled. Motions of Censure are also put down as EDMs; the motion eventually approved by the House which led to the fall of the 1974-79 Labour Government started out as an EDM (see Appendix C).

Second, a group within a party might put down an EDM. This may express a view different from the official position of the party concerned. For example, motions put down by Government backbenchers may seek to accelerate or otherwise change Government action.

Another type frequently found is the all-party motion, which expresses a view across party divides. This type of EDM might raise for example, a social issue or a subject which has been promoted by one party but will also attract signatures from MPs of a different political allegiance.

It is generally only all-party motions that can obtain large numbers of signatures. The titles of the motions given in Appendix B will give an idea of the subjects which have regularly commanded wide support. When looking at an EDM, scrutiny of the names of the six sponsors will usually provide a clue as to its type. Certain motions, especially of the all-party category, are suggested to Members by pressure groups outside the House, and such organisations often go to much trouble in trying to persuade Members to sign "their" motion.

Some EDMs are completely ephemeral in character, for example those offering congratulations to a particular football or cricket club (it has been known for separate but virtually identical EDMs of this type to be tabled). Other EDMs relate to local issues, for instance criticising the decision to close a post office or hospital, or purely personal matters (e.g. a deportation or similar case).

Members often seek to draw up an EDM if they have been debarred from putting down questions on a subject because of the rules of the House.

Occasionally EDMs are tabled criticising another Member of the House, or a member of the House of Lords. These EDMs will usually have a title beginning "Conduct of ..." It is unacceptable to criticise the conduct of honourable Members by innuendo, so such an EDM must state clearly what the allegation is, in a form that would allow the House to take a clear decision if the matter were ever debated.

## Signatures

Additional Members can sign Early Day Motions. Commonly, Members do this by tearing out pages from their copy of the "Blues" and signing below the chosen Motion or Motions. The pages are then handed to the Table Office, and the EDM (together with its top six sponsors, but not others who have previously signed the Motion) will be reprinted in the next Notice Paper with the new names added. Members often simply give the Table Office the relevant number and ask for their name to be added. A running total of the number of signatures to date is also printed each time the EDM appears in the "Blues". Signatures given in when the House is not sitting will be added on the next sitting day.

Members may give the Table Office the names of other Members to be added to the list of those supporting the EDM. Any Member doing so is personally responsible for the accuracy of the names of other Members appended by them to EDMs and they ought to have those Members' authority for the addition of their names. Members may not assume that because other Members have agreed to support an EDM in one session that they will automatically support an identical motion tabled in a subsequent parliamentary session.

Members themselves sometimes accidentally sign EDMs which they have already signed. Any such duplication is filtered out by the Table Office computer system, and only the original signature is printed or counted towards the total number of signatures.

## Ministers

Ministers and whips do not normally sign EDMs. The 2005 Ministerial Code stated that Parliamentary Private Secretaries "must not associate themselves with particular groups advocating special policies", and they do not normally sign EDMs. Neither the Speaker nor Deputy Speakers will sign EDMs. Internal party rules may also affect who can sign early day motions.

The standing orders of the Parliamentary Labour Party require Labour Members to consult the Chief Whip before tabling an EDM and to delay the tabling of an EDM for one sitting day at the Chief Whip's request.

### **Amendments**

A Member may put down an amendment or amendments to another Member's EDM. If a Member wishes to table an amendment to an EDM which they have already signed, they first have to withdraw their name from the main motion.

Some amendments advance a view contrary to that offered by the main Motion and may advocate the replacement of the whole text from "that" with an alternative proposition on the same subject, whilst others may seek additional or strengthening provisions. The Table Office can advise whether amendments which amount to total opposition to the EDM (in the form of an "expanded negative") would be in order.

Members sign amendments in the same way as main motions, and the Notice Paper counts and records these in exactly the same way. Members can therefore solicit support for amendments and it is by no means unknown for an amendment to attract more support than the original motion.

The Member in charge of a motion may withdraw an EDM or an amendment put down in their name without reference to any of those who have signed it. Members may also withdraw their names from motions or amendments. In either case, the notification of withdrawal is published as a Memorandum at the end of the EDM section of the "Blues" together with any corrections.

### **Number of signatures**

In an average Session only about six or seven EDMs reach over 200 signatures, but perhaps 70 or 80 get over 100 signatures. Quite a number will attract only one or a couple of signatures. Appendix B provides a list of EDMs since 1939 which have attracted 300 or more signatures. There is no guarantee that an EDM that reaches a certain number of signatures will be debated on the floor of the House and excluding prayers the number that are debated is very low.<sup>1</sup>

The record for most signatures on an EDM was set in the 2001-02 session with Malcolm Savidge's EDM of the need to avoid conflict between India and Pakistan attracting 502 signatures. Previously the record was the 482 signatures for an EDM on service pensions put down in 1964 by Sir Robert Cary. A list of all those main motions that have had 300 or more signatures since 1939-40 is given in Appendix B. A number of very popular EDMs do not appear in this Appendix because they took the form of a main motion and a strengthening or neutral amendment. No attempt has been made to add amendment signatures to the figures given; therefore these are signatures on the main motion only. No account is taken of any signatures withdrawn.

### **Duration of EDMs**

EDMs remain current for the rest of the session in which they were put down and extra names can be added at any time up until the session ends in prorogation or dissolution. For the first two weeks, motions are reprinted when new names are added. They are then reprinted only on Thursdays if any signatures have been added to the EDM since it was last printed. Before each

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<sup>1</sup> HC Deb 22 Feb 1994 c163W; HC Deb 26 Apr 1999 c2W

parliamentary recess, the Table Office prints a list of EDMs giving their titles in numerical order, the date of first printing and total number of signatories to date. This is issued with the "Blues".

At the end of the session all EDMs fall, but can be introduced again in the new session. They do not automatically carry forward the signatures appended to them in the previous session. Some EDMs reappear session after session.

### **Cost of EDMs**

The costs associated with early day motions in financial year 2009/2010 were approximately £1,000,000. Most of this cost was accounted for by the printing and publication of early day motions, amendments to them, and names added to them, under the House's contract with TSO. This cost nearly £776,000 in 2009/10.

Expenditure is incurred on staff time to process and index early day motions. Staff who deal with EDMs also undertake other duties, but a rough estimate of the full salary costs incurred from the estimated amount of their time spent on EDMs, including employer's pension contribution and national insurance, is of the order of £150,000 for 2009/10.

In addition, technical support for the EDMi database and the Table Office's software application for processing EDMs cost approximately £87,000 in 2009/10.<sup>2</sup>

## **Tracing Early Day Motions**

The House of Commons Information Office can supply complete lists of Members who have signed a particular EDM. The PIMS EDM database, with a browser interface, is available through the Parliament Website at <http://edmi.parliament.uk/edmi/>. This enables lists to be produced of those who have signed particular EDMs, or of all the EDMs a certain Member has endorsed. Similarly, it is possible to isolate the date of the notice paper on which the signature of a Member was recorded, and the titles of all the EDMs a Member has signed.

The PIMS EDM database holds EDMs as far back as the 1989/90 session. EDMs before this session, e.g. lists from 1944 to 1989 made up by the House of Commons Library, are held in the Parliamentary Archives which can be contacted on 0207 219 3074 or by e-mail at [archives@parliament.uk](mailto:archives@parliament.uk)

The titles of new EDMs are added to the database overnight as are any signatures added. The full text of new EDMs is available two days after tabling.

## **History**

The preceding sections of this factsheet deal with the current procedure for early day motions. This section gives some background to their history.

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, Members had ample opportunity to raise matters of interest to them in debate, since a large part of the time of the House was available for their bills and motions. Motions were notified to the House in general by a Member announcing in the Chamber that he proposed to raise such and such a question, though written notice could also

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<sup>2</sup> HC Deb 16 June 2010 c423W

be given. However, in the 1850s and 60s, at the end of a session, when it was impractical to name actual dates, the practice developed of Members giving notice that they intended to raise matters at some future date (e.g. next session, at an early opportunity, etc) rather than on a specific date.

By 1865 a separate section, headed Notices of Motions for which no days have been fixed, was appearing in the daily Notice Paper regularly throughout the session. Some of the motions were actually intended for debate, and others were expressions of opinion. More than one Member might submit the same motion in order to demonstrate solidarity or the strength of feeling on an issue. Throughout the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, the time available for private Members' bills and motions reduced as governments took increasingly more House of Commons time, and the use of these motions therefore increased. By 1921, more than one name was commonly seen, but the text of the motion was not repeated for each name.

It was presumably considered that each name was in fact separately submitting the same motion, and each name was given a fresh number in the list as if a separate motion. By 1928 the majority of such motions were submitted in multiple names, but never more than six were prefaced to each. The practice of attracting tens or hundreds of signatures took off during the 1930s and by 1943 the system was in operation much as it exists at present. The Clerks at the Table were compiling a listing and index of EDMs in much its present form and from 1944 a number was allocated to each motion to facilitate ease of reference. Appendix A gives the numbers of EDMs presented in each session since 1939 (please note that figures given include EDMs that were subsequently withdrawn).

In the 1940s, the phrase "an early day" was often appended to each motion. This is probably the origin of the colloquial name still used. It meant the motion was for debate, theoretically, on some date in the near future. The phrase has now been moved to the head of the EDM section of the Notice Paper. Not all EDMs in the 1940s were from backbenchers and some Ministers even gave notice of their intention to bring in bills in this way, for example the Bill which became the *Education Act 1944*. On 24 November 1943 the Chairman of Ways and Means even used an EDM to give notice of amendments to be moved to the standing orders to private bills.

The 1940s saw an increase in the popularity of the EDM probably because the war footing of the Commons meant that time for debate of Private Members' Motions and Bills was not available. Therefore, the EDM may have been used as a vehicle for the expression of views due to the lack of alternative means of such expression. Some motions at this time attracted large numbers of signatures, for instance the 279 appended to a 1942-43 Motion on Nazi massacres.

In the 1950s there were approximately 100 EDMs each Session. By the late 1960s this had risen to about 400 and by the early 1980s to about 700. The thousand mark was first passed in the long session of 1983-84 and during the session 1985-86 there were 1,262 EDMs, a virtual doubling of the numbers usual at the beginning of the decade. By the end of the 1990s, 1,400 in an average session was the norm.

In 1976, the Services Committee recommended that when EDMs had names added to them, only the title of the Motion - not its text - and the names of the six sponsors should be reprinted. These details should then be immediately followed by the added name(s). This, it was said, would save HMSO £45,000 each year in printing costs, and expedite delivery of the Vote Bundle. The House agreed to this for an experimental period of one Parliamentary Session on 18 January 1977. The experiment began the next week, but after only eight weeks the

Chairman of the Sub-Committee responsible for the suggestion admitted the experiment had not been a success. Proposing an amendment would cause the text of the EDM to be reprinted: on 15 March 1977 a Member (Mr N Winterton) put down insubstantial amendments to every EDM, causing all of the 229 then current to be reprinted. This action attracted comment in the Chamber the next day, and the experiment was ended soon afterwards. An EDM about the printing of EDMs itself attracted 68 signatures.

From 5 April 1989, it was decided that when names were appended to EDMs, the full text should only be printed on the Thursday of that week where two or more weeks had elapsed since first put down.

On 28 June 1993 the House debated and approved the First Report from the Select Committee on Members' Interests of Session 1991-92 (HC 326 1991-92). This report included the recommendation that the sponsor of any EDM, or any amendment, should be required to declare any relevant registered pecuniary interest to the Table Office at the time of tabling. This recommendation was implemented from the beginning of the 1993-94 Session and any such registered interest is now indicated on the Notice Paper by the letter R against the name of the relevant Member(s).

## Appendix A

### Number of Early Day Motions presented since 1939

Session	EDMs	Session	EDMs	Session	EDMs
1939-40	21	1963-64	180	1987-88	(b) 1,600
1940-41	30	1964-65	356	1988-89	1,414
1941-42	41	1965-66	(a) 164	1989-90	1,478
1942-43	77	1966-67	(b) 640	1990-91	1,283
1943-44	88	1967-68	446	1991-92	(a) 860
1944-45	64	1968-69	443	1992-93	(b) 2,574
1945-46	71	1969-70	(a) 300	1993-94	1,691
1946-47	37	1970-71	(b) 717	1994-95	1,575
1947-48	79	1971-72	474	1995-96	1,246
1948	(c) 3	1972-73	448	1996-97	(a) 724
1948-49	77	1973-74	(a) 174	1997-98	(b) 1,757
1949-50	55	1974	(a) 245	1998-99	1,009
1950-51	97	1974-75	759	1999-00	1,198
1951-52	106	1975-76	701	2000-01	(a) 659
1952-53	135	1976-77	475	2001-02	(b) 1,864
1953-54	102	1977-78	611	2002-03	1,939
1954-55	52	1978-79	(a) 368	2003-04	1,941
1955-56	116	1979-80	(b) 907	2004-05	(a) 1,033
1956-57	96	1980-81	631	2005-06	(a) 2,924
1957-58	105	1981-82	716	2006-07	2,193
1958-59	99	1982-83	(a) 502	2007-08	2,727
1959-60	111	1983-84	(b) 1,058	2008-09	2,272
1960-61	169	1984-85	979	2009-10	1,248
1961-62	154	1985-86	1,261		
1962-63	176	1986-87	(a) 999		

Source: *Sessional Returns*

- (a) short session
- (b) long session
- (c) very short session

## Appendix B

### Early day motions since 1939 with 300 or more signatures

Session	EDM Subject Number	Sponsor	Number of Signatures
1948-49	23 Analgesia (Childbirth)	Mrs L Manning	346
1953-54	88 War Disability Pensions	Mr C Simmons	324
1955-56	59 Living Theatre	Sir B Baxter	361
1958-59	45 Restriction of Offensive Weapons	Mr B Janner	309
1960-61	17 Civil Service Pensions (Unestablished Service)	Sir L Heald	388
1960-61	116 Fire Services Manpower	Mr R Harris	332
1963-64	53 War Disability Pensions (Limbless Ex-Servicemen)	Sir R Cary	482
1965-66	18 Rhodesia	The Prime Minister (Mr H Wilson)	333
1966-67	99 Soviet Jewry	Sir I Orr-Ewing	396
1966-67	518 Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp	Mr A Neave	357
1967-68	149 Public Service and Armed Forces Pensions	Mr J Jennings	356
1967-68	168 The Population Problem	Sir D Renton	322
1970-71	212 Treatment of Jews (USSR)	Mr G Janner	333
1970-71	509 Cease-Fire in Pakistan	Mr B Douglas-Mann	300
1971-72	291 International Assistance to Bangladesh	Mr J Stonehouse	328
1976-77	222 Select Committee for Foreign Affairs	Mr C Brocklebank-Fowler	385
1977-78	502 Pay, Pensions and Allowances of Hon Members	Mr I Stewart	322
1979-80	17 Whale Products Import Ban	Mr T Garel-Jones	347
1980-81	150 Access for Disabled People	Mr D Wigley	328
1982-83	83 Baby Seals from Canada	Mr D Ennals	308
1983-84	688 Norwegian Government & Commercial Whaling	Dr J Marek	371
1986-87	29 Drug Abuse (Grange Hill Campaign)	Mr D Atkinson	317
1987-88	792 Grandparents' Rights, etc	Mr R Powell	331
1988-89	68 Treatment of widows of servicemen	Mr J McWilliam	334
1988-89	174 First Aid in Schools	Mr J Browne	330
1988-89	256 Public Safety Information	Ms J Quin	328
1990-91	197 First Aid in Schools	Mr N Thorne	413
1990-91	500 Merchant Navy	Mr J Sayeed	353
1990-91	299 Resettlement grants, ex MPs	Mr A Morris	348
1992-93	1780 BBC World Service	Mr P Temple-Morris	408
1993-94	2 Civil Rights (Disabled Persons)	Mr R Berry	313
1994-95	1223 Independent Review Bodies recommendation	Mr A Morris	353
1994-95	383 Reducing VAT on energy saving materials	Mr A Simpson	342

Session	EDM Subject Number	Sponsor	Number of Signatures
1994-95	24 Children in Prostitution and Pornography	Mrs A Winterton	329
1995-96	269 Homepride Campbell Soups	Mr D Campbell-Savours	340
1997-98	18 National targets for road traffic reduction	Ms Joan Walley	362
1997-98	261 Serjeant at Arm's staff	Mr N Brown	355
1997-98	2 Pardon for executed soldiers	Mr A Mackinlay	354
1997-98	80 Warm Homes	Mr A Simpson	342
1998-99	929 U.S. Senate Rejection of Test Ban	Mr M Savidge	359
1998-99	11 Wildlife Charter and Wildlife Bill	Mr D Lepper	349
1998-99	108 Warm Homes and Energy Conservation	Mr A Simpson	345
1998-99	158 Bills on Energy Conservation	Mr C Efford	319
1998-99	323 National Targets for Road Traffic Reduction	Ms Joan Walley	318
1998-99	488 Recycled Content of Newsprint	Mr D Chaytor	315
1999-00	317 Warm Homes and Energy Conservation	Mr A Simpson	396
1999-00	449 Fiftieth Anniversary of the election of the Rt Hon Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup	Mr W Hague	345
1999-00	17 Newspaper and Magazine Recycling	Mr D Chaytor	308
2001-02	633 India and Pakistan	Mr M Savidge	502
2001-02	1367 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Sierra Leone, 14th May (No. 2)	Mr W Griffiths	401
2001-02	1098 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Sierra Leone, May 14th	Mr W Griffiths	385
2001-02	915 NSPCC Campaign to End Child Cruelty Within A Generation	Ms D Shipley	362
2001-02	736 Debt Relief	J Drown	357
2001-02	862 WWF/Traffic Wildlife Trade Campaign	Mr J Mann	344
2001-02	1737 Lupus Awareness Month	Mrs J Dean	322
2001-02	186 Doorstep Recycling Schemes	Mr P Marsden	320
2001-02	826 Arms Export Controls	A Clwyd	311
2001-02	226 Elected Second Chamber	F Mactaggart	303
2002-03	572 Post Office Card Accounts	Mr M O'Neill	391
2002-03	954 Retirement of Laurence Kaye MBE	Mr C Blunt	361
2002-03	1129 Bushmeat	Dr J Tonge	322
2002-03	333 Doorstep Recycling	J Ruddock	320
2003-04	757 Royal Horticultural Society Bicentenary Celebrations	Mr B Donohoe	382
2003-04	96 Residential Energy Efficiency Aim Pursuant to the Sustainable Energy Act	Mr B White	341
2003-04	171 Protecting the Marine Environment	Mr J Randall	315
2003-04	200 Occupational Pensions	Mr K Brennan	300
2004-05	9 Making Poverty History in 2005	Julia Drown	454

Session	EDM Subject Number	Sponsor	Number of Signatures
2005-06	178 Climate Change	Rt Hon Micheal Meacher	412
2005-06	1531 Abolition of the Post Office Card Account	Kate Hoey	397
2005-06	641 Sustainable Communities Bill	Julia Goldsworthy	363
2005-06	128 Parenting Time Presumption	Rt Hon Theresa May	362
2005-06	393 Protecting Runaway Children	Mr Paul Burstow	351
2005-06	391 Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Bills	Mark Lazarowicz	333
2005-06	902 UN Security Council Intervention in Burma	John Bercow	323
2005-06	2378 Climate Change (Commercial and Public Services Sector) Bill	Dr Alan Whitehead	315
2005-06	691 Lupus Awareness Month	Mrs Janet Dean	311
2005-06	8 Carers Week 13 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2005	Dr Hywel Francis	397
2006-07	132 Illegal Logging	Joan Walley	364
2006-07	468 Sustainable Communities	Mr David Drew	338
2006-07	1340 Carers Week	Ms Barbara Keeley	323
2007-08	95 Honour the Brave Campaign	David Anderson	324
2008-09	1423 Parliamentary Ombudsman and Equitable Life Policyholders	Vincent Cable	351
2009-10	143 Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill	David Drew	349
2009-10	877 Treatment of Christians and Religious Liberty	Andrew Pelling	315

## Appendix C

### Examples of Early Day Motions

317 *SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION (S.R. (N.I.), 2006, No. 439)* 28:11:06

The Reverend Ian Paisley  
Mr Peter Robinson  
Mr Nigel Dodds  
Mr Gregory Campbell  
Mr Jeffrey M. Donaldson  
Mrs Iris Robinson

\* 27

Mr David Wilshire

That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. (N.I.), 2006, No. 439), dated 8th November 2006, a copy of which was laid before this House on 24th November, be annulled.

470 *MERCHANT SHIPPING (S.I., 2006, No. 3223)* 12:12:06

Mr David Cameron  
Chris Grayling  
Mr Julian Brazier  
Stephen Hammond  
Andrew Rosindell  
Mr Patrick McLoughlin

\* 35

Mr Alistair Carmichael      Mr David Wilshire

That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that the Merchant Shipping (Inland Waterway and Limited Coastal Operations) (Boatmasters' Qualifications and Hours of Work) Regulations 2006 (S.I., 2006, No. 3223), dated 4th December 2006, a copy of which was laid before this House on 7th December, be annulled.

600 *ABOLITION OF NHS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION* 10:1:07

Helen Jones  
Mr Iain Wright  
Mr John Spellar  
Mr Kevan Jones  
Mr Jim Cunningham  
Graham Stringer

\* 27

Chris McCafferty    Albert Owen      Mrs Janet Dean  
Mrs Ann Cryer

That this House believes that the NHS Appointments Commission should be abolished.

### Historic Examples

1. **24 July 1849** – A motion put down for the “Earliest Opportunity” by Mr Henry Drummond, the Conservative Member for Surrey West

Mr Henry Drummond – That the burthen of Taxation be removed by a graduated scale from the poorer to the richer classes. , and that all Duties be abolished which prevent any persons from growing hops, or making malt, soap, candles, or bricks for their own use. [*Earliest opportunity.*]

**2. 7 November 1939** – A motion put down in the names of a Conservative, a Liberal and an Independent, with an amendment by Labour Members.

Sir Hugh Seely,-

Mr. Alan Herbert,-

Commander Oliver Locker-Lampson –

Houses of Parliament (Staff), - That this House, observing with regret the unsatisfactory conditions of service, payment and accommodation of persons employed at the Houses of Parliament, and believing that these conditions are due (a) to a diffusion of responsibility among various authorities, the Office of Works, the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Kitchen Committee, and others, and (b) to the special uncertainty and irregularity of parliamentary requirements, which make it difficult to provide proper conditions for both servants and Members of the two Houses, resolves that a joint committee be appointed to report upon these conditions and difficulties and to make recommendations.

As an amendment to Sir Hugh Seely's Motion (Houses of Parliament (Staff) :-

Mr. Ellis Smith,-

Mr. Kirkwood,-

Mr. Tinker,-

Mr. Batey,-

Mr. Tomlinson,-

Mr. Dobbie,-

Line 9, at end, add "and urges all persons to join their appropriate trade union, appoint representative persons, and form a House of Commons works council on which all interests shall be represented."

**3. 22 March 1979** – A Motion put down by Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, the then Leader of the Opposition, censuring the Government. When this Motion was debated on 28 March, it was agreed to, leading to a General Election.

351 *NO CONFIDENCE IN HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT*

Mrs Margaret Thatcher

Mr William Whitelaw

Sir Keith Joseph

Sir Geoffrey Howe

Mr James Prior

Mr Francis Pym

That this House has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government

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## Factsheet P3 Early Day Motions

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### For your purposes, did you find this Factsheet

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|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Very useful | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fairly useful    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not much use   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Too long    | <input type="checkbox"/> | The right length | <input type="checkbox"/> | Too short      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Clear       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not always clear | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rather unclear | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Any comments?

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