



HOUSE OF LORDS

STATISTICS ON BUSINESS AND MEMBERSHIP

Session 2016–17: 18 May 2016 to 27 April 2017

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Page

Sittings of the House and divisions (votes)

1

BUSINESS IN THE CHAMBER

Number of questions, debates, statements and proceedings on delegated legislation

2–3

How the time of the House was spent

3–4

Time spent on public bills

5–6

BUSINESS IN GRAND COMMITTEES

7

MEMBERSHIP

Composition of the House

8

NOTES

Dates of sessions:

2016–17	18 May 2016 to 27 April 2017
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

Times are shown in the form hours:minutes

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

		2016–17	2015–16	2014–15	2013–14
SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of sitting days (excluding days when the House sat for swearing-in only)	141	149	126	149
2.	Number of weeks during which the House sat	35	37	31	39
3.	Number of hours for which the chamber sat	934:11	1,012:42	823:54	1,011:13
4.	Average length of sittings in the chamber	6:38	6:48	6:32	6:47
5.	Number of sittings continuing beyond 10 pm	31	53	34	46
6.	Number of sittings continuing to midnight and beyond	2	2	0	4
7.	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	34	39	80	92
8.	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	112:37	131:28	240:23	310:19
9.	Number of Friday sittings	11	10	13	10
10.	Average daily attendance	484	497	483	497
DIVISIONS (VOTES) IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of divisions	77	113†	60	89
2.	Average number of members voting per division	396	365	347	394
3.	Government victories in divisions	37 48%	53 47%	42 70%	71 80%*
4.	Government defeats in divisions	38 49%	60 53%	11 18%	14 16%*
5.	Unwhipped divisions	2 3%	0	7 12%	10 11%*
BUSINESS IN THE SESSION					
1.	Total sitting time in the chamber and in Grand Committees	1,046:48	1,154:10	1,064:17	1,321:32
(a)	Bills	513:22 49.0%	578:38 50.6%	507:02 47.6%	682:12 51.6%
(b)	Delegated legislation	64:41 6.2%	62:17 5.4%	107:10 10.1%	88:31 6.7%
(c)	Debates	327:10 31.3%	345:50 30.2%	325:17 30.6%	398:05 30.1%
(d)	Other	141:35 13.5%	157:25 13.8%	124:48 11.7%	152:44 11.6%

* 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

		2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
1.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling 30 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday)	508	548	444	543
2.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 10 minutes of questions and answers)	19	5	2	9
3.	Questions for written answer	6,872	8,294	5,943	7,007
DEBATES — Number of motions in each category:					
1.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	32	32	26	31
2.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot and time-limited to 2, 2½ or 3 hours)	12	8	10	12
3.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	0	0	3	1
4.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	8*	16	9	10
5.	Questions for short debate—total	64	70	65	73
i)	Taken in normal time	23	29	36	36
ii)	Taken in a dinner/lunch break	32	33	20	30
iii)	Topical	9	8	9	7
6.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	26	14	21	24
i)	On European Union Committee reports	14	7	10	10
ii)	On other non-domestic select committee reports	12	7	11	14
7.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	3	9	3	9
8.	Motions to consider domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations and consequential motions	8	10	11	15
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	0	1	0	1
STATEMENTS — Number of:					
1.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	93	90	71	65
2.	Written statements	614	707	962	1,177

* A debate on the outcome of the European Union referendum took place over two days.

		2016–17	2015–16	2014–15	2013–14
DELEGATED LEGISLATION — Number of:					
1.	Motions to approve affirmative instruments	141	108	315	181
2.	Motions to annul negative instruments	1	4	1	2
3.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	8	9	8	9
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)	14:40 1.6%	15:48 1.6%	14:03 1.7%	16:42 1.7%
2.	Introductions of new members	1:23 0.1%	5:02 0.5%	2:44 0.3%	3:33 0.3%
3.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling 30 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday)	64:50 6.9%	69:44 6.9%	56:26 6.9%	69:22 6.9%
4.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 10 minutes of questions and answers)	3:23 0.4%	0:52 0.1%	0:27 0.1%	1:33 0.2%
5.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	78:46 8.2%	75:45 7.5%	67:00 8.1%	75:24 7.5%
6.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot)	24:42 2.6%	18:09 1.8%	23:00 2.8%	25:54 2.6%
7.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	0	0	12:51 1.6%	0:29 <0.1%
8.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	38:58 4.2%	60:27 6.0%	38:18 4.6%	46:36 4.6%
9.	Questions for short debate—total	66:41 7.1%	71:51 7.1%	64:52 7.9%	76:32 7.6%
i)	Taken in normal time	26:47 2.9%	32:49 3.2%	38:01 4.6%	41:39 4.1%
ii)	Taken in the dinner/lunch break	31:35 3.4%	31:23 3.1%	18:33 2.3%	27:55 2.77%
iii)	Topical	8:19 0.9%	7:39 0.8%	8:18 1%	6:58 0.7%
10.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	56:23 6.0%	29:11 2.9%	47:42 5.8%	46:11 4.6%
i)	On European Union Committee reports	29:31 3.2%	9:31 0.9%	19:47 2.4%	17:13 1.7%
ii)	On Science and Technology Committee reports	3:32 0.4%	2:19 0.2%	1:32 0.2%	1:28 0.2%
iii)	On Economic Affairs Committee reports	3:21 0.4%	3:35 0.4%	3:59 0.5%	6:36 0.7%
iv)	On Constitution Committee reports	3:37 0.4%	2:15 0.2%	6:08 0.7%	4:14 0.4%

		2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
v)	On Communications Committee reports	2:06 0.2%	6:06 0.6%	2:26 0.3%	1:17 0.1%
vi)	On International Relations Committee reports	2:28 0.3 %	-	-	-
vii)	On reports of ad hoc committees	11:48 1.3%	5:25 0.5%	13:50 1.7%	15:23 1.5%
11.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	8:24 0.9%	4:02 0.4%	7:06 0.9%	11:31 1.14%
12.	Motions to agree domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations	1:09 0.1%	1:22 0.1%	1:02 0.1%	1:33 0.2%
13.	Motion for an Address on the Queen's Speech	28:07 3.0%	36:35 3.6%	28:44 3.5%	31:04 3.1%
14.	Motions for an Address not on the Queen's Speech nor on delegated legislation	0	0:27 <0.1%	0	0:10 <0.1%
15.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	44:53 4.8%	48:38 4.8%	34:43 4.2%	36:28 3.6%
16.	Church of England Measures	0	0:43 0.1%	1:55 0.2%	0:15 <0.1%
17.	Public bills (details on pages 5-6)	450:26 48.2%	526:58 52.0%	406:23 49.3%	532:22 52.6%
18.	Private bills	0:04 <0.1%	0:06 <0.1%	0	0:10 <0.1%
19.	Approval of affirmative instruments	35:33 3.8%	17:31 1.7%	22:01 2.7%	17:06 1.7%
20.	Motions to annul negative instruments	1:36 0.2%	8:01 0.8%	0:22 <0.1%	2:14 0.2%
21.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	6:42 0.7%	8:56 0.9%	5:12 0.6%	12:14 1.2%
22.	Formal business (including tributes but excluding prayers and introductions)	4:56 0.5%	6:30 0.6%	2:10 0.3%	3:36 0.4%
23.	Adjournments during pleasure (breaks during a sitting)	5:03 0.5%	6:03 0.6%	3:20 0.4%	7:47 0.8%

		2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
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	450:26 48.2%	526:58 52.0%	406:23 49.3%	532:22 52.6%
2.	Public bills according to House the bill was introduced into:				
i)	Bills which started in the Lords	110:48 11.9%	167:54 16.6%	99:07 12%	130:34 12.9%
ii)	Bills which started in the Commons	339:38 36.4%	359:04 35.5%	307:16 37.3%	401:48 39.7%
3.	Public bills according to type:				
i)	Government bills	407:18 43.6%	489:57 48.4%	341:30 41.4%	489:13 48.4%
ii)	Private members' bills	43:08 4.6%	37:01 3.7%	64:53 7.9%	43:09 4.3%
4.	Time spent on each stage of bill proceedings (formal motions and notification of Royal Assent not included):				
i)	First reading—total	0:40 <0.1%	0:37 0.1%	0:35 <0.1%	0:29 <0.1%
ii)	Second reading—total	123:58 13.3%	117:31 11.6%	94:44 11.5%	114:21 11.3%
	Second reading according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	19:10 2.1%	25:25 2.5%	13:01 1.6%	17:57 1.8%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	68:35 7.3%	59:39 5.9%	53:46 6.5%	68:51 6.8%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	29:56 3.2%	27:26 2.7%	19:00 2.3%	15:46 1.6%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	6:17 0.7%	5:01 0.5%	8:57 1.1%	11:47 1.2%
iii)	Committee of the whole House stage—total excluding time in Grand Committee	177:38 19.0%	227:13 22.4%	145:49 17.7%	201:18 19.9%
	Committee stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	24:32 1.6%	50:18 5.0%	14:07 1.7%	44:21 4.4%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	148:24 15.9%	173:24 17.1%	104:29 12.7%	141:49 14.0%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	4:42 0.5%	3:02 0.3%	18:07 2.2%	1:55 0.2%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0	0:29 <0.1%	9:20 1.1%	13:13 1.3%

		2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
iv)	Report stage—total	122:32 13.1%	135:52 13.4%	133:32 16.2%	174:58 17.3%
	Report stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	22:29 2.4%	44:58 4.4%	21:29 2.6%	37:17 3.7%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	98:42 10.6%	90:39 9.0%	104:14 12.7%	137:41 13.6%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	1:21 0.1%	0:15 <0.1%	3:22 0.4%	0
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0	0	4:27 0.5%	0
v)	Third reading and passing—total	11:20	13:42 1.4%	16:16 2%	24:53 2.5%
	Third reading and passing according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	4:10 0.4%	3:51 0.4%	2:46 0.3%	5:14 0.5%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	7:02 0.8%	9:32 0.9%	12:11 1.5%	19:31 1.9%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0:02 <0.1%	0:06 <0.1%	1:06 0.1%	0:04 <0.1%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0:06 <0.1%	0:13 <0.1%	0:13 <0.1%	0:04 <0.1%
vi)	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons—total	13:52 1.5%	30:10 3.0%	15:09 1.8%	15:55 1.6%
	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	3:55 0.4%	11:57 1.2%	5:46 0.7%	7:35 0.7%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	9:57 1.1%	18:13 1.8%	9:23 1.1%	8:20 0.8%
	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.

		2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	34	39	80	92
	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	112:37	131:28	240:23	310:19
	Average length of Grand Committee sittings	3:19	3:22	3:00	3:22
1.	Number of public bill committee stages taken in Grand Committee	7	6	5	9
	Time spent	61:18 54.4%	51:34 39.2%	100:07 41.6%	148:01 47.7%
2.	Number of Law Commission bill second reading debates taken in Grand Committee	1	0	1	1
	Time spent	1:34 1.4%	0	0:32 0.2%	1:39 0.5%
3.	Number of delegated legislation instruments considered in Grand Committee	66	90	286	174
	Time spent	20:50 18%	27:49 21.2%	79:35 33.1%	56:57 18.4%
4.	Number of debates taken in Grand Committee	24	44	57	92
	Time spent	26:28 23.5%	48:01 36.5%	51:17 21.3%	90:12 29.1%
i)	Number of questions for short debate taken in Grand Committee	20	37	54	84
	Time spent	18:30 16.4%	34:11 26.0%	46:04 19.1%	76:41 24.7%
ii)	Number of debates on select committee reports taken in Grand Committee	4	4	2	8
	Time spent	7:58 7.1%	5:39 4.3%	4:18 1.8%	12:25 4%
iii)	Number of other debates	0	3	1	2
	Time spent	0	8:11 6.2%	0:55 0.4%	3:03 1%
5.	Other	2:26 2.2%	4:04 3.1%	8:05 3.4%	13:30 4.35%
i)	Formal business	0:02 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1%
ii)	Adjournments (breaks during a sitting)*	2:25 2.1%	4:02 3.1%	8:03 3.7%	13:28 4.33%

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

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE AT THE END OF SESSION 2016–17 (27 April 2017)

By Party/Group

Party/Group	Life peers	Excepted hereditary peers*	Bishops	Total
Conservative	204	49	0	253
Labour	197	4	0	201
Liberal Democrat	98	4	0	102
Crossbench	145	32	0	177
Archbishops and bishops	0	0	25	25
Other parties	13	1	0	14
Non-affiliated (current member)	30	0	0	30
TOTAL	687	90	25	802

NB The table above excludes 25 peers on leave of absence and 8 disqualified as senior members of the judiciary.

* 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	23	2	25
Life peers under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876	14	1	15
Life peers under the Life Peerages Act 1958	489	214	703
Excepted hereditary peers under the House of Lords Act 1999	91	1	92
TOTAL	617	218	835