



STATISTICS ON BUSINESS AND MEMBERSHIP

Session 2015–16: 27 May 2015* to 12 May 2016

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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Dates of sessions:

2015–16	27 May 2015 to 12 May 2016
2014–15	4 June 2014 to 26 March 2015
2013–14	8 May 2013 to 14 May 2014
2012–13	9 May 2012 to 25 April 2013

Times are shown in the form hours:minutes

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

		2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of sitting days (excluding days when the House sat for swearing-in only)	149	126	149	137
2.	Number of weeks during which the House sat	37	31	39	35
3.	Number of hours for which the chamber sat	1,012:42	823:54	1,011:13	903:11
4.	Average length of sittings in the chamber	6:48	6:32	6:47	6:36
5.	Number of sittings continuing beyond 10 pm	53	34	46	36
6.	Number of sittings continuing to midnight and beyond	2	0	4	1
7.	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	39	80	92	74
8.	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	131:28	240:23	310:19	240:31
9.	Number of Friday sittings	10	13	10	9
10.	Average daily attendance	497	483	497	484
DIVISIONS (VOTES) IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of divisions	113†	60	89	82
2.	Average number of members voting per division	365	347	394	363
3.	Government victories in divisions	53 47%	42 70%	71 80%*	52 63%
4.	Government defeats in divisions	60 53%	11 18%	14 16%*	27 33%
5.	Unwhipped divisions	0	7 12%	10 11%*	3 4%
BUSINESS IN THE SESSION					
1.	Total sitting time in the chamber and in Grand Committees	1,144:10	1,064:17	1,321:32	1,143:42
(a)	Bills	578:38 50.6%	507:02 47.6%	682:12 51.6%	519:45 45.4%
(b)	Delegated legislation	62:17 5.4%	107:10 10.1%	88:31 6.7%	102:51 9.0%
(c)	Debates	345:50 30.2%	325:17 30.6%	398:05 30.1%	360:17 31.5%
(d)	Other	157:25 13.8%	124:48 11.7%	152:44 11.6%	160:49 14.1%

* These percentages do not add up to 100 per cent because, unusually, the Government took a formal position on unwhipped divisions on the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill 2013.

†The statistics about divisions exclude one inquorate division.

BUSINESS IN THE CHAMBER

		2015–16	2014–15	2013–14	2012–13
	QUESTIONS — Number of:				
1.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling 30 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday)	548	444	543	499
2.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 10 minutes of questions and answers)	5	2	9	9
3.	Questions for written answer	8,294	5,943	7,007	6,816
	DEBATES — Number of motions in each category:				
1.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	32	26	31	26
2.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot and time-limited to 2, 2½ or 3 hours)	8	10	12	14
3.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	0	3	1	1
4.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	16	9	10	14
5.	Questions for short debate—total	70	65	73	70
i)	Taken in normal time	29	36	36	44
ii)	Taken in a dinner/lunch break	33	20	30	26
iii)	Topical	8	9	7	-
6.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	14	21	24	14
i)	On European Union Committee reports	7	10	10	8
ii)	On other non-domestic select committee reports	7	11	14	6
7.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	9	3	9	5
8.	Motions to consider domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations and consequential motions	10	11	15	10
9.	Motion for an Address on the Queen’s Speech	1	1	1	1
10.	Motions for an Address not on the Queen’s Speech nor on delegated legislation	1	0	1	0
	STATEMENTS — Number of:				
1.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	90	71	65	75
2.	Written statements	707	962	1,177	1,153

		2015–16	2014–15	2013–14	2012–13
DELEGATED LEGISLATION — Number of:					
1.	Motions to approve affirmative instruments	108	315	181	121
2.	Motions to annul negative instruments	4	1	2	1
3.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	9	8	9	10
THE TIME OF THE HOUSE was spent approximately as follows (with percentages of total sitting time):					
1.	Prayers (around six minutes at the start of each sitting day)	15:48 1.6%	14:03 1.7%	16:42 1.7%	14:23 1.6%
2.	Introductions of new members	5:02 0.5%	2:44 0.3%	3:33 0.3%	0:51 0.1%
3.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling 30 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday)	69:44 6.9%	56:26 6.9%	69:22 6.9%	63:41 7.1%
4.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 10 minutes of questions and answers)	0:52 0.1%	0:27 0.1%	1:33 0.2%	1:37 0.2%
5.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	75:45 7.5%	67:00 8.1%	75:24 7.5%	61:07 6.8%
6.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot)	18:09 1.8%	23:00 2.8%	25:54 2.6%	32:11 3.6%
7.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	0	12:51 1.6%	0:29 <0.1%	4:40 0.5%
8.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	60:27 6.0%	38:18 4.6%	46:36 4.6%	44:59 5.0%
9.	Questions for short debate—total	71:51 7.1%	64:52 7.9%	76:32 7.6%	78:46 8.7%
i)	Taken in normal time	32:49 3.2%	38:01 4.6%	41:39 4.1%	53:40 5.9%
ii)	Taken in the dinner/lunch break	31:23 3.1%	18:33 2.3%	27:55 2.77%	25:06 2.8%
iii)	Topical	7:39 0.8%	8:18 1%	6:58 0.7%	-
10.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	29:11 2.9%	47:42 5.8%	46:11 4.6%	28:35 3.2%
i)	On European Union Committee reports	9:31 0.9%	19:47 2.4%	17:13 1.7%	15:52 1.8%
ii)	On Science and Technology Committee reports	2:19 0.2%	1:32 0.2%	1:28 0.2%	2:46 0.3%
iii)	On Economic Affairs Committee reports	3:35 0.4%	3:59 0.5%	6:36 0.7%	3:51 0.4%
iv)	On Constitution Committee reports	2:15 0.2%	6:08 0.7%	4:14 0.4%	2:19 0.3%

		2015–16	2014–15	2013–14	2012–13
v)	On Communications Committee reports	6:06 0.6%	2:26 0.3%	1:17 0.1%	1:38 0.2%
vi)	On reports of ad hoc committees	5:25 0.5%	13:50 1.7%	15:23 1.5%	0
vii)	On Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee or Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee reports	0	0	0	2:09 0.2%
11.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	4:02 0.4%	7:06 0.9%	11:31 1.14%	5:40 0.6%
12.	Motions to agree domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations	1:22 0.1%	1:02 0.1%	1:33 0.2%	6:22 0.7%
13.	Motion for an Address on the Queen's Speech	36:35 3.6%	28:44 3.5%	31:04 3.1%	34:07 3.8%
14.	Motions for an Address not on the Queen's Speech nor on delegated legislation	0:27 <0.1%	0	0:10 <0.1%	0
15.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	48:38 4.8%	34:43 4.2%	36:28 3.6%	48:26 5.4%
16.	Church of England Measures	0:43 0.1%	1:55 0.2%	0:15 <0.1%	0:31 0.1%
17.	Public bills (details on pages 5–6)	526:58 52.0%	406:23 49.3%	532:22 52.6%	420:46 46.6%
18.	Private bills	0:06 <0.1%	0	0:10 <0.1%	0:59 0.1%
19.	Approval of affirmative instruments	17:31 1.7%	22:01 2.7%	17:06 1.7%	22:46 2.5%
20.	Motions to annul negative instruments	8:01 0.8%	0:22 <0.1%	2:14 0.2%	2:28 0.3%
21.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	8:56 0.9%	5:12 0.6%	12:14 1.2%	10:22 1.1%
22.	Formal business (including tributes but excluding prayers and introductions)	6:30 0.6%	2:10 0.3%	3:36 0.4%	5:43 0.6%
23.	Adjournments during pleasure (breaks during a sitting)	6:03 0.6%	3:20 0.4%	7:47 0.8%	12:56 1.4%

		2015–16	2014–15	2013–14	2012–13
PUBLIC BILLS (excludes time spent in Grand Committee—see page 7)					
The time spent on bills (with percentages of total sitting time) was as follows:					
1.	Public bills—total	526:58 52.0%	406:23 49.3%	532:22 52.6%	420:46 46.6%
2.	Public bills according to House the bill was introduced into:				
i)	Bills which started in the Lords	167:54 16.6%	99:07 12%	130:34 12.9%	136:23 15.1%
ii)	Bills which started in the Commons	359:04 35.5%	307:16 37.3%	401:48 39.7%	284:23 31.5%
3.	Public bills according to type:				
i)	Government bills	489:57 48.4%	341:30 41.4%	489:13 48.4%	398:04 44.1%
ii)	Private members' bills	37:01 3.7%	64:53 7.9%	43:09 4.3%	22:42 2.5%
4.	Time spent on each stage of bill proceedings (formal motions and notification of Royal Assent not included):				
i)	First reading—total	0:37 0.1%	0:35 <0.1%	0:29 <0.1%	0:34 0.1%
ii)	Second reading—total	117:31 11.6%	94:44 11.5%	114:21 11.3%	93:49 10.4%
	Second reading according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	25:25 2.5%	13:01 1.6%	17:57 1.8%	20:39 2.3%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	59:39 5.9%	53:46 6.5%	68:51 6.8%	53:20 5.9%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	27:26 2.7%	19:00 2.3%	15:46 1.6%	11:19 1.3%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	5:01 0.5%	8:57 1.1%	11:47 1.2%	8:31 0.9%
iii)	Committee of the whole House stage—total excluding time in Grand Committee	227:13 22.4%	145:49 17.7%	201:18 19.9%	163:25 18.1%
	Committee stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	50:18 5.0%	14:07 1.7%	44:21 4.4%	55:43 6.2%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	173:24 17.1%	104:29 12.7%	141:49 14.0%	105:22 11.7%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	3:02 0.3%	18:07 2.2%	1:55 0.2%	0:07 <0.1%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0:29 <0.1%	9:20 1.1%	13:13 1.3%	2:13 0.2%

		2015–16	2014–15	2013–14	2012–13
iv)	Report stage—total	135:52 13.4%	133:32 16.2%	174:58 17.3%	123:30 13.7%
	Report stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	44:58 4.4%	21:29 2.6%	37:17 3.7%	31:31 3.5%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	90:39 9.0%	104:14 12.7%	137:41 13.6%	91:58 10.2%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0:15 <0.1%	3:22 0.4%	0	0
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0	4:27 0.5%	0	0.01 <0.1%
v)	Third reading and passing—total	13:42 1.4%	16:16 2%	24:53 2.5%	15:09 1.7%
	Third reading and passing according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	3:51 0.4%	2:46 0.3%	5:14 0.5%	4:25 0.5%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	9:32 0.9%	12:11 1.5%	19:31 1.9%	10:33 1.2%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0:06 <0.1%	1:06 0.1%	0:04 <0.1%	0:04 <0.1%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0:13 <0.1%	0:13 <0.1%	0:04 <0.1%	0:07 <0.1%
vi)	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons—total	30:10 3.0%	15:09 1.8%	15:55 1.6%	24:08 2.7%
	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	11:57 1.2%	5:46 0.7%	7:35 0.7%	12:12 1.4%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	18:13 1.8%	9:23 1.1%	8:20 0.8%	11:56 1.3%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0	0	0	0
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0	0	0	0

BUSINESS IN GRAND COMMITTEES

Grand Committees, which meet in the Moses Room, consider various types of business, including: committee stages of public bills; consideration of delegated legislation; questions for short debate; debates on select committee and other reports, and on national policy statements; general motions for debate; and second reading debates on Law Commission bills. All Lords may participate in Grand Committees and proceedings mirror those in the chamber on comparable business, save that no divisions may take place.

		2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	39	80	92	74
	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	131:28	240:23	310:19	240:31
	Average length of Grand Committee sittings	3:22	3:00	3:22	3:15
1.	Number of public bill committee stages taken in Grand Committee	6	5	9	7
	Time spent	51:34 39.2%	100:07 41.6%	148:01 47.7%	96:45 40.2%
2.	Number of Law Commission bill second reading debates taken in Grand Committee	0	1	1	1
	Time spent	0	0:32 0.2%	1:39 0.5%	1:15 0.5%
3.	Number of delegated legislation instruments considered in Grand Committee	90	286	174	161
	Time spent	27:49 21.2%	79:35 33.1%	56:57 18.4%	67:16 28%
4.	Number of debates taken in Grand Committee	44	57	92	53
	Time spent	48:01 36.5%	51:17 21.3%	90:12 29.1%	69:13 28.8%
i)	Number of questions for short debate taken in Grand Committee	37	54	84	34
	Time spent	34:11 26.0%	46:04 19.1%	76:41 24.7%	33:19 13.9%
ii)	Number of debates on select committee reports taken in Grand Committee	4	2	8	16
	Time spent	5:39 4.3%	4:18 1.8%	12:25 4%	29:13 12.1%
iii)	Number of other debates	3	1	2	3
	Time spent	8:11 6.2%	0:55 0.4%	3:03 1%	6:41 2.8%
5.	Other	4:04 3.1%	8:05 3.4%	13:30 4.35%	6:02 2.5%
i)	Formal business	0:02 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1%	0:10 0.1%
ii)	Adjournments (breaks during a sitting)*	4:02 3.1%	8:03 3.7%	13:28 4.33%	5:52 2.4%

*Adjournments in Grand Committees are usually for divisions in the chamber.

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE AT THE END OF SESSION 2015–16 (12 May 2016)

By Party/Group

Party/Group	Life peers	Excepted hereditary peers*	Bishops	Total
Conservative	198	49	0	247
Labour	207	4	0	211
Liberal Democrat	105	4	0	109
Crossbench	143	32	0	175
Archbishops and bishops	0	0	26	26
Other parties	15	1	0	16
Non-affiliated (current member)	23	0	0	23
TOTAL	691	90	26	807

NB The table above excludes 29 peers on leave of absence, 8 disqualified as senior members of the judiciary and 1 suspended from the service of the House.

*This includes 75 peers elected by parties and groups and 15 peers elected by the whole House.

By Type

	Men	Women	Total
Archbishops and bishops	24	2	26
Life peers under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876	17	1	18
Life peers under the Life Peerages Act 1958	497	212	709
Excepted hereditary peers under the House of Lords Act 1999	91	1	92
TOTAL	623	216	845