

Catering and Retail Service: Costs to the House of Commons

The information given below represents the net cost, after accounting for income, of all the trading activities of the Catering and Retail Service. Many of the restaurants and dining room facilities, and their staff, are extensively used to cater for private events at times when they are not required by the House. The net income from such events, together with the net income from sales of House of Commons souvenirs, is included in the figures. The customers for the catering and retail services include around 13,000 pass-holders (Members of both Houses, their staff, House staff, civil servants, contractors' staff, members of the Press Gallery etc.) as well as members of the public and non-pass holding visitors to Parliament.

The cost to the House arises because of the irregular hours and unpredictability of parliamentary business. Food and drink prices were substantially increased in 2010 and are benchmarked against similar outlets outside the House. The costs to the House have in fact been reduced in each year since 2003 (excepting only 2010/11* when there was relatively little demand during the election period and in one other year), and we are determined to reduce it further.

Reports

- [Commercial Strategy: Recommendations for the House of Commons, November 2011](#)
- [1st Special Report - Catering and Retail Services in the House of Commons: Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2010-12 | PDF version \(!\[\]\(f15d3c54be60b4fd0ce1da9fb3f67256_img.jpg\) \) !\[\]\(7bf135d42c40a6430c927b2fd03d7659_img.jpg\) HC 1506 | Published 12 October 2011](#)
- [1st Report - Catering and Retail Services in the House of Commons - additional written evidence | PDF version \(!\[\]\(2bcc37677ea6b96900e4d746ad300082_img.jpg\) \) !\[\]\(b62812e390f75b509ead0f847e76b4ce_img.jpg\) Volume II | Published 10 May 2011](#)
- [1st Report - Catering and Retail Services in the House of Commons | PDF version \(!\[\]\(702f396a3c354a80d179cf62e75a5343_img.jpg\) \) !\[\]\(c4a9e26ffee79396bf5db4da66793f2a_img.jpg\) HC 560 | Published 10 May 2011](#)

Direct costs of providing a Catering and Retail Service

Financial Year	Total costs, £m (Costs by category minus sales income)	Sales income, £,000	Costs by category, £,000				Depreciation
			Cost of sales	Staff costs	Pensions	Other direct costs	
*2010/11	£5.8m	(7,587)	3,208	7,833	1,156	1,143	51
2009/10	£5.7m	(8,278)	3,775	7,751	1,161	1,257	46
2008/09	£6.1m	(7,955)	3,626	7,878	1,409	1,088	43

The cost to the House cannot be broken down by customer type i.e. by MP, MP staff, House staff etc, as this information is not collected. The cost per venue cannot be published as this information is commercially sensitive.

These published figures will be updated each year as soon as the Resource Accounts for the Administration Estimate have been laid before the House. This will usually be towards the end of July.