



Apologies made to the House of Commons since 1979

Parliamentary Information List

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

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

Also available:

[Research papers](#) – impartial briefings on major bills and other topics of public and parliamentary concern, available as printed documents and on the Intranet and Internet.

[Standard notes](#) – a selection of less formal briefings, often produced in response to frequently asked questions, are accessible via the Internet.

[Factsheets](#) – the House of Commons Information Office Factsheets provide brief informative descriptions of various facets of the House of Commons.

[Education web site](#) – a web site for children and schools with information and activities about Parliament.

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

| Parliament of 1979 - 1983 | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Date | Member | Reason for Apology | Hansard Reference |

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|------------|------------------|--|-----------------|
| 01/03/1982 | Nicholas Edwards | Suggested during a debate that another Member had been drinking. | Vol. 19 col. 21 |
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| Parliament of 1983 - 1987 | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Date | Member | Reason for Apology | Hansard Reference |

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|------------|-------------|--|--------------------|
| 07/02/1984 | Peter Snape | Remarks made about British Rail Southern Region commuters. | Vol. 53 col. 772-3 |
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| 07/05/1985 | Dafydd Wigley | Damaging the Speaker's Chair during exchanges at the end of a debate. | Vol. 78 col. 656 |
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| 16/05/1985 | Ivan Lawrence | Asked a Parliamentary Question based on an erroneous press report about the activities of another Member in the Falklands. | Vol. 79 col. 522 |
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| 26/07/1985 | Nigel Spearing | Causing embarrassment to a former Foreign Secretary via a Parliamentary Question to the PM, and for incompleteness in parts of his minority report on the Belgrano. | Vol. 83 col. 1415 |
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| 23/02/1987 | Richard Hickmet | Remarks made outside the House which were critical of the Speaker. | Vol. 111 col. 22 |
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| 24/02/1987 | Andrew Faulds | Discourtesy and disregard for parliamentary conduct. | Vol. 111 col. 161 |
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|------------|-----------------|--|------------------|
| 19/04/1987 | Willie Hamilton | Remarks on the personal conduct of certain Members during a debate on law and order. | Vol. 113 col. 21 |
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| Parliament of 1987 - 1992 | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Date | Member | Reason for Apology | Hansard Reference |

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| 19/04/1988 | Ron Brown | Throwing the ceremonial mace to the floor. | Vol. 131 col. 679-81 |
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| 27/07/1988 | Anthony Meyer | Comments made about another Members' chairmanship of the Welsh Grand Committee. | Vol. 138 col. 413 |
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| 20/12/1988 | Martin Brandon-Bravo | Inaccurate allegations about another Member. | Vol. 144 col. 298 |
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| 19/01/1989 | Tim Devlin | Making allegations about the conduct of another Member. | Vol. 145 col. 494 |
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| 07/12./1989 | Tristan Garel-Jones | Using unparliamentary language. | Vol. 163 col. 569 |
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| 22/01/1990 | Kenneth Baker | Allowing a party official to occupy the civil servants' box (Apology received by letter to Speaker). | Vol. 165 col. 558 |
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| 07/03/1990 | John Browne | Failing to declare certain interests. | Vol. 168 col. 889-92 |
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|------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 13/02/1991 | Douglas Hogg | Lack of notification given to a Member when questions are to be grouped. | Vol. 185 col. 855 |
| 20/05/1991 | Tony Favell | Using unparliamentary language. | Vol. 191 col. 661-2 |
| 04/12/1991 | Geraint Howells | Leaving the Chamber after moving an amendment. | Vol. 200 col. 343 |
| 05/02/1992 | Robert Hayward | Accidentally misleading several Members over his intentions, in speaking during 2nd reading of the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill. | Vol. 203 col. 287 |

Parliament of 1992 - 1997

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

Parliament of 1997 - 2001

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

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

Parliament of 2001 - 2005

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

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

Parliament of 2005 - 2010

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

Parliament of 2010 -

| Date | Member | Reason for Apology | Hansard Reference |
|-------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 30/06/2010 | Theresa May | Apologised for a written ministerial statement being made available to the press prior to the House of Commons | Vol. 512 col. 863 |
| 07/07/2010 | Michael Gove | Apologised for the way information on school funding was provided to the House of Commons in relation to a debate on that issue. | Vol. 512 col. 484-5 |
| 12/05/2011 | David Laws | Apologised in relation to the findings of Standards & Privileges Committee report (HC 1023-I) Mr. David Laws | Vol 528 col. 1384 |

Source: Hansard and Sessional Indexes