



HOUSE OF LORDS

Library Note

House of Lords: Expense Allowances and Costs

This House of Lords Library Note looks at the expense allowances that Peers have been able to claim since 1946. In particular, a chronology of key debates and motions is provided, as is a summary table of expense allowances. The second part of this Note provides a series of figures of the cost of the House of Lords since the Life Peerages Act 1958.

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Peers' Expense Allowances.....	2
2.1 Chronology of Motions and Debates on Peers' Expense Allowances.....	2
2.2 Expense Allowances since 1957	9
3. Cost of the House of Lords	10

1. Introduction

This Note is the result of demand for a list of expense allowances and for the costs of the House of Lords since the Life Peerages Act 1958. The Journal Office and David Beamish, Clerk Assistant, in the House of Lords maintain some information on expense allowances, and this has been used as a basis for the first part of this Note. In relation to the cost of the House of Lords, the House of Commons Library have compiled some of the relevant data published since 1992–93 in the *House of Lords Annual Reports*, and later in the *House of Lords Resource Accounts*, but earlier figures are not readily available. A variety of sources were therefore used to compile the Note, such as the House of Lords *Hansard*, the House of Lords *Journal*, the House of Lords *Annual Reports* and others.

The Note focuses on Peers' expense allowances, and consequently the pay of ministers and other office holders in the House of Lords is not covered. Further information on the pay of ministers and other office holders in the House of Lords can be found in the House of Commons Library Research Paper *Parliamentary Pay, Allowances and Pensions* (31st March 2008, [RP 08/31](#)). A full explanation of the current House of Lords expense allowance scheme can be found in the *House of Lords Members' Reimbursement Scheme—General Guide* (April 2009, [eighth edition](#)). The reader may also like to consult the House of Commons Library Research Paper *Parliamentary Trends: Statistics About Parliament* (12th August 2009, [RP 09/69](#)), which provides a wider selection of figures on parliament as a whole.

The phrase “expense allowance” is used throughout this Note to encompass the various forms of financial support that have been made available over the years, such as day and night subsistence, and the scheme for the reimbursement of the travel expenses of Peers' spouses, partners and children. Using this phrase simplifies the presentation here of the debates and resolutions on the subject, and is not intended to be interpretative.

This Library Note does not represent a statement of policy by the House of Lords administration, nor an attempt to validate or justify the developments described herein, but an effort to record the key facts in an objective way, using, for the most part, published sources.

In putting together this Note, we have been greatly assisted by David Beamish, Clerk Assistant, as well as other colleagues at the House of Lords. However, any errors or omissions are those of the authors.

Patrick M Vollmer

2. Peers' Expense Allowances

This part of the Note looks at Peers' expense allowances, beginning with a brief chronological overview of key debates and motions in the House of Lords on the subject. The chronology does not include debates or motions in the House of Commons, nor does it include committee reports. Reports of the Top Salaries Review Body, and later of the Review Body on Senior Salaries, are only covered with respect to motions or debates in the House of Lords. The dates given are the dates of the debates or motions, and do not necessarily coincide with the date on which an expense allowance was commenced, abolished or up-rated. However, commencement dates can be found in the summary table reproduced in section 2.2 of this Note. The arrangements for ministers and other office holders in the House of Lords are not covered, nor is the financial assistance provided to the opposition parties or the Crossbenches.

2.1 Chronology of Motions and Debates on Peers' Expense Allowances

3rd May 1944

The subject of Peers' travelling expenses was raised by Viscount Addison, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords. The matter had previously been discussed by a small, unofficial committee, which included the leaders of the various parties and other members of the House. Viscount Cranborne, Leader of the House of Lords, undertook to bring the need for the reimbursement of travelling expenses for Peers to the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir John Anderson.¹

21st May 1946

Viscount Addison, then Leader of the House of Lords, proposed a motion which enabled Peers to claim *bona fide* rail travel expenses incurred attending the business of the House. Regular attendance was necessary to qualify.²

7th November 1956

The issue of remuneration for attendance was raised by Lord Silkin in his response to the Queen's Speech. He felt that many were deterred from attending the House because they could not afford to do so.³

4th July 1957

The government made a statement on public service salaries, which included a proposed allowance to enable Peers to claim the reimbursement of expenses up to a maximum of 3 guineas for each day of attendance. The payments would not be liable to tax, as they would be a reimbursement of actual expenses arising out of unpaid service.⁴

8th July 1957

The House approved the maximum daily Peers' expense allowance of 3 guineas announced on 4th July 1957.⁵

¹ HL *Hansard*, 3rd May 1944, cols 622–6.

² HL *Hansard*, 21st May 1946, cols 333–7; HL *Journal*, 21st May 1946, p 282.

³ HL *Hansard*, 7th November 1956, cols 33–4.

⁴ HL *Hansard*, 4th July 1957, cols 660–2.

⁵ HL *Hansard*, 8th July 1957, cols 766–82; HL *Journal*, 8th July 1957, p 244.

17th May 1961

The refund of the cost of travel by rail, sea and air, and an allowance for travel by road were agreed.⁶ An oral question of 16th May 1961 indicated that the details of the resolution were discussed through the usual channels.⁷

19th December 1963

The government announced a committee chaired by Sir Geoffrey Lawrence to look into the remuneration of ministers and MPs, and to reconsider the allowance for Peers.⁸

17th November 1964

The government made a statement on the *Report of the Committee on the Remuneration of Ministers and Members of Parliament*, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Lawrence (November 1964, Cmnd 2516). The committee had recommended increasing the limit of the daily expense allowance to 4½ guineas.⁹

16th December 1964

A resolution was passed by the House giving effect to the recommendation of the Lawrence Committee. The limit on the daily expense allowance was increased from 3 to 4½ guineas. In addition, the car mileage allowance was raised to 4½d per mile, regardless of engine capacity.¹⁰

11th December 1969

The government made a statement on Peers' expenses and allowances: although some Peers had not felt it necessary to claim the full daily maximum, others had made representations that costs, for example, for meals, taxis and hotels had increased, and that the allowance was no longer realistic. The requirement of regular attendance to claim expenses was repeated, which was defined as one-third of possible sitting days during the claim period. The statement resulted in the resolution of 18th December 1969.¹¹

18th December 1969

The maximum daily allowance was raised from 4½ guineas to £6 10s; free transport was extended to public transport by road; and the car mileage allowance was increased to 6d per mile.¹²

4th November 1970

The car mileage allowance was raised to 1s per mile.¹³

16th December 1971

The maximum daily allowance was raised from £6.50 to £8.50.¹⁴

4th July 1972

Regular attendance was no longer a qualification for the reimbursement of travel expenses.¹⁵

⁶ HL *Hansard*, 17th May 1961, col 621; HL *Journal*, 17th May 1961, p 256.

⁷ HL *Hansard*, 16th May 1961, cols 478–9.

⁸ HL *Hansard*, 19th December 1963, cols 411–12.

⁹ HL *Hansard*, 17th November 1964, cols 496–503.

¹⁰ HL *Hansard*, 16th December 1964, cols 441–53; HL *Journal*, 16th December 1964, pp 91–2.

¹¹ HL *Hansard*, 11th December 1969, cols 671–4.

¹² HL *Hansard*, 18th December 1969, cols 1326–7; HL *Journal*, 18th December 1969, pp 93–4.

¹³ HL *Hansard*, 4th November 1970, col 343; HL *Journal*, 4th November 1970, p 111.

¹⁴ HL *Hansard*, 16th December 1971, cols 1265–70; HL *Journal*, 16th December 1971, p 86.

¹⁵ HL *Hansard*, 4th July 1972, cols 1300–4; HL *Journal* 4th July 1972, p 398.

30th July 1974

The car mileage allowance was raised to 7.7p per mile; and the limit on the daily allowance was raised from £8.50 to £11.50.¹⁶

19th December 1974

The government made a statement to the House on the inclusion of Peers' expense allowances in the review of members' salaries and allowances to be conducted by the Top Salaries Review Body chaired by Lord Boyle of Handsworth.¹⁷

16th July 1975

The first part of the Top Salaries Review Body report *Ministers' of the Crown and Members of Parliament and the Peers' Expenses Allowance* (July 1975, Cmnd 6136) was published. The report recommended increasing the mileage allowance. The government announced that they would bring a motion before the House to do so on 29th July 1975.¹⁸

24th July 1975

A further statement on the Top Salaries Review Body inquiry into members' salaries and allowances was made. The Review Body recommended an interim increase of the Peers' expense allowance in the light of the increased allowances paid to members of the House of Commons. The government accepted the recommendation, and proposed increasing the daily expense allowance for Peers from £11.50 to £13.50. This increase was also considered on 29th July 1975.¹⁹

29th July 1975

The limit of the expense allowance was raised from £11.50 to £13.50. The car mileage allowance was increased from 7.7p to 10.2p. Any future change made to the corresponding civil service car mileage rate would lead to changes to the car mileage allowance for Peers.²⁰

22nd March 1977

A statement was made on the third part of the Top Salaries Review Body report, *Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament and Peers' Expenses Allowance* (March 1977, Cmnd 6749) begun in 1974. The report recommended a clear specification of expenditure that could be claimed in attending the House. The review proposed dividing expenses into four elements, each with its own separate limit: night subsistence of £11; day subsistence of £6.50; secretarial expenses of £4 a day; and other additional expenses within a cumulative limit of £3 a day. This would add up to a total of £24.50 a day for Peers who had to pay for overnight accommodation in London in order to attend the House. Other Peers would be restricted to the other three allowances, totalling £13.50. A minority of members of the review suggested that the third and fourth elements should be merged.²¹

24th March 1977

As an interim measure, while the government considered the third part of the report of the Top Salaries Review Body, the daily expense allowance was increased from £13.50 to £16.50 for Peers obliged to stay overnight away from their main or only residence. The maximum of £13.50 would continue to apply to those Peers who lived within normal

¹⁶ HL *Hansard*, 30th July 1974, cols 2146–7; HL *Journal*, 30th July 1974, pp 424–5.

¹⁷ HL *Hansard*, 19th December 1974, cols 1274, 1332–4.

¹⁸ HL *Hansard*, 16th July 1975, cols 1271–2.

¹⁹ HL *Hansard*, 24th July 1975, cols 438–41.

²⁰ HL *Hansard*, 29th July 1975, cols 891–3; HL *Journal*, 29th July 1975, p 864.

²¹ HL *Hansard*, 22nd March 1977, cols 389–92.

daily travelling distance of Westminster, and therefore did not need to pay for overnight accommodation in order to attend sittings of the House.²²

21st June 1979

The government responded to the Top Salaries Review Body report, *Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament and Peers' Expenses Allowance* (June 1979, Cmnd 7598). The Review Body had again recommended creating separate groups of daily maximum expense allowances. The resulting motion was considered by the House on 16th July 1979.²³

16th July 1979

Three separate daily expense allowances were introduced: day subsistence (£9); night subsistence (£18.50); and secretarial (£8.50).²⁴

22nd July 1980

The daily expense allowances were increased: day subsistence to £11; night subsistence to £23; and secretarial to £10.²⁵

9th June 1981

The daily expense allowances were increased: day subsistence to £11.65; night subsistence to £24.40; and secretarial to £10.60.²⁶

14th June 1982

The daily expense allowances were increased: day subsistence to £12.10; night subsistence to £25.40; and secretarial to £11.²⁷

25th July 1983

The daily expense allowances were increased: day subsistence to £16; night subsistence to £40; and secretarial to £17. Disabled members of the House could now recover additional expenses. Re-imburement of travel cost and mileage allowance were extended to cover all travel on parliamentary business. The car mileage allowance remained at 25.8p per mile, notwithstanding any change to the relevant civil service rate of car mileage allowance.²⁸

26th July 1984

Earlier in the year, the Top Salaries Review Body had been asked to advise on arrangements for keeping the House of Lords expense allowances up to date in a way which did not require an annual resolution. They recommended linking the subsistence elements of the expense allowances to changes in the corresponding civil service subsistence rates, and linking the secretarial allowance to changes in civil service secretarial pay. The government accepted the recommendations, and the resulting motion set out a formula for increasing the Peers' expense allowances which had been agreed the previous year by the same percentage as the civil service allowances, with a similar formula for the secretarial allowance. Increases would take effect on 1st August in subsequent years.²⁹

²² HL *Hansard*, 24th March 1977, cols 634–5; HL *Journal*, 24th March 1977, p 320.

²³ HL *Hansard*, 21st June 1979, cols 1123–7.

²⁴ HL *Hansard*, 16th July 1979, cols 1134–43; HL *Journal*, 16th July 1979, p 190.

²⁵ HL *Hansard*, 22nd July 1980, cols 201–6; HL *Journal*, 22nd July 1980, pp 1265–6.

²⁶ HL *Hansard*, 9th June 1981, cols 122–6; HL *Journal*, 9th June 1981, p 555.

²⁷ HL *Hansard*, 14th June 1982, cols 453–6; HL *Journal*, 14th June 1982, p 347.

²⁸ HL *Hansard*, 25th July 1983, cols 1370–4; HL *Journal*, 25th July 1983, p 85.

²⁹ HL *Hansard*, 26th July 1984, cols 401–6; HL *Journal*, 26th July 1984, pp 746–7.

A second motion, which was amended, introduced a new scheme for the mileage allowance. The scheme was different to the one recommended by the Top Salaries Review Body, and different to the civil service rates. Under the new scheme, which commenced on 1st October 1984, Peers could claim 25.9p per mile up to a limit of 10,000 miles, and then 14.7p per mile. From 1st April 1985, and in subsequent years, the allowance would be calculated by using the Royal Automobile Club's schedule of estimated vehicle running costs.³⁰

16th July 1986

As a result of restructuring within the civil service, the annual increase of the secretarial allowance would have been 18 per cent. This was felt to be a distortion of the resolution of 26th July 1984. The House therefore agreed not to follow the 1984 resolution for this year, but rather to increase the secretarial allowance by six per cent, in line with the general pay increase for the civil service. Consequently, the office, secretarial and research allowance was set at £19.³¹

23rd July 1987

Following the report of the Top Salaries Review Body, *Review of Parliamentary Allowances* (April 1987, Cm 131-I), the office, secretarial and research allowance was increased from £20 to £22 per day.³²

16th May 1988

The House agreed to a motion which enabled Peers to claim the office, secretarial and research allowance for non-sitting days (up to three non-sitting days before 31st July 1988; and thereafter up to 18 days for each year).³³

25th July 1991

A resolution altered the expense allowance scheme so that Peers could claim the overnight subsistence allowance for the evening before or the evening following a meeting of a select committee. Previously, Peers were only able to claim overnight expenses for the number of days on which the House sat, and those who had to travel some distance found it difficult to attend early or late meetings of a select committee.³⁴

10th March 1993

For the year ending 31st July 1993, Peers could claim the office, secretarial and research allowance for up to 24 non-sitting days. For subsequent years, they could claim this allowance for up to 30 non-sitting days.³⁵

20th July 1994

A resolution replaced the system which had been used since the resolution of 26th July 1984 to up-rate the Peers' expense allowances without the need for a motion. The civil service had ceased to promulgate a central subsistence rate, and a new system for secretarial pay had also been introduced in the civil service. The government therefore proposed to increase the allowances in accordance with the retail price index on 1st August of each year.

³⁰ HL *Hansard*, 26th July 1984, cols 406–20; HL *Journal*, 26th July 1984, p 747.

³¹ HL *Hansard*, 16th July 1986, cols 905–6; HL *Journal*, 16th July 1986, p 551. See also HL *Hansard*, 10th July 1986, col 574–5.

³² HL *Hansard*, 23rd July 1987, cols 1529–46; HL *Journal*, 23rd July 1987, p 89–90.

³³ HL *Hansard*, 16th May 1988, cols 7–11; HL *Journal*, 16th May 1988, p 576.

³⁴ HL *Hansard*, 25th July 1991, cols 884–7; HL *Journal*, 25th July 1991, p 587–8.

³⁵ HL *Hansard*, 10th March 1993, cols 1059–61; HL *Journal*, 10th March 1993, p 529.

The resolution made provision for doing so, and increased the day subsistence allowance to £31.50; the night subsistence allowance to £70; and the office, secretarial and research allowance to £30.50 per day. The definition of sittings of the House or of a committee was extended to include meetings of the boards of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology and the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit Limited. The effect of this was to enable Peers attending such meetings to claim the day and night subsistence allowances. The car mileage allowance for up to 20,000 miles was set at 44.4p per mile from 1st April 1994. Car mileage over 20,000 miles was set at 20.4p per mile. Finally, provision was made for the reimbursement of additional travelling costs incurred as a result of a recall of parliament during a recess.³⁶

27th November 1996

Following this resolution, Peers' spouses were entitled to the reimbursement of travel costs in connection with their attendance at a parliamentary occasion twice a year.³⁷

20th May 1998

A bicycle allowance was introduced, claimable by Peers attending the House for parliamentary duties or for journeys undertaken in the United Kingdom by bicycle while on parliamentary duties. The starting allowance, commencing on 1st April 1998, was set at 6.2p per mile. In subsequent years, the bicycle allowance was to be increased by the percentage change in the retail price index compared with the previous year.³⁸

5th July 2001

As a result of the Review Body on Senior Salaries report, *Review of Parliamentary Pay and Allowances* (March 2001, Cm 4997-1), the individual expense allowances were increased by a resolution, and the number of non-sitting days for which Peers could claim office, secretarial and research expenses was increased to 40 days.³⁹

10th November 2004

The Review Body on Senior Salaries report, *Review of Parliamentary Pay and Allowances 2004* (October 2004, Cm 6354-1) made recommendations on the rate and structure of Peers' expense allowances. The resulting resolutions increased the night and day subsistence allowances, the office, secretarial and research allowance, and the car and bicycle mileage allowances. They also introduced a motorcycle mileage allowance, and enabled Peers to claim expenses for staying overnight away from their only or main residence for the purpose of attendance on visits away from the House as a member of a committee, official delegation or as a representative of the House. The scheme relating to the travel expenses of Peers' spouses was amended to include children under 18.⁴⁰

9th March 2006

The House Committee extended the eligibility to claim the overnight subsistence allowance to Peers participating in the meetings of the Intelligence and Security Committee, formal conferences of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and meetings of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund and the House of Commons Members' Fund on the same basis as agreed by the House on 10th November 2004.⁴¹

³⁶ HL *Hansard*, 20th July 1994, cols 240–55; HL *Journal*, 20th July 1994, pp 598–600.

³⁷ HL *Hansard*, 27th November 1996, cols 273–5; HL *Journal*, 27th November 1996, p 93.

³⁸ HL *Hansard*, 20th May 1998, cols 1649–50; HL *Journal*, 20th May 1998, p 823.

³⁹ HL *Hansard*, 5th July 2001, cols 875–85; HL *Journal*, 5th July 2001, pp 76–7.

⁴⁰ HL *Hansard*, 10th November 2004, cols 928–33; HL *Journal*, 10th November 2004, pp 850–1.

⁴¹ HL *Hansard*, 9th March 2006, col WS74.

19th December 2006

The scheme for the reimbursement of the travel expenses of a member's spouse and children was extended to civil partners and to children who had reached the age of 18, but were still in full-time secondary education. The amendments brought the scheme in line with that for members of the House of Commons.⁴²

16th January 2008

A written statement on the report of the Review Body on Senior Salaries, *Review of Parliamentary Pay, Pensions and Allowances 2007* was made (January 2008, [Cm 7270-1](#)). The report recommended reviewing the definition of parliamentary business; extending the travel scheme available to Peers' spouses, civil partners and children to include a named partner; and reviewing the IT support provided to Peers. The government thought these recommendations should first be considered by the House of Commons.⁴³

8th May to 11th June 2009

On 8th May, the *Daily Telegraph* published the first in a series of articles which included leaked details of the expense claims made by members of the House of Commons. Around this time, a number of news publications also made allegations against specific Peers about possible abuse of their allowances.

On 9th May, the Leader of the House of Commons, Harriet Harman, made a statement to the House of Commons. She announced plans to legislate for a new, independent parliamentary standards authority.⁴⁴

On 11th June, Lord Brabazon of Tara, Chairman of Committees, made a written statement to the House announcing that the Senior Salaries Review Body would be asked to undertake a review of the financial support for members of the House of Lords. The Review Body is due to report imminently.⁴⁵

⁴² HL *Hansard*, 19th December 2006, col 1896; HL *Journal*, 19th December 2006, p 117.

⁴³ HL *Hansard*, 16th January 2008, cols WS141–4.

⁴⁴ HC *Hansard*, 20th May 2009, col 506.

⁴⁵ HL *Hansard*, 11th June 2009, cols WS48–9.

2.2 Expense Allowances since 1957

The table below shows Peers' expense allowances since 1957. It was compiled using the resolutions and debates described in section 2.1, as well as from the *House of Lords Annual Reports*. For the years 1984 to 1990, use was made of the records maintained by David Beamish, Clerk Assistant. The table includes a figure for the total daily maximum allowances at 2008 prices, calculated using indices published by ONS and the House of Commons Library, and intended to permit a more accurate comparison of the figures.

Effective from	Night Subsistence (£ per Day)	Day Subsistence (£ per Day)	Office, Secretarial and Research Costs (£ per Day)	Office, Secretarial and Research Costs for non-Sitting Days (£ per Year)	Maximum Claimable (£ per Sitting Day)	Maximum Claimable at 2008 Prices (£ per Sitting Day)
15.07.1957					3.15	52.89
03.11.1964					4.73	66.75
01.01.1970					6.50	70.02
01.01.1972					8.50	78.10
01.08.1974					11.50	83.46
13.06.1975					13.50	78.86
24.03.1977					16.50	71.39
01.07.1979	18.50	9.00	8.50		36.00	126.83
01.07.1980	23.00	11.00	10.00		44.00	131.38
01.07.1981	24.40	11.65	10.60		46.65	124.52
01.07.1982	25.40	12.10	11.00		48.50	119.19
01.07.1983	40.00	16.00	17.00		73.00	171.53
01.08.1984	43.00	18.00	18.00		79.00	176.82
01.08.1985	47.00	19.00	19.00		85.00	179.34
01.08.1986	52.00	20.00	20.00		92.00	187.72
01.08.1987	57.00	21.00	22.00		100.00	195.87
01.08.1988	60.00	23.00	23.00	414.00	106.00	197.92
01.08.1989	64.00	24.00	25.00	450.00	113.00	195.77
01.08.1990	68.00	26.00	27.00	486.00	121.00	191.51
01.08.1991	68.00	29.00	29.00	522.00	126.00	188.37
01.08.1992	69.00	31.00	30.00	720.00	130.00	187.34
01.08.1993	70.00	31.50	30.50	915.00	132.00	187.24
01.08.1994	71.50	32.00	31.00	930.00	134.50	186.29
01.08.1995	74.00	33.00	32.00	960.00	139.00	186.07
01.08.1996	75.50	33.50	32.50	975.00	141.50	184.96
01.08.1997	78.00	34.50	33.50	1,005.00	146.00	185.03
01.08.1998	80.50	35.50	34.50	1,035.00	150.50	184.41
01.08.1999	81.50	36.00	35.00	1,050.00	152.50	184.03
01.08.2000	84.00	37.00	36.00	1,080.00	157.00	184.02
20.06.2001	120.00	60.00	50.00	2,000.00	230.00	264.89
01.08.2001	122.00	61.00	51.00	2,040.00	234.00	269.49
01.08.2002	124.00	62.00	52.00	2,080.00	238.00	269.60
01.08.2003	128.00	64.00	53.50	2,140.00	245.50	270.28
01.08.2004	132.00	66.00	55.00	2,200.00	253.00	270.48
10.11.2004	150.00	75.00	65.00	2,600.00	290.00	310.04
01.08.2005	154.50	77.00	67.00	2,680.00	298.50	310.36
01.08.2006	159.50	79.50	69.00	2,760.00	308.00	310.36
01.08.2007	165.50	82.50	71.50	2,860.00	319.50	318.53
01.08.2008	174.00	86.50	75.00	3,000.00	335.50	335.50

3. Cost of the House of Lords

The table below shows the costs of the House of Lords since 1957/58. The table compiles figures published in a variety of sources, such as the *Civil Appropriation Accounts*, the *House of Lords Annual Reports* and the *House of Lords Resource Accounts*, for the cost of Peers' expenses, works and the total cost of the House. The way in which the cost of the House of Lords has been recorded over the last fifty years has changed, as have the items that are included under the heading of "costs". The following points should therefore be borne in mind when looking at the table:

- The figures from the financial year 1957/58 until 2000/01 were calculated on a cash basis, and the figures in the table for these years were derived from the *Civil Appropriation Accounts*. The figures from the financial year 2001/02 onwards were calculated on the basis of resource accounting, and have been taken from the *House of Lords Resource Accounts*. This means that the two sets of figures are not necessarily comparable.
- The figures for net total outturn were used, where available, rather than the gross total outturn, although only one figure was provided for 1996/97 and 1997/98.
- Pre-decimal figures have been rounded where necessary.
- The items included in the net total expenditure has varied over the period. For example, early appropriation accounts included in the net total expenditure the costs for items such as the Department of the Lord Chancellor.
- From 1992/93 onwards, a separate vote was raised for works. The term "works" broadly encompasses building maintenance, facilities and accommodation. This was done by both Houses following the recommendations of Sir Robin Ibbes in his report to the House of Commons Commission on the House of Commons services (27th November 1990, session 1990–91, HC 38). Previously, a number of services such as printing and works had been paid for out of departmental budgets, and Sir Robin recommended the discontinuation of this practice. The level of the separate vote for works is shown in the table. From the financial year 2001/02 onwards, the net total expenditure figure includes works calculated on the basis of resource accounting. However, the resource accounts contain a separate figure for works, which has been reproduced in the table, and may facilitate comparison to earlier figures.
- The *Appropriation Accounts* for the financial years from 1957/58 to 1961/62 provide separate figures for Peers' travel and other expenses, and these have been subsumed in the table under the heading of "Peers' expenses".
- The figures at 2008 prices were calculated using indices published by ONS and the House of Commons Library.

While the figures give an indication as to the cost of the House of Lords, individual years may not necessarily be comparable, as the figures by and of themselves do not take into account the workload of the House or the circumstances arising in individual years. Furthermore, working practices, the availability of IT, accommodation and support requirements have changed significantly since 1957, and a comparison between the extremes of the data may not be entirely useful. However, for each heading a figure at 2008 prices has been provided to allow a more even comparison.

Financial Year	Peers' Expenses (£ 000s)	Peers' Expenses at 2008 Prices (£ 000s)	Total Works (£ 000s)	Total Works at 2008 Prices (£ 000s)	Total Expenditure (£ 000s)	Total Expenditure at 2008 Prices (£ 000s)
1957/58	24	396			169	2,844
1958/59	38	612			195	3,167
1959/60	42	683			214	3,460
1960/61	45	727			232	3,715
1961/62	53	826			259	4,013
1962/63	52	779			261	3,879
1963/64	58	843			292	4,256
1964/65	70	990			324	4,570
1965/66	106	1,429			347	4,680
1966/67	117	1,524			373	4,834
1967/68	132	1,670			400	5,051
1968/69	147	1,781			457	5,514
1969/70	140	1,603			465	5,331
1970/71	170	1,834			534	5,756
1971/72	272	2,680			726	7,146
1972/73	326	2,992			860	7,901
1973/74	277	2,329			837	7,046
1974/75	340	2,467			1,114	8,083
1975/76	595	3,474			1,688	9,861
1976/77	711	3,563			1,920	9,626
1977/78	620	2,683			2,244	9,706
1978/79	625	2,497			3,006	12,010
1979/80	764	2,691			4,001	14,094
1980/81	1,354	4,044			5,709	17,048
1981/82	1,434	3,827			6,206	16,565
1982/83	1,622	3,986			6,976	17,145
1983/84	1,751	4,114			7,382	17,346
1984/85	2,520	5,640			8,642	19,343
1985/86	2,906	6,131			9,885	20,856
1986/87	3,233	6,597			10,809	22,055
1987/88	2,966	5,810			11,081	21,704
1988/89	4,009	7,486			12,947	24,175
1989/90	4,060	7,034			14,464	25,058
1990/91	4,577	7,244			16,362	25,896
1991/92	4,990	7,460			18,485	27,634
1992/93	4,513	6,504	10,078	14,523	22,139	31,904
1993/94	6,274	8,900	10,918	15,487	25,342	35,947
1994/95	6,496	8,997	13,540	18,754	23,841	33,021
1995/96	6,659	8,914	14,820	19,839	25,026	33,501
1996/97	7,021	9,177	13,639	17,828	24,880	32,521
1997/98	6,579	8,338	13,784	17,469	25,623	32,473
1998/99	9,487	11,625	13,560	16,616	29,679	36,367
1999/00	9,141	11,031	14,144	17,068	31,123	37,557
2000/01	8,099	9,493	15,190	17,804	30,553	35,810
2001/02	10,477	12,066	40,453	46,589	71,449	82,286
2002/03	13,773	15,602	44,995	50,970	85,817	97,212
2003/04	13,597	14,970	36,983	40,716	81,119	89,308
2004/05	14,429	15,426	44,450	47,522	90,766	97,039
2005/06	15,613	16,234	55,880	58,101	106,382	110,610
2006/07	17,718	17,854	42,951	43,281	99,696	100,462
2007/08	18,399	18,343	39,052	38,933	121,500	121,131
2008/09	18,988	18,988	40,581	40,581	103,918	103,918

