

*House of Lords – Financial Assistance to Opposition Parties 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016*

A scheme for providing financial assistance to the Opposition and second largest opposition party in the House of Lords to assist them in carrying out their Parliamentary business was introduced in October 1996. This was extended to cover the Convenor of Crossbench Peers in October 1999. Following the general election in April 2010 the scheme was updated to cover only the Opposition and the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers.

Under the scheme, the parties and Convenor are responsible for ensuring that the expenses claimed are exclusively in relation to their Parliamentary business. At the end of each financial year they provide a certificate from an independent professional auditor to confirm this.

The maximum amounts payable are updated annually in line with the retail price index.

	Total Payments Made
Official Opposition – Labour	£566,309
Liberal Democrats	£259,357
Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers	£0

In addition to the £825,666 Financial Assistance to Opposition Parties above, staff costs of £80,316 have been incurred by the House of Lords in relation to assistance for Opposition Parties (specifically, for the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers).