



## Short Money

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This note provides details of the current levels of 'Short money' allocated to opposition parties for parliamentary duties, and a brief history of the scheme. Figures for the corresponding scheme in the House of Lords (Cranborne money) are also provided.

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## 1 Introduction

Short Money – that is funding to support opposition parties – was introduced in 1975 (see Section 4 for a note on the historical background).

The current scheme is administered under a Resolution of the House of 26 May 1999.<sup>1</sup> Short Money is made available to all opposition parties in the House of Commons that secured either two seats or one seat and more than 150,000 votes at the previous General Election. Short Money is not available to parties whose Members have not sworn the oath. The scheme has three components:

1. Funding to assist an opposition party in carrying out its Parliamentary business
2. Funding for the opposition parties' travel and associated expenses
3. Funding for the running costs of the Leader of the Opposition's office

The nature of the funding available under each of the categories and a summary of the 2011/12 allocations are set out in Table 1 below. (Full details of the current rates are set out in the Appendices.) Each component is uprated annually on 1 April by the percentage increase in the RPI in the year to the previous December.<sup>2</sup> Allocations throughout a Parliament are based on the results of the previous General Election.

- **General funding for Opposition Parties** – the amount payable to qualifying parties from 1 April 2011 is **£15,039.85** for every seat won at the last election plus **£30.04** for every 200 votes gained by the party.
- **Travel Expenses for Opposition Parties** – the total amount payable under this component of the scheme for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2011 is **£165,218** apportioned between each of the Opposition parties in the same proportion as the amount given to each of them under the basic funding scheme set out above.
- **Leader of the Opposition's Office** – under the third component of the scheme, **£700,699** is available for the running costs of the Leader of the Opposition's office for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2011.

In addition, the Leader of the Opposition, the Opposition Chief Whip and a maximum of two Assistant Opposition Whips, in the House of Commons, receive a salary from public funds, on top of their parliamentary salary.<sup>3</sup> The *Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 (Amendment) Order 2011* implemented the Cabinet's decision to reduce ministerial salaries, taken in May 2010.<sup>4</sup> The Order also set rates for the salaries of qualifying Opposition office-holders. The Order came into force on 14 July 2011 and set the following salaries:

	From 14 July 2011
Leader of the Opposition	£63,098
Opposition Chief Whip	£33,002
Assistant Opposition Whip	£19,239

Source: [Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 \(Amendment\) Order 2011](#), SI 2011/1689

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<sup>1</sup> HC Deb 26 May 1999 Vol 332 c427-9 (see Appendix 4 for the text of the resolution). Note the resolution was altered by the Members Estimate Committee, see Appendix 4

<sup>2</sup> Uprating has been based on December's inflation rate since April 2004, prior to this the inflation rate in March was used as the basis for uprating Short Money.

<sup>3</sup> *Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975* (chapter 27), sections 1 and 2 and Schedule 2

<sup>4</sup> For further details see House of Commons Library Standard Note, [Members' pay and allowances from April 2010](#), SN/PC/5436

**Table 1: Short Money allocations, 2011/12 (£)**

	General	Travel	Leader of the Opposition	Total
Labour Party	5,172,962.00	150,679.74	700,699.00	6,024,340.74
Democratic Unionist Party	145,582.00	4,240.57		149,822.57
Green Party	57,817.00	1,684.11		59,501.11
Plaid Cymru	69,933.00	2,037.02		71,970.02
Social Democratic and Labour Party	61,762.00	1,799.02		63,561.02
Scottish National Party	164,017.00	4,777.55		168,794.55

## 2 What is the money used for?

Short Money general funds are largely spent on research support for front-bench spokesmen, assistance in the Whips' offices and staff for the Leader of the Opposition. Paragraph 1 of the original Resolution in 1975 provided that financial assistance to qualifying parties was available "to assist that party in carrying out its Parliamentary business", and paragraph 6 required parties to certify "that the expenses in respect of which assistance is claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to that party's Parliamentary business".

Since its introduction, in 1975, two major changes to the scope of Short Money have been made. First in 1993, separate provision was made for the first time for "financial assistance towards travelling and associated expenses necessarily incurred by an opposition party's spokesmen in relation to the party's Parliamentary business". Second in 1999, it was agreed to introduce "a separately identified sum specifically for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, in recognition of the constitutional role played by, and thus the specific demands on, the holder of that post".<sup>5</sup>

The current Resolution reflects the original Resolution of 1975 and incorporates these changes (the Resolution is set out in full in Appendix 4):

1.—(1) Financial assistance to assist an opposition party in carrying out its Parliamentary Business shall be available ...

2.—(1) ... financial assistance towards travelling and associated expenses necessarily incurred by an opposition party's spokesmen in relation to the party's parliamentary business shall be available ...

3.—(1) Financial assistance shall be available for the costs necessarily incurred in the running of the Leader of the Opposition's Office ...

4. Any claims for financial assistance towards travelling expenses under paragraph 2 are to be made to the Accounting Officer of the House; and a party claiming such assistance shall

(a) Furnish that Officer with a statement of the facts on which the claim is based;

(b) Certify to that Officer that the expenses which are claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business in accordance with this resolution.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> HC Deb 26 May 1999 c428

<sup>6</sup> House of Commons, *Votes and Proceedings*, 26 May 1999

Some other minor changes have occurred. Following a review of Short Money in 1988, John Wakeham, then the Leader of the House, announced the absorption into the Short Money scheme of some existing forms of assistance to the official Opposition:

In particular, it is proposed that the existing separate arrangements, which pre-date the introduction of 'Short' money, whereby certain office equipment, Postal facilities and stationery, are provided for the official Opposition out of departmental Votes shall be brought to an end. The current arrangements for the employment of four officially paid staff in the official Opposition Whips' Office would however, remain unaltered.<sup>7</sup>

## 2.1 Short Money and the coalition

Short Money is only available to opposition parties. As a result of the coalition agreement between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrat parties, following the 2010 general election, neither party now qualifies for Short Money. There had been rumours that the Liberal Democrats hoped to continue receiving Short Money.<sup>8</sup> However, speaking at Business Questions, Sir George Young, the Leader of the House, confirmed that the Liberal Democrats no longer qualified for Short Money. On 3 June 2010, he said that:

Short money is available to Opposition parties; it is not available to Government parties.<sup>9</sup>

Then on 10 June, he said:

I make it absolutely clear that Short money is available to Opposition parties. The Liberal Democrats are a party of government and therefore Short money is not available to them.<sup>10</sup>

### **Reforming Short Money**

Although, Sir George indicated that while Short Money was not available to Government parties, on 3 June, he said that "On the more general question, we are committed to a reform of party funding, and that was announced in the Queen's Speech".<sup>11</sup> However, on 10 June, he commented that "Short money is available only to Opposition parties; we have no plans to change that".<sup>12</sup>

## 3 Accounting for Short Money

Short Money is funded through the House of Commons Members' Salaries etc. Vote. The sums payable to parties generally are paid automatically in arrears every month, as is the sum to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition. Only the travel element has to be claimed by Members, again usually monthly, from the Department of HR and Change. Parties claiming Short Money must provide the Accounting Officer of the House of Commons (the Clerk of the House) with an auditor's certificate confirming that all expenses claimed were incurred exclusively in relation to the party's Parliamentary business. This was confirmed in a parliamentary answer, in 2000:

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>8</sup> Michael Crick, "[Rumours that Lib Dems hope to continue receiving Short money](#)", *Michael Crick's blog*, 19 May 2010; Michael Crick, "[The Lib Dems respond to Short Money rumours](#)", *Michael Crick's blog*, 19 May 2010

<sup>9</sup> HC Deb 3 June 2010 c591

<sup>10</sup> HC Deb 10 June 2010 c468

<sup>11</sup> HC Deb 3 June 2010 c591

<sup>12</sup> HC Deb 10 June 2010 c470

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the President of the Council what steps she takes to ensure that Short money allocated to Her Majesty's Opposition is used exclusively for parliamentary purposes.

**Mrs. Beckett:** Recipients of Short money have to furnish the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the Accounting Officer, to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the party received financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business under the House's resolution.<sup>13</sup>

Shortly after the 2010 general election, Sir George Young, the Leader of the House of Commons confirmed the role of the Accounting Officer:

It is for the Clerk of the House, as accounting officer, to ensure that Short money payments are made in accordance with resolutions of the House.<sup>14</sup>

However, very little information is published about the qualifying parties' use of their Short Money allocation in carrying out their parliamentary business. There has been some concern over the years about whether Short Money is being used appropriately.<sup>15</sup> According to press reports, the former Labour Member, Fraser Kemp, wrote to the Leader of the House in September 1999 complaining about the possible misuse of funds, followed by a letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General.<sup>16</sup> Mr Kemp is also reported to have written to the Conservative Party's auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to seek assurance that the party had not misused its Short Money to fund party political activities.<sup>17</sup> The allegations were that funds intended for parliamentary purposes were being diverted to finance the party's election campaign by paying for staff at party headquarters.<sup>18</sup> Subsequently, it was reported that PwC sought clarification from the House of Commons authorities on precisely how Short Money funds could be spent.<sup>19</sup>

In 2001, in its inquiry into special advisers, the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) also considered Short Money because Lord Neill, whilst chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, had wondered whether a Short Money-type scheme would be appropriate for funding special advisers.<sup>20</sup> PASC reported the discussion that had taken place over what constituted "parliamentary business" but noted that a definition had been agreed between the Fees Office (now the Department of HR and Change), the Official Opposition, the Accounting Officer and the National Audit Office.<sup>21</sup> However, the Committee commented that:

The current system is open to the criticism that it places the onus on the political parties rather than on either House authorities or firms of accountants to say that the

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<sup>13</sup> HC Deb 13 April 2000 Vol 348 c272W

<sup>14</sup> HC Deb 10 June 2010 c483

<sup>15</sup> e.g. see Fraser Kemp's Early Day Motion 214 1997/98

<sup>16</sup> "Watchdog to study Tory spending", *The Times*, 28 Oct 1999

<sup>17</sup> e.g. see "MP urges PwC to probe Tory use of public money", *Financial Times*, 28 Dec 1999

<sup>18</sup> e.g. see "Tories 'spend public cash on campaigning'", *Guardian*, 24 June 2000

<sup>19</sup> e.g. see "Tories 'spending public funds on propaganda'", *The Times*, 19 Feb 2000  
"Inquiry into Tory spending", *Sunday Telegraph*, 23 April 2000

<sup>20</sup> Public Administration Select Committee, *Special Advisers: Boon or Bane: The Government's Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2000-01*, 18 December 2001, HC 463 2001-02

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, paras 45-46

money has been properly spent, although it is not clear that the previous system was much more transparent.<sup>22</sup>

It noted that its witnesses “thought there was room for more guidance” and that “the Official Opposition and its auditors were unable to give a categorical assurance that its Short Money funding was used exclusively for parliamentary business”. It also expressed concern that a “description of parliamentary business was arrived at, without consideration by the House”.<sup>23</sup> PASC concluded:

We believe that there is an urgent need for stricter regulation as to what Short money may be spent on and more transparency as to how it has been spent. We understand that it will be for the Leader of the House to bring forward an amended Resolution for adoption by the House. We asked the Clerk of the House to draw her attention to the evidence we took and he undertook to do so. **We hope that the Leader of the House will take an early opportunity to table an amended resolution so that the House can agree more precisely on what Short Money may be spent and how it is to be accounted for.**<sup>24</sup>

In its response to the Committee’s recommendation, the Government gave the following commitment:

The Government recognises the Committee's concerns about the need for greater clarity over the terms and conditions governing the allocation of Short money, not least because of the significant sums of public money involved. Following the Committee's observations the Government will seek to work with the other political parties to achieve greater clarity and transparency in the use of Short money.<sup>25</sup>

Parliamentary answers provided some further information on the accountability mechanisms for Short Money. First:

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what accountability mechanisms there are to scrutinise the spending of "Short" money.

**Mr. Hoon:** I have been asked to reply.

Short money is governed by the Resolution of the House of Commons of 26 May 1999.

Each opposition party which receives Short money is required to submit a certificate from an independent professional auditor within nine months of the year end confirming that all the expenses for which the party received financial assistance under the terms of the Resolution were incurred exclusively in connection with the party's parliamentary business.

If the certificate is not received within the time specified no further financial assistance is paid until such a certificate is so furnished.

Guidance for completion of the certificate is provided by the House administration and the form of the certificate has been agreed with the National Audit Office.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, para 48

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, paras 49-50

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, para 51

<sup>25</sup> Public Administration Select Committee, *Special Advisers: Boon or Bane*, 13 March 2001, HC 293 2000-01, para 40

<sup>26</sup> HC Deb 27 June 2005 c1336W

And, secondly:

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many members of staff are paid for out of Short money on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition; how many staff were paid for from this allowance in each of the previous four years; and if he will make a statement;

(2) for what purposes Short money may be used; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr. Straw:** Short money is given to Opposition parties to help them to carry out their parliamentary business. This can include research associated with Front-Bench duties, developing and communicating alternative policies to those of the Government and shadowing the Government's Front Bench. There is specific provision for meeting costs necessarily incurred in running the office of the Leader of the Opposition. Each Opposition party has to provide a certificate from an independent auditor each year to the effect that all the expenses claimed were in respect of the party's parliamentary business. No information is available to me about the number of staff employed by the Leader of the Opposition who are paid from Short money.<sup>27</sup>

Early in the current Parliament, the Leader of the House addressed the question "what mechanism is used to monitor the usage of allocated funds"? He told the House that:

Each Opposition party that receives Short money is required to submit a report from an independent professional auditor, after the end of each financial year, that all the expenses for which the party received financial assistance under the terms of the resolution were incurred exclusively in connection with the party's parliamentary business. The relevant criteria are set out in notes provided to the auditors.<sup>28</sup>

#### 4 Historical background

"Short money" was introduced by the Wilson Government following a commitment in the Queen's Speech of 12 March 1974:

My Ministers will consider the provision of financial assistance to enable Opposition parties more effectively to fulfil their Parliamentary functions.<sup>29</sup>

Edward Short fleshed out the proposal in a statement on Members' allowances in July 1974:

A more immediate need is to provide additional support for the Opposition parties in Parliament - support which they certainly require if they are to play their full part here. The then Opposition and, I believe, the whole House benefited greatly from the Rowntree scheme, but more permanent arrangements are now necessary. Following our commitment in the Queen's Speech, I have had very helpful discussions with the parties opposite. I now plan to bring firm proposals before the House in the autumn.

The main areas of support which we believe are needed are in the staffing of the Opposition Leader's and Chief Whip's offices, and in research assistance for shadow Front Bench spokesmen. The smaller parties also need staff support, but, naturally, on a smaller scale. We take the view that the parties should decide their own staffing arrangements, and I shall propose, therefore, that they be allocated funds for this purpose, borne upon the House Vote. These would be calculated by a formula based

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<sup>27</sup> HC Deb 19 July 2006 c428W

<sup>28</sup> HC Deb 12 October 2010 c4MC

<sup>29</sup> HC Deb 12 Mar 1974 Vol 870 c47

on the number of seats and votes won, the details of which I should like to discuss further, with the parties opposite after the recess.<sup>30</sup>

The Opposition welcomed the principle of the scheme and talks between the parties were entered into. Progress was delayed by the October 1974 General Election, but Mr Short made a further announcement on 19 December giving details of the formula to be used in the allocation of funds.<sup>31</sup> The main elements of the scheme included:

The formula would take into account both seats in the House and votes at the last election

- there would be an upper limit in the case of the Official Opposition
- the scheme would be confined to parties having at least:
  - two Members elected at the previous general election, or
  - one Member elected and a minimum of 150,000 votes cast.
- the allocation of funds between the Commons and the Lords would be for parties to decide
- the amounts were maximum amounts and parties would have to account for expenditure within the limits to the House's Accounting Officer

The initial formula was set at £500 per seat and £1 for every 200 votes cast at the preceding general election, subject to an overall maximum in respect of any one party of £150,000.

A debate on a motion to approve the proposed scheme took place on 20 March 1975. On that day the House of Commons approved by 142 to 47 the following resolution:

- 1 That in the opinion of this House it is expedient that as from 1st January 1975 provision shall be made for financial assistance to any Opposition party in this House to assist that party in carrying out its Parliamentary business:
- 2 That for the purpose of determining the annual maxima of such assistance the following formula shall apply: -
  - £500 for each seat won by the party concerned plus £1 for every 200 votes cast for it at the preceding General Election, provided that the maximum payable to any party shall not exceed £150,000:
- 3 That it shall be a condition of qualification for such assistance that a party must either have at least two Members elected to the House as members of that party at the preceding General Election, or that it has one such Member and received at least 150,000 votes at that Election:
- 4 That any party wishing to claim such assistance shall make to the Accounting Officer of the House a statement of the facts on which this claim is based:
- 5 That the cost of this provision shall be borne on the House of Commons Vote:
- 6 That parties making claims under this provision shall be required to certify to the Accounting Officer of the House that the expenses in respect of which assistance is claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to that party's Parliamentary business:

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<sup>30</sup> HC Deb 29 July 1974 Vol 878 c32. The "Rowntree scheme" mentioned in the text refers to corporate contributions made by the Rowntree Social Services Trust Ltd to the main political parties, and particularly the Liberal Party/Social Democratic Party, in the 1970s and early 1980s. (see Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, *British Political Finance 1830-1980*, 1981, p 197ff; Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, "Trends in British Political Funding 1979-1983", *Parliamentary Affairs*, Summer 1985, Vol 38, p336

<sup>31</sup> HC Deb 19 Dec 1974 Vol 883 cc1823-4

7 That claims under these new arrangements shall be made quarterly, and that the annual maxima shall be applicable to claims made in respect of expenses incurred during any one calendar year.<sup>32</sup>

The resolution backdated the scheme to 1 January 1975 and the funding formula was therefore calculated on the results of the October 1974 Election. The figures set in 1975 were periodically updated in 1978,<sup>33</sup> 1980,<sup>34</sup> 1983,<sup>35</sup> 1985<sup>36</sup> and 1988,<sup>37</sup> by amending the 1975 resolution. In addition, from 1985, monthly claims were permitted;<sup>38</sup> and, in 1987, the overall maximum that parties were entitled to was removed.<sup>39</sup>

In 1993 a new resolution was agreed (replacing the 1975 resolution (as amended)). The periodic updating ceased as a mechanism to annually increase the seat and vote components of general funding in line with inflation was introduced. In addition, financial assistance towards travelling in relation to Parliamentary business was introduced. The resolution also switched Short Money allocations from a calendar year to a financial year basis, with effect from 1 April 1994 (transitional arrangements included a “fifteen-month year” from 1 January 1993 to 31 March 1994).<sup>40</sup>

The current resolution governing Short Money was agreed on 26 May 1999 and replaced the 1993 resolution. It introduced a specific sum for the Leader of the Opposition. In addition, it increased the value of the votes and seats elements of the formula by a factor of 2.7, in the light of the report on party funding by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.<sup>41</sup>

The Members Estimate Committee updated the Resolution in March 2004. It also decided that annual updating should be based on the retail price index in December, rather than the previous March.<sup>42</sup>

Changes in the allocations of Short Money from 1997/98 are detailed in Appendix 2(a) and (b). The recent evolution of the per seat and per 200 votes elements in Appendix 2(c) and historic levels of the rates per seat and per 200 votes are shown in Appendix 2(d). Appendix 2(e) charts the level of funding available to the Leader of the Opposition’s Office since it was introduced in 1999.

## 5 House of Lords: Cranborne money

A similar scheme, Cranborne Money, after the then Leader of the House of Lords, was introduced on 27 November 1996, to provide financial assistance for opposition parties, in the House of Lords. Funding was increased in April 1999, and since October 1999, the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers has also received assistance. In 2002, the House of Lords agreed to a further increase in assistance and to bring the administration of assistance

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<sup>32</sup> HC Deb 25 Mar 1975 Vol 888 cc1869-70

<sup>33</sup> HC Deb 13 February 1978 cc173-204

<sup>34</sup> HC Deb 7 August 1980 cc935-962 [adjourned], HC Deb 12 November 1980 cc509-546

<sup>35</sup> HC Deb 8 March 1983 cc804-811

<sup>36</sup> HC Deb 23 January 1985 cc1097-1103

<sup>37</sup> HC Deb 21 June 1988 cc1075-1098

<sup>38</sup> HC Deb 23 January 1985 cc1097-1103

<sup>39</sup> HC Deb 26 November 1987 Vol 123 cc481-501

<sup>40</sup> HC Deb 4 November 1993 cc595-617

<sup>41</sup> HC Deb 26 May 1999 cc427-429

<sup>42</sup> House of Commons Members Estimate Committee, *List of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members, as modified by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee*, June 2006, 2nd edition, pp20-21

to opposition parties and to the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers together under a single resolution. The salaries of the Leader of the Opposition and Opposition Chief Whip in the Lords, which from 14 July 2011 are **£68,710** and **£63,537** respectively, are also paid from public funds.<sup>43</sup>

The initial payment, introduced by the resolution of 27 November 1996, was backdated to cover the period 1 October 1996 to 31 March 1997. The resolution covered only the two larger opposition parties and allowed for annual increases, in line with inflation, from 1 April 1997.<sup>44</sup>

On 29 July 1999, the House of Lords agreed to double the amount of money made available to the two main opposition parties, following the publication of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report on the funding of political parties. It also agreed to introduce financial assistance to the Convenor of Crossbench Peers. The funding for the opposition parties increased from 1 April 1999 and the new money for the Convenor of Crossbench Peers was introduced from 1 October 1999.<sup>45</sup>

On 30 July 2002, the House of Lords agreed a resolution, which replaced the two earlier resolutions – bringing the administration of all financial assistance under the same scheme. The resolution also allowed a one-off increase above the annual inflation-linked uprating with effect from 1 April 2002.<sup>46</sup> The text of the 2002 resolution is set out in Appendix 5.

On 20 March 2008, the House of Lords agreed, without a division, to increase the funding to the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers. Baroness D'Souza, the convenor at the time, explained that the increase (from £41,003 in 2007/08 to £61,003 in 2008/09) would “enable us to engage a part-time assistant”.<sup>47</sup>

The amount of Cranborne Money allocated to parties in the House of Lords since 1997/98 is set out in Appendix 3. In 2011/12, the amounts allocated are:

Labour:	£522,102
Cross Bench:	£67,063

The scheme makes provision for general election years to be split into pre-election and post-election periods in order to accommodate changes of Government etc. Parties claiming Cranborne Money must provide the Accounting Officer of the House of Lords (the Clerk of the Parliaments) with an auditor's certificate confirming that all expenses claimed were incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business.

It had generally been the practice from time to time for some of the House of Commons Short Money allowance to be allocated by the parties to their Lords' colleagues for their Parliamentary duties. The creation of the Lords scheme may mean that this should no longer happen, at least to the same degree as previously, although the Government's memorandum of 6 May 1998 to the Committee on Standards in Public Life (Neill Committee) review of party funding appeared to assume that the practice could continue:

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<sup>43</sup> [Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 \(Amendment\) Order 2011](#), SI 2011/1689

<sup>44</sup> HL Deb 27 Nov 1996 Vol 576 cc267-272

<sup>45</sup> HL Deb 29 July 1999 cc1677-1684. Baroness Jay's introductory speech, presenting the motion, suggested that the funds for the Cross-Bench Peers are a new and separate scheme (as opposed to an extension of “Cranborne money”) [*Ibid* c1677].

<sup>46</sup> HL Deb 30 July 2002 Vol 638 cc817-21

<sup>47</sup> HL Deb 20 March 2008 cc371-372

The new scheme does not prevent parties continuing to allocate some of the basic Short money to support activities in the Lords. There is no connection between entitlement to Cranborne money and entitlement to Short money.<sup>48</sup>

### **5.1 Cranborne Money and the coalition**

On 24 June 2010, the House of Lords agreed a motion that removed references to the “second largest opposition party” from the resolution on Cranborne Money. Its effect was that from 12 May 2010 only the Labour Party and the Cross Benches would qualify for Cranborne Money.<sup>49</sup> The amounts that both groups were entitled to under the 2002 resolution were not changed. As a party within the Government, the Liberal Democrats no longer qualified for Cranborne Money.

In the short debate on the motion, Baroness Boothroyd (a Cross Bencher) suggested that it might have been possible to argue that the Cross Benches should now qualify as the second largest opposition party. Although she did not pursue this argument, she did ask the Leader of the House to “review the allocation of Cranborne money in the light of my unashamed appeal for a better deal for these benches”.<sup>50</sup>

Viscount Tenby, another Cross Bencher, supported Baroness Boothroyd’s case. Lord Alderdice suggested that all parties should receive funding, whether in government or opposition, to help parties engage with stakeholders.<sup>51</sup>

In replying to debate, Lord Strathclyde, the Leader of House of Lords, said that he considered the amount allocated to the main opposition party was about right; and that he was “always happy to receive representations from the Cross Benches and from the convenor about whether that figure should be raised”. However, he argued that Cranborne Money supported opposition parties and that he was “not enormously attracted to” Lord Alderdice’s idea.<sup>52</sup>

## **6 Financial support for Sinn Fein**

Although the 1999 Resolution on Short Money does not specifically state this, Short Money is not available to parties whose Members have not sworn the oath, because it was introduced to offer assistance for parliamentary duties. Paragraph 1 of the original Short Money Resolution in 1975 provided that financial assistance was available to parties “to assist that party in carrying out its parliamentary business” and paragraph 6 required parties to certify “that the expenses in respect of which assistance is claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to that party’s parliamentary business”. These terms are repeated in the current resolution of 26 May 1999.

However, on 8 February 2006, the House of Commons agreed to a motion that created a similar scheme solely for an opposition party “represented by Members who have chosen not to take their seats”. The motion provided for “expenses wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred for the employment of staff and related support to Members designated as that party’s spokesman in relation to the party’s representative business.” There is no definition of “representative business” in the motion, and, hitherto, the term has not been

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<sup>48</sup> Committee on Standards in Public Life, *The Funding of Political Parties in the United Kingdom*, Cm 4057, 13 Oct 1998, para 10

<sup>49</sup> HL Deb 24 June 2010 cc1429-1435

<sup>50</sup> HL Deb 24 June 2010 c1431

<sup>51</sup> HL Deb 24 June 2010 cc1431-1433

<sup>52</sup> HL Deb 24 June 2010 cc1433-1435

used in parliamentary procedure. The terms of the motion would appear to allow Sinn Fein to use funds calculated on the same terms as Short Money for different types of expenditure, such as for press and publicity and other representative functions. Other opposition parties have access to Short Money to support parliamentary business only and no equivalent extension for representative work has been announced for them.

The text of this motion is included at Appendix 6.

Sinn Fein's allocation under the scheme for the 2011/12 year is:

<b>Main budget</b>	<b>Travel budget</b>
<b>(£)</b>	<b>(£)</b>
101,004.00	2,890.59

Source: House of Commons, Department of HR and Change

Some details of the debate on the motion are included in the Library Standard Note on *Sinn Fein, allowances and access to Commons facilities*.<sup>53</sup>

On 30 June 2010, Nigel Dodds initiated a debate on Parliamentary allowances and Short Money. In responding to the debate, David Heath, the Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, reviewed the changes that had occurred in the political landscape in Northern Ireland since Sinn Fein members were first allowed to claim allowances in 2001 and funding analogous to Short Money for representative business was introduced in 2006. David Heath said:

Whatever arguments were made in 2001 and 2006, they were made in a different political context. Northern Ireland has moved on. The principle for the future must be that all elected Members should take their seats and play as full a role as possible as Members of the House.<sup>54</sup>

After making some comments on the changes to the Parliamentary allowances regime, at the end of his speech, he commented on representative money:

Representative money is a matter for the House. Any change to the current position requires a decision of the House and a debate at which Members can again put forward their views.

I have listened carefully to the right hon. Gentleman's arguments, and to those of his hon. Friends and others. I will ensure that the arguments raised are drawn to the attention of my right hon. Friends the Leader of the House, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Prime Minister. The Government will listen to all sides of the debate, but we are mindful of the very strong views that have been expressed in the debate today and the real issues of principle at play in relation to financial assistance for those MPs who do not take their seats.

Over the coming months Ministers will be talking to all Northern Ireland parties to address how to take the issue forward in light of the views and clear issues of principle we discussed today. The right hon. Gentleman has my assurance of that. I congratulate him on securing the debate and on expressing his views clearly and

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<sup>53</sup> House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/PC/1667, *Sinn Fein, allowances and access to Commons facilities*

<sup>54</sup> 30 June 2010 c252WH

precisely. I will ensure that they are communicated to my right hon. Friends who will deal with the matter in the future.<sup>55</sup>

In June 2011, Nigel Dodds asked again about the future arrangements for this allowance:

**Mr Nigel Dodds (Belfast North) (DUP):** May we have a statement about what the Government are going to do about the treatment of the two classes of Members in this House—those who turn up and do their work here in Parliament, and those who refuse to take their seats, but who, scandalously, will still get paid an estimated £3 million to £4 million over the course of this Parliament, not only in constituency money, but in Short money, which they, unlike us, can use for non-parliamentary, political party activities? When will the Government deliver on their promise that it would be inconceivable that MPs would continue to allow that to happen in this Parliament?

**Sir George Young:** I understand the right hon. Gentleman's concern. The Government's view is quite clear: those who are elected to the House should take their seats in the House like everybody else. As he may know, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is discussing this very issue with the political parties, and I will remind him of the continuing need to find an appropriate solution.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> HC Deb 30 June 2010 c253WH

<sup>56</sup> HC Deb 30 June 2011 c1123

## Appendix 1: Short Money allocations, 2011/12

Party	Seats (2010)	Value (per seat)	Votes	Votes/200 (rnd'd down)	Value per V/200	TOTAL	TOTAL (to nearest £)	Leader of the Opposition	Apportion	Total	Travel	GRAND TOTAL
		£15,039.85			£30.04							TOTAL
DUP	8	£120,318.78	168,216	841	£25,263.64	£145,582.42	£145,582.00		2.567%	£145,582.00	£4,240.57	£149,822.57
Green	1	£15,039.85	284,823	1,424	£42,776.96	£57,816.81	£57,817.00		10.19%	£57,817.00	£1,684.11	£59,501.11
Labour	258	£3,880,280.78	8,606,518	43,032	£1292,681.28	£5,172,962.06	£5,172,962.00	£700,699.00	91.201%	£5,873,661.00	£150,679.74	£6,024,340.74
Plaid Cymru	3	£45,119.54	165,394	826	£24,813.04	£69,932.58	£69,933.00		12.33%	£69,933.00	£2,037.02	£71,970.02
SDLP	3	£45,119.54	110,970	554	£16,642.16	£61,761.70	£61,762.00		10.89%	£61,762.00	£1,799.02	£63,561.02
SNP	6	£90,239.09	491,386	2,456	£73,778.24	£164,017.33	£164,017.00		2.892%	£164,017.00	£4,777.55	£168,794.55
						£0.00						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>£4,196,117.59</b>	<b>9,827,307</b>	<b>49,133</b>	<b>£1475,955.32</b>	<b>£5,672,072.91</b>	<b>£5,672,073.00</b>	<b>£700,699.00</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>£6,372,772.00</b>	<b>£165,218.00</b>	<b>£6,537,990.00</b>

Source: House of Commons, Department of HR and Change

## Appendix 2: Short Money allocations

### (a) Allocations (£), 1997/98 – 2009/10

	Conservative Party	Liberal Democrats	Scottish National Party	Plaid Cymru	Ulster Unionist Party	Democratic Unionist Party	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Total
1997/98 (1)	1,075,129.65	405,311.23	50,301.74	23,110.45	51,841.26	12,659.40	20,215.02	1,638,568.75
1998/99	1,112,889.69	419,559.87	52,070.47	23,921.74	53,660.30	13,103.96	20,925.09	1,696,131.12
1999/2000	3,377,670.28	1,084,895.59	134,629.26	61,852.66	138,735.36	33,867.63	54,106.29	4,885,757.07
2000/01	3,465,131.69	1,112,906.04	138,106.31	63,454.86	142,333.03	34,744.20	55,505.93	5,012,182.06
2001/02 (2)	3,439,066.23	1,155,583.33	117,088.75	68,252.79	103,968.52	71,017.22	54,844.25	5,009,821.09
2002/03	3,459,536.50	1,174,410.37	113,091.76	69,897.25	95,832.96	80,017.07	55,112.74	5,047,898.65
2003/04	3,566,927.49	1,210,901.83	116,605.78	72,067.46	98,807.51	82,500.73	56,824.20	5,204,635.00
2004/05	3,666,885.49	1,244,855.74	119,875.44	74,087.32	101,576.29	84,812.57	58,416.99	5,350,509.84
2005/06 (3)	4,206,057.88	1,536,220.92	129,257.23	62,406.99	10,080.56	140,842.05	55,152.11	6,140,017.73
2006/07	4,343,068.75	1,596,867.38	132,662.51	62,232.48		149,689.05	55,788.84	6,340,309.01
2007/08	4,534,000.79	1,667,009.30	138,491.26	64,967.00		156,271.26	58,241.92	6,618,981.53
2008/09	4,715,453.55	1,733,771.54	144,035.82	67,568.05		162,524.14	60,572.91	6,883,926.01
2009/10	4,757,906.12	1,749,385.30	145,332.53	68,175.91		163,986.90	61,118.24	6,945,905.00

Source: House of Commons Operations Directorate, Department of Resources

Notes:

(1) Data for the period after the General Election on 1 May 1997 only (i.e. not a full financial year)

(2) 67 days based on results of 1997 General Election and 298 days based on results of 2001 General Election.

The data below show the whole year equivalents for both elections: (a) 1997; and (b) 2001

2001/02 (a)	3,545,032.26	1,138,614.50	141,295.98	64,917.69	145,612.00	35,545.58	56,786.60	5,127,804.61
2001/02 (b)	3,415,241.65	1,159,398.47	111,646.18	69,002.63	94,605.73	78,992.39	54,407.55	4,983,294.60

(3) 35 days based on results of 2001 General Election and 330 days based on results of 2005 General Election.

The data below show the whole year equivalents for both elections: (a) 2001; and (b) 2005

2005/06 (a)	3,795,002.51	1,288,293.00	124,058.28	76,675.14	105,125.80	87,776.26	60,457.00	5,537,387.99
2005/06 (b)	4,249,654.66	1,562,516.30	129,808.63	60,893.70	nil	146,470.24	54,589.47	6,203,933.00

(4) The Ulster Unionist Party did not qualify for Short Money after the 2005 General Election because it had only one seat and secured less than 150,000 votes.

**(b) Allocations (£) 2009/10-2011/12**

	<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>Labour Party</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Scottish National Party</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<b>Democratic Unionist Party</b>	<b>Social Democratic and Labour Party</b>	<b>Green Party</b>	<b>Total</b>
2009/10	4,757,906.12	-	1,749,385.30	145,332.53	68,175.91	163,986.90	61,118.24	-	6,945,905.00
2010/11 (1)	467,172.96	5,197,038.79	171,768.04	159,880.41	68,779.42	145,351.04	60,833.04	51,325.79	6,322,149.49
2011/12	-	6,024,340.74	-	168,794.55	71,970.02	149,822.57	63,561.02	59,501.11	6,537,990.01

Source: House of Commons, Department of HR and Change

**Notes**

(1) 35 days based on the results of 2005 General Election and 330 days based on results of 2010 General Election

The data below show the whole year equivalents for both elections: (a) 2005 and (b) 2010

2010/11 (a)	4,871,946.61	nil	1,791,295.27	148,814.86	69,809.95	167,917.21	62,582.11	nil	7,112,366.01
2010/11 (b)	nil	5,748,239.79	nil	161,053.61	68,669.69	142,957.40	60,647.63	56,769.87	6,238,337.99

**(c) General funding rates, 1997/98 onwards (£)**

	<b>Per seat</b>	<b>Per 200 votes</b>
1997/98	3,840.65	7.67
1998/99	3,975.07	7.94
1999/2000	10,732.69	21.44
2000/01	11,011.73	21.99
2001/02	11,265.00	22.50
2002/03	11,411.45	22.79
2003/04	11,765.20	23.50
2004/05	12,094.63	24.16
2005/06	12,518.00	25.00
2006/07	12,793.00	25.55
2007/08	13,356.00	26.67
2008/09	13,890.00	27.74
2009/10	14,015.00	27.99
2010/11	14,351.00	28.66
2011/12	15,039.85	30.04

Source: House of Commons,  
Department of HR and Change

**(d) Historic funding rates (£)**

<b>from</b>	<b>Per seat</b>	<b>Per 200 votes</b>	<b>Overall limit</b>
1 January 1975	500.00	1.00	150,000
1 January 1978	550.00	1.10	165,000
1 January 1980	962.50	1.925	290,000
1 January 1983	1,080.00	2.16	325,000
1 January 1985	1,500.00	3.00	450,000
1 January 1988	2,550.00	5.10	-

Source: Resolutions of the House of Commons

Note: From 1 January 1993 (for fifteen months) the allocations were:

£4,080 per seat; and

£8.16 per 200 votes

From 1 April 1994 the allocations were:

£3,442.50 (plus uprating) per seat; and

£6.89 (plus uprating) per 200 votes

From 1 April 1995 amounts were increased in line with inflation.

**(e) Funding for the Leader of the Opposition's Office**

**Funding available (£ per financial year)**

1999/2000	500,000.00
2000/01	513,000.00
2001/02	524,799.00
2002/03	531,621.39
2003/04	548,101.65
2004/05	563,448.50
2005/06	583,169.00
2006/07	595,999.00
2007/08	622,223.00
2008/09	647,112.00
2009/10	652,936.00
2010/11	668,606.00
2011/12	700,699.00

Source: House of Commons,  
Department of HR and Change

### Appendix 3: Cranborne Money allocations, 1997/98-2011/12

	Official Opposition		Second largest opposition party		Cross Bench £	Total £
	Party	£	Party	£		
1997/98	Lab/Con	102,600	Lib Dem	30,780		133,380
to 30 April 1997	Lab	8,433	Lib Dem	2,530		10,963
from 1 May 1997	Con	94,167	Lib Dem	28,250		122,417
1998/99	Con	106,191	Lib Dem	31,857		138,048
1999/2000	Con	216,842	Lib Dem	65,052	10,000	291,894
2000/01	Con	222,480	Lib Dem	66,743	20,520	309,743
2001/02	Con	227,597	Lib Dem	68,278	20,992	316,867
2002/03	Con	390,555	Lib Dem	195,000	35,000	620,555
2003/04	Con	402,662	Lib Dem	201,045	36,085	639,792
2004/05	Con	413,131	Lib Dem	206,272	37,023	656,426
2005/06	Con	426,351	Lib Dem	212,873	38,208	677,432
2006/07	Con	435,584	Lib Dem	217,982	39,125	692,691
2007/08	Con	457,540	Lib Dem	228,445	41,003	726,988
2008/09	Con	474,927	Lib Dem	237,136	61,003	773,066
2009/10 (1)	Con	474,927	Lib Dem	237,136	61,003	773,066
2010/11	Con/Lab	495,824	Lib Dem/-	27,808	63,687	587,319
to 11 May 2010	Con	55,695	Lib Dem	27,808	7,154	90,657
from 12 May 2010 (2)	Lab	440,129	-	-	56,533	496,662
2011/12	Lab	522,102	-	-	67,063	589,165

(1) These amounts are unchanged from 2008/09 because the Retail Price Index, to March 2009, had fallen compared with twelve months earlier

(2) On 24 June 2010, the House of Lords removed references to the second largest opposition party in the resolution of 30 July 2002

Source: House of Lords Accountant

## Appendix 4: Short Money resolution, 26 May 1999

Opposition Parties (Financial Assistance),—Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, the provisions of this Resolution should have effect in relation to the giving of financial assistance to opposition parties in this House:

- 1.—(1) Financial assistance to assist an opposition party in carrying out its Parliamentary Business shall be available under this paragraph at any time on or after 1st April 1999 if at that time one of the following conditions is satisfied with respect to the party, that is to say
  - (a) there are at that time at least two Members of this House who are members of the party and who were elected at the previous General Election after contesting it as candidates for the party; or
  - (b) there is at that time one such Member who was so elected and the aggregate of the votes cast in favour of all the party's candidates at that Election was at least 150,000.
- (2) The amount of financial assistance which may be given under this paragraph to any party in respect of the expenses incurred by it in any period shall be the aggregate of
  - (a) the first relevant amount for that period multiplied by the number of seats won by its candidates at the Election; and
  - (b) the second relevant amount for that period multiplied by one two-hundredth of the number of votes cast for its candidates at that Election (rounded down to the nearest whole number).
- (3) For the period of one year beginning with 1st April 1999
  - (a) the first relevant amount shall be £10,732.69; and
  - (b) the second relevant amount shall be £21.44.
- (4) For any subsequent period of one year beginning with 1st April
  - (a) the first relevant amount shall be that amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage for the subsequent period; and
  - (b) the second relevant amount shall be that amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage for the subsequent period.
- (5) The appropriate percentage for any period is the percentage by which the retail prices index for the month of ~~March~~ December immediately preceding that period has increased compared with the retail prices index for the previous ~~March~~ December.<sup>57</sup>
- (6) The references in sub-paragraph (5) above to the retail prices index is a reference to the general index of retail prices (for all items) published by the Office for National Statistics, and if that index is not published for a month which is relevant for the purposes of this paragraph those references in that sub-paragraph shall be construed as references to any substituted index or index figure published by that Office.
- (7) In consequence of this paragraph, the Resolution of 4th November 1993 shall not have effect with respect to any time after 31st March 1999.

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<sup>57</sup> Changing to uprating according to the RPI in December, from March, was agreed by the Members Estimate Committee on 15 March 2004. The MEC made other changes to bring the Resolution up to date. They are not reported here, see: House of Commons Members Estimate Committee, *List of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members, as modified by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee*, June 2006, 2nd edition, paras 8.1-8.18, <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmmemest/950/950ii.pdf>

- (8) Financial assistance provided under the terms of this paragraph shall be paid in arrears, at intervals of not less than one month.
- 2.—(1) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 1 above, financial assistance towards travelling and associated expenses necessarily incurred by an opposition party's spokesmen in relation to the party's parliamentary business shall be available under this paragraph if at any time on or after 1st April 1999 one of the conditions specified in sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 1 above is satisfied with respect to the party.
- (2) The maximum amount of financial assistance which may be given under this paragraph to any party in respect of the expenses incurred in any period shall be such of the available amount for that period as may be allocated to the party in accordance with any apportionment under sub-paragraph (3) below.
- (3) The available amount for any period shall be apportioned between each of the opposition parties in the same proportion as the amount of financial assistance which may be given to each of them under paragraph 1 above for that period or for any period forming part of that period.
- (4) Any reference in this paragraph to the available amount for a period is a reference
- (a) in the case of the period of one year beginning with 1st April 1999, to the sum of £117,896.00; and
  - (b) in the case of each subsequent period of one year beginning with 1st April, to the available amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage for the subsequent period.
- (5) Sub-paragraphs (5) and (6) of paragraph 1 above shall apply for the purposes of this paragraph as they apply for the purposes of that paragraph.
- 3.—(1) Financial assistance shall be available for the costs necessarily incurred in the running of the Leader of the Opposition's Office.
- (2) For the period of one year beginning with 1st April 1999, the amount of financial assistance which may be given under this paragraph in respect of expenses incurred in that period shall be £500,000.
- (3) For any subsequent period of one year beginning with 1st April the relevant amount shall be that amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage in accordance with paragraph 1(5).
- (4) Sub-paragraphs (5) and (6) of paragraph 1 above shall apply for the purposes of this paragraph as they apply for the purposes of that paragraph.
- (5) Financial assistance provided under the terms of this paragraph shall be paid in arrears, at intervals of not less than one month.
4. Any claims for financial assistance towards travelling expenses under paragraph 2 are to be made to the Accounting Officer of the House; and a party claiming such assistance shall
- (a) furnish that Officer with a statement of the facts on which the claim is based;
  - (b) certify to that Officer that the expenses which are claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business in accordance with this resolution.

- 5.—(1) As soon as practicable, but no later than nine months after 31st March each year, a party claiming financial assistance under this resolution, shall furnish the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the Accounting Officer, to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the party received financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business under this resolution.
- (2) If an audit certificate under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph has not been furnished within the time specified no further financial assistance under this resolution shall be paid until such a certificate is so furnished.
- 6.—(1) In the case of any year in which there is a General Election
- (a) the period ending immediately before the date of the Election and
  - (b) the period beginning with that date shall be treated for the purposes of paragraph 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3 above as separate periods.
- (2) In relation to any such separate period
- (a) the first relevant amount and the second relevant amount for the period ending immediately before the date of the General Election shall be apportioned according to the number of days in that period as a proportion of the total number of days in the year in question; and
  - (b) the available amount for the period beginning with the date of the General Election shall be a proportionate part of the available amount for the year in question.
- (3) In relation to any such separate period ending immediately before the date of the Election, paragraph 5(1) above shall have effect as if the 31st March referred to were a reference to the day immediately before the date of the Election.
- (4) In this paragraph "year" means a year beginning with 1st April.
- (5) The cost of providing financial assistance shall be borne on the House of Commons: Members' salaries etc. Vote.

Source: *Votes and Proceedings*, 26 May 1999

## Appendix 5: House of Lords Resolution of 30 July 2002 on Cranborne money

That, in the opinion of this House, the provisions of this Resolution should have effect—

(a) in place of the Resolution of 27th November 1996 (giving of financial assistance to opposition parties in this House) in relation to the giving of such financial assistance for periods after 31st March 2002, and

(b) in relation to the giving of financial assistance to the Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers for periods after 31st March 2001:

(1) Financial assistance shall be available to assist the Opposition, the second largest opposition party and the Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers in carrying out their Parliamentary business.

(2) The maximum amount of financial assistance which may be given is—

(a) for the year beginning with 1st April 2002—

Opposition	£ 390,555
second largest opposition party	£ 195,000
Convenor of the Cross Bench Peers	£ 35,000

(b) for each subsequent year, the maximum amount for the previous year increased by the percentage (if any) by which the retail prices index for the previous March has increased compared with the index for the March before that, and (if the resulting amount is not a whole number of pounds) rounded to the nearest pound.

(3) The financial assistance available under this Resolution includes assistance in respect of expenses incurred before the passing of this Resolution.

(4) In the case of the Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers, financial assistance shall also be available, to a maximum of £35,000, to assist him in respect of expenses in carrying out his Parliamentary business for the year beginning with 1st April 2001.

(5) Any claim for financial assistance by a party or the Convenor ("the claimant") is to be made to the Accounting Officer of the House; and the claimant must—

(a) provide that Officer with a statement of the facts on which the claim is based;

(b) certify to that Officer that the expenses in respect of which the assistance is claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to the claimant's Parliamentary business; and

(c) as soon as practicable after each 31st March following the passing of this Resolution, furnish that Officer with the certificate of an independent professional auditor to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the claimant claimed financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred as mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) above.

(6) Paragraph (5)(c) does not apply to a claim for assistance under paragraph (4), but when making such a claim the Convenor must provide the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the claim is made were incurred exclusively in relation to the Convenor's Parliamentary business.

(7) In the case of any year in which there is a General Election—

(a) the period ending immediately before the date of the Election and the period beginning with that date are to be treated as separate periods;

(b) the maximum amount which may be given to each claimant for each of those periods is a proportionate part (rounded to the nearest pound) of the maximum amount for the year in question; and

(c) in relation to the first such period, paragraph (5)(c) has effect as if references to the last day of the period were substituted for references to 31st March.

(8) In this Resolution—

(a) the "Opposition" means the party in opposition to Her Majesty's Government having the greatest numerical strength in the House of Commons;

(b) the "second largest opposition party" means the party in opposition to Her Majesty's Government (other than the Opposition) with the greatest number of Members of this House among its members;

(c) the "retail prices index" means the general index of retail prices (for all items) published by the Office for National Statistics (or any index or figures published by that Office in place of that index); and

(d) "year" means a year beginning with 1st April.

Source: HL Deb 30 July 2002 cc817-818 (debate cc817-821)

## Appendix 6: Resolution of 8 February 2006 on financial support for representative business

### (a) The Resolution

That, in the opinion of the House,—

(1) Financial assistance should be provided, with effect from 1st November 2005, to any opposition party represented by Members who have chosen not to take their seats and thus do not qualify to participate in the proceedings in Parliament, towards expenses wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred for the employment of staff and related support to Members designated as that party's spokesmen in relation to the party's representative business.

(2) The amount of financial assistance payable to a party under this Resolution shall be calculated and paid by analogy with sub-paragraphs 1(1) to (6) and (8) and 2(1) to (5) of the Resolution of the House of 26th May 1999.

(3) As soon as practicable, but no later than nine months after 31st March each year, a party claiming financial assistance under this resolution shall furnish the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the Accounting Officer, to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the party received financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred exclusively in accordance with paragraph (1) of this resolution.

(4) If an audit certificate under paragraph (3) above has not been furnished within the time specified no further financial assistance under this resolution shall be paid until such a certificate is so furnished.<sup>58</sup>

### (b) Allocations made under the resolution of 8 February 2006

Financial year	Main budget (£)	Travel budget (£)
2005/06*	35,163	868.00
2006/07	86,245	2,136.07
2007/08	90,036	2,230.05
2008/09	93,639	2,319.26
2009/10	94,482	2,340.13
2010/11** (1 Apr-5 May)	9,277	229.78
(6 May-31 Mar)	87,133	2,493.73
2011/12	101,004	2,890.59

\* from 1 November 2005-31 March 2006

\*\* general election year full year allocations based on 2005 and 2010 general election results would have been:

	Main budget	Travel budget
2005 results	£96,747	£2,396.30
2010 results	£96,374	£2,758.22

Source: House of Commons, Department of HR and Change

<sup>58</sup> HC Deb 8 February 2006 c971