



# HOUSE OF LORDS

## STATISTICS ON BUSINESS AND MEMBERSHIP

Session 2017–19: 21 June 2017 to 8 October 2019

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#### **Dates of sessions:**

2017–19	21 June 2017 to 8 October 2019
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

Times are shown in the form hours:minutes

# BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

		2017-19	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
<b>SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE IN THE SESSION</b>					
1.	Number of sitting days (excluding days when the House sat for swearing-in only)	350	141	149	126
2.	Number of weeks during which the House sat	88	35	37	31
3.	Number of hours for which the chamber sat	2177:49	934:11	1012:42	823:54
4.	Average length of sittings in the chamber	6:13	6:38	6:48	6:32
5.	Number of sittings continuing beyond 10 pm	52	31	53	34
6.	Number of sittings continuing to midnight and beyond	10	2	2	0
7.	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	67	34	39	80
8.	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	204:24	112:37	131:28	240:23
9.	Number of Friday sittings	23	11	10	13
10.	Average daily attendance	458	484	497	483
<b>DIVISIONS (VOTES) IN THE SESSION</b>					
1.	Number of divisions	138	77	113 <sup>1</sup>	60
2.	Average number of members voting per division	360	396	365	347
3.	Government victories in divisions	31 22.5%	37 48%	53 47%	42 70%
4.	Government defeats in divisions	69 50%	38 49%	60 53%	11 18%
5.	Unwhipped divisions	38 27.5%	2 3%	0	7 12%
<b>BUSINESS IN THE SESSION</b>					
1.	Total sitting time in the chamber and in Grand Committees	2382:13	1,046:48	1,154:10	1,064:17
(a)	Bills	743:44 31.2%	513:22 49.0%	578:38 50.6%	507:02 47.6%
(b)	Delegated legislation	293:04 12.3%	64:41 6.2%	62:17 5.4%	107:10 6.7%
(c)	Debates	861:01 36.1%	327:10 31.3%	345:50 30.2%	325:17 30.6%
(d)	Other	484:24 20.3%	141:35 13.5%	157:25 13.8%	124:48 11.7%

<sup>1</sup> The statistics about divisions exclude one inquorate division.

# BUSINESS IN THE CHAMBER

		2017-19	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
<b>QUESTIONS — Number of:</b>					
1.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling 30 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday)	1291	508	548	444
2.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 10 minutes of questions and answers)	70	19	5	2
3.	Questions for written answer	18,198	6,872	8,294	5,943
<b>DEBATES — Number of motions in each category:</b>					
1.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	85	32	32	26
2.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot and time-limited to 2, 2½ or 3 hours)	25	12	8	10
3.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	18 <sup>2</sup>	0	0	3
4.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	32	8 <sup>3</sup>	16	9
5.	Questions for short debate—total	134	64	70	65
i)	Taken in normal time	62	23	29	36
ii)	Taken in a dinner/lunch break	40	32	33	20
iii)	Topical	32	9	8	9
6.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	69	26	14	21
i)	On European Union Committee reports	29	14	7	10
ii)	On other non-domestic select committee reports	38	12	7	11
7.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	16	3	9	3
8.	Motions to consider domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations and consequential motions	0	8	10	11
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	2 <sup>4</sup>	0	1	0
<b>STATEMENTS — Number of:</b>					
1.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	399	93	90	71
2.	Written statements	1818	614	707	962

<sup>2</sup> Includes the debate of the Report from the Lord Speaker’s committee on the size of the House

<sup>3</sup> A debate on the outcome of the European Union referendum took place over two days.

<sup>4</sup> On the occasion of HRH Prince Charles’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, the House presented an Address to HM the Queen and a message to HRH Prince Charles

		2017-19	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
	<b>DELEGATED LEGISLATION — Number of:</b>				
1.	Motions to approve affirmative instruments	565 <sup>5</sup>	141	108	315
2.	Motions to annul negative instruments	0	1	4	1
3.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	31	8	9	8
	<b>THE TIME OF THE HOUSE was spent approximately as follows (with percentages of total sitting time):</b>				
1.	Prayers (around six minutes at the start of each sitting day)	36:04 1.7%	14:40 1.6%	15:48 1.6%	14:03 1.7%
2.	Introductions of new members	2:33 0.1%	1:23 0.1%	5:02 0.5%	2:44 0.3%
3.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling 30 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday)	164:56 7.6%	4:50 6.9%	69:44 6.9%	56:26 6.9%
4.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 10 minutes of questions and answers)	12:39 0.6%	3:23 0.4%	0:52 0.1%	0:27 0.1%
5.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	196:47 9%	78:46 8.2%	75:45 7.5%	67:00 8.1%
6.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot)	61:28 2.8%	24:42 2.6%	18:09 1.8%	23:00 2.8%
7.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	61:30 2.8%	0 0%	0 0%	12:51 1.6%
8.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	133:39 6.1%	38:58 4.2%	60:27 6.0%	38:18 4.6%
9.	Questions for short debate—total	147:20 6.8%	66:41 7.1%	71:51 7.1%	64:52 7.9%
i)	Taken in normal time	77:33 3.7%	26:47 2.9%	32:49 3.2%	38:01 4.6%
ii)	Taken in the dinner/lunch break	39:50 1.8%	31:35 3.4%	31:23 3.1%	18:33 2.3%
iii)	Topical	29:57 1.4%	8:19 0.9%	7:39 0.8%	8:18 1%
10.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	142:17 6.5%	56:23 6.0%	29:11 2.9%	47:42 5.8%
i)	On European Union Committee reports	60:20 2.8%	29:31 3.2%	9:31 0.9%	19:47 2.4%
ii)	On Science and Technology Committee reports	9:11 0.4%	3:32 0.4%	2:19 0.2%	1:32 0.2%
iii)	On Economic Affairs Committee reports	12:14 0.6%	3:21 0.4%	3:35 0.4%	3:59 0.5%
iv)	On Constitution Committee reports	6:07 0.3%	3:37 0.4%	2:15 0.2%	6:08 0.7%

<sup>5</sup> The Animal Health, Plant Health, Seeds and Seed Potatoes (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 was laid on two different dates, as one needed to be withdrawn and debated again under the emergency procedure.

		2017-19	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
v)	On Communications Committee reports	8:51 0.4%	2:06 0.2%	6:06 0.6%	2:26 0.3%
vi)	On International Relations and Defence Committee reports	15:13 0.7%	2:28 0.3%	-	-
vii)	On reports of special inquiry committees	30:20 1.4%	11:48 1.3%	5:25 0.5%	13:50 1.7%
11.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	14:50 0.7%	8:24 0.9%	4:02 0.4%	7:06 0.9%
12.	Motions to agree domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations	10:16 0.5%	1:09 0.1%	1:22 0.1%	1:02 0.1%
13.	Motion for an Address on the Queen's Speech	29:05 1.3%	28:07 3.0%	36:35 3.6%	28:44 3.5%
14.	Motions for an Address not on the Queen's Speech and not on delegated legislation	0:30 <0.1%	0	0:27 <0.1%	0
15.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	180:56 8.3%	44:53 4.8%	48:38 4.8%	34:43 4.2%
16.	Church of England Measures	01:04 0.1%	0	0:43 0.1%	1:55 0.2%
17.	Public bills (details on pages 5–6)	704:33 32.4%	450:26 48.2%	526:58 52.0%	406:23 49.3%
18.	Private bills	00:09 <0.1%	0:04 <0.1%	0:06 <0.1%	0
19.	Approval of affirmative instruments	168:39 7.7%	35:33 3.8%	17:31 1.7%	22:01 2.7%
20.	Motions to annul negative instruments	0 0%	1:36 0.2%	8:01 0.8%	0:22 <0.1%
21.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	28:10 1.3%	6:42 0.7%	8:56 0.9%	5:12 0.6%
22.	Formal business (including tributes and excluding prayers and introductions)	33:18 1.5%	4:56 0.5%	6:30 0.6%	2:10 0.3%
23.	Adjournments during pleasure (breaks during a sitting)	46:45 2.2%	5:03 0.5%	6:03 0.6%	3:20 0.4%

		2017-19	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
<b>PUBLIC BILLS</b> (excludes time spent in Grand Committee—see page 7)					
The time spent on bills (with percentages of total sitting time) was as follows:					
<b>1.</b>	Public bills—total	704:33 32%	450:26 48.2%	526:58 52.0%	406:23 49.3%
<b>2.</b>	Public bills according to House the bill was introduced into:				
<b>i)</b>	Bills which started in the Lords	284:36 13.1%	110:48 11.9%	167:54 16.6%	99:07 12%
<b>ii)</b>	Bills which started in the Commons	419:57 19.3%	339:38 36.4%	359:04 35.5%	307:16 37.3%
<b>3.</b>	Public bills according to type:				
<b>i)</b>	Government bills	599:14 27.5%	407:18 43.6%	489:57 48.4%	341:30 41.4%
<b>ii)</b>	Private members' bills	105:19 4.8%	43:08 4.6%	37:01 3.7%	64:53 7.9%
<b>4.</b>	Time spent on each stage of bill proceedings (formal motions and notification of Royal Assent not included):				
<b>i)</b>	First reading—total	01:08 0.1%	0:40 <0.1%	0:37 0.1%	0:35 <0.1%
<b>ii)</b>	Second reading—total	207:20 9.5%	123:58 13.3%	117:31 11.6%	94:44 11.5%
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	41:39 1.9%	19:10 2.1%	25:25 2.5%	13:01 1.6%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	88:13 4.1%	68:35 7.3%	59:39 5.9%	53:46 6.5%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	47:36 2.2%	29:56 3.2%	27:26 2.7%	19:00 2.3%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	27:11 1.3%	6:17 0.7%	5:01 0.5%	8:57 1.1%
<b>iii)</b>	Committee of the whole House stage—total excluding time in Grand Committee	297:31 13.7%	177:38 19.0%	227:13 22.4%	145:49 17.7%
	Committee stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	94:37 4.3%	24:32 1.6%	50:18 5.0%	14:07 1.7%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	181:26 8.3%	148:24 15.9%	173:24 17.1%	104:29 12.7%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	14:23 0.7%	4:42 0.5%	3:02 0.3%	18:07 2.2%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	07:05 0.3%	0	0:29 <0.1%	9:20 1.1%

		2017-19	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
<b>iv)</b>	Report stage—total	160:04 7.4%	22:32 13.1%	135:52 13.4%	133:32 16.2%
	Report stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	60:31 2.8%	22:29 2.4%	44:58 4.4%	21:29 2.6%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	92:23 4.2%	98:42 10.6%	90:39 9.0%	104:14 12.7%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	03:24 0.2%	1:21 0.1%	0:15 <0.1%	3:22 0.4%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	03:46 0.2%	0	0	4:27 0.5%
<b>v)</b>	Third reading and passing—total	17:00 0.8%	11:20 1.2%	13:42 1.4%	16:16 2%
	Third reading and passing according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	06:41 0.3%	4:10 0.4%	3:51 0.4%	2:46 0.3%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	09:30 0.4%	7:02 0.8%	9:32 0.9%	12:11 1.5%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	00:07 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1%	0:06 <0.1%	1:06 0.1%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	00:42 <0.1%	0:06 <0.1%	0:13 <0.1%	0:13 <0.1%
<b>vi)</b>	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons—total	20:44 1%	13:52 1.5%	30:10 3.0%	15:09 1.8%
	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	14:32 0.7%	3:55 0.4%	11:57 1.2%	5:46 0.7%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	06:12 0.3%	9:57 1.1%	18:13 1.8%	9:23 1.1%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

# BUSINESS IN GRAND COMMITTEES

Grand Committees, which meet in the Moses Room, operate for the consideration of various types of business, including committee stages of 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.

		2017-19	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	67	34	39	80
	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	204:24	112:37	131:28	240:23
	Average length of Grand Committee sittings	3:03	3:19	3:22	3:00
<b>1.</b>	Number of public bill committee stages taken in Grand Committee	13	7	6	5
	Time spent	37:47 19%	61:18 54.4%	51:34 39.2%	100:07 41.6%
<b>2.</b>	Number of Law Commission bill second reading debates taken in Grand Committee	1	1	0	1
	Time spent	01:24 0.7%	1:34 1.4%	0	0:32 0.2%
<b>3.</b>	Pieces of delegated legislation debated in Grand Committee	214 <sup>6</sup>	66	90	286
	Time spent	96:15 47.1%	20:50 18%	27:49 21.2%	79:35 33.1%
<b>4.</b>	Number of debates taken in Grand Committee	58	24	44	57
	Time spent	63:19 31%	26:28 23.5%	48:01 36.5%	51:17 21.3%
<b>i)</b>	Number of questions for short debate taken in Grand Committee	50	20	37	54
	Time spent	46:24 22.7%	18:30 16.4%	34:11 26.0%	46:04 19.1%
<b>ii)</b>	Number of debates on select committee reports taken in Grand Committee	1	4	4	2
	Time spent	2:23 1.2%	7:58 7.1%	5:39 4.3%	4:18 1.8%
<b>iii)</b>	Number of other debates	7	0	3	1
	Time spent	14:32 7.1%	0	8:11 6.2%	0:55 0.4%
<b>5.</b>	Other	5:39 2.8%	2:26 2.2%	4:04 3.1%	8:05 3.4%
<b>i)</b>	Formal business	0 0%	0:02 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1%
<b>ii)</b>	Adjournments (breaks during a sitting) <sup>7</sup>	5:39 2.8%	2:25 2.1%	4:02 3.1%	8:03 3.7%

<sup>7</sup> Adjournments in Grand Committees are usually for divisions in the chamber



## COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE AT THE END OF SESSION 2017-2019 (8 October 2019)

### By Party/Group

Party/Group	Life peers	Excepted hereditary peers	Bishops	Total
Conservative	191	46		<b>237</b>
Labour	175	4		<b>179</b>
Liberal Democrat	91	3		<b>94</b>
Crossbench	152	31		<b>183</b>
Archbishops and bishops			25	<b>25</b>
Other parties	16	0		<b>16</b>
Non-affiliated *	38	7		<b>45</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>779</b>

**NB** The table excludes 15 peers on leave of absence, 4 disqualified as senior members of the judiciary and 1 disqualified as a Member of the European Parliament.

\* Including the Lord Speaker

### By Type

	Men	Women	Total
Archbishops and bishops	20	5	<b>25</b>
Life peers under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876	11	1	<b>12</b>
Life peers under the Life Peerages Act 1958	461	209	<b>670</b>
Excepted hereditary peers under the House of Lords Act 1999	91	1	<b>92</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>799</b>