



STATISTICS ON BUSINESS AND MEMBERSHIP

Session 2019-2021: 19 December 2019 to 29 April 2021

In this session the House sat in virtual or hybrid format from 21 April 2020 onwards due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic Grand Committee did not meet between 24 March 2020 and 2 September 2020.

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NOTES

Dates of sessions:

2019-21	19 December to 29 April 2021
2019-19	14 October to 5 November 2019
2017-19	21 June 2017 to 8 October 2019
2016-17	18 May 2016 to 27 April 2017

Times are shown in the form hours:minutes

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

		2019-21	2019	2017-19	2016-17
SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of sitting days ¹ (excluding days when the House sat for swearing-in only)	224	15	350	141
2.	Number of weeks during which the House sat	57	4	88	35
3.	Number of hours for which the chamber sat	1642:41	89:29	2177:49	934:11
4.	Average length of sittings in the chamber	7:20	5:58	6:13	6:38
5.	Number of sittings continuing beyond 10 pm	40	2	52	31
6.	Number of sittings continuing to midnight and beyond	4	0	10	2
7.	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	88	2	67	34
8.	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	331:07	6:05	204:24	112:37
9.	Number of Friday sittings	13	0	23	11
10.	Average daily attendance	352 ²	471	458	484
DIVISIONS (VOTES) IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of divisions	173	1	138	77
2.	Average number of members voting per division	493 ³	336	360	396
3.	Government victories in divisions	53 31%	0	31 22.5%	37 48%
4.	Government defeats in divisions	114 66%	1 100%	69 50%	38 49%
5.	Unwhipped divisions	6 3.5%	0	38 27.5%	2 3%
BUSINESS IN THE SESSION					
1.	Total sitting time in the chamber and in Grand Committees	1973:48	95:27	2382:13	1,046:48
(a)	Bills	934:44 47.4%	10:35 11.1%	743:44 31.2%	513:22 49.0%
(b)	Delegated legislation	222:21 11.2%	11:49 12.4%	293:04 12.3%	64:41 6.2%
(c)	Debates	255:19 12.9%	48:11 50.4%	861:01 36.1%	327:10 31.3%
(d)	Other	561:24 28.4%	24:52 26.1%	484:24 20.3%	141:35 13.5%

¹ Includes a sitting on Saturday 19 October 2019

² The rules on attendance of the House were changed in light of Covid 19 guidance, so this average is not directly comparable with previous sessions. [Further information on the rule changes is available on the House of Lords Library pages](#)

³ Due to the Covid 19 pandemic House of Lords members [could vote remotely from 15 June 2020 so this average is not directly comparable with previous sessions](#)

BUSINESS IN THE CHAMBER

		2019-21	2019	2017-19	2016-17
QUESTIONS — Number of:					
1.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling up to 40 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday) ⁴	826	44	1291	508
2.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 15 minutes of questions and answers) ⁵	111	4	70	19
3.	Questions for written answer	15141	590	18,198	6,872
DEBATES — Number of motions in each category:					
1.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	18	0	85	32
2.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot and time-limited to 2, 2½ or 3 hours)	6	2	25	12
3.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	15	1	18 ⁶	0
4.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	12	4	32	8 ⁷
5.	Questions for short debate—total	25	2	134	64
i)	Taken in normal time	6	1	62	23
ii)	Taken in a dinner/lunch break	6	0	40	32
iii)	Topical	13	1	32	9
6.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	5	0	69	26
i)	On European Union Committee reports	3	0	29	14
ii)	On other non-domestic select committee reports	2	0	38	12
7.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	6	0	16	3
8.	Motions to consider domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations and consequential motions	24	0	0	8
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	2 ⁸	0
STATEMENTS — Number of:					
1.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	229	12	399	93
2.	Written statements	941	99	1818	614

⁴ Pre 21 April 2020 thirty minutes were allocated for Oral Questions

⁵ Pre 21 April 2020 ten minutes was allocated for each PNQ

⁶ Includes the debate of the Report from the Lord Speaker's committee on the size of the House

⁷ A debate on the outcome of the European Union referendum took place over two days.

⁸ On the occasion of HRH the Prince of Wales’s 70th birthday, the House presented an Address to HM the Queen and a message to HRH the Prince of Wales.

		2019-21	2019	2017-19	2016-17
DELEGATED LEGISLATION — Number of:					
1.	Motions to approve affirmative instruments	350 ⁹	22	565 ¹⁰	141
2.	Motions to annul negative instruments	1	0	0	1
3.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	13	0	31	8
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)	23:34 1.4%	1:46 2%	36:04 1.7%	14:40 1.6%
2.	Introductions of new members	4:54 0.3%	1:25 1.6%	2:33 0.1%	1:23 0.1%
3.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling 30 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday)	142:25 8.7%	5:34 6.2%	164:56 7.6%	4:50 6.9%
4.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 10 minutes of questions and answers)	27:38 1.7%	0:46 0.9%	12:39 0.6%	3:23 0.4%
5.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	44:56 2.7%	0 0%	196:47 9%	78:46 8.2%
6.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot)	12:13 0.7%	4:32 5.1%	61:28 2.8%	24:42 2.6%
7.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	23:17 1.4%	2:38 2.9%	61:30 2.8%	0 0%
8.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	27:33 1.7%	10:53 12.2%	133:39 6.1%	38:58 4.2%
9.	Questions for short debate—total	26:39 1.6%	2:22 2.6%	147:20 6.8%	66:41 7.1%
i)	Taken in normal time	7:44 0.5%	1:27 1.6%	77:33 3.7%	26:47 2.9%
ii)	Taken in the dinner/lunch break	6:30 0.4%	0 0%	39:50 1.8%	31:35 3.4%
iii)	Topical	12:25 0.76%	0:55 1%	29:57 1.4%	8:19 0.9%
10.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	8:32 0.5%	0 0%	142:17 6.5%	56:23 6.0%
i)	On European Union Committee reports ¹¹	4:03 0.2%	0 0%	60:20 2.8%	29:31 3.2%
ii)	On Science and Technology Committee reports	0 0%	0 0%	9:11 0.4%	3:32 0.4%
iii)	On Economic Affairs Committee reports	4:29 0.28%	0 0%	12:14 0.6%	3:21 0.4%
iv)	On Constitution Committee reports	0 0%	0 0%	6:07 0.3%	3:37 0.4%

⁹ Please see the SLSC Committee reports for details of duplicate/voided etc Statutory Instruments. Interim report on the Work of the Committee in Session 2019 21 <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld5801/ldselect/ldsecleg/200/20006.htm#footnote-035> <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld5801/ldselect/ldsecleg/200/20006.htm#footnote-038>

¹⁰ The Animal Health, Plant Health, Seeds and Seed Potatoes (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 was laid on two different dates, as the first needed to be withdrawn and the second was then debated under the emergency procedure.

¹¹ The European Union Committee’s last report was published on 26 March 2021, and the European Affairs Committee was appointed on 14 April 2021. The EU Committee’s reports were still being debated in the 2021/22 session.

		2019-22	2019	2017-19	2016-17
v)	On Communications Committee reports	0 0%	0 0%	8:51 0.4%	2:06 0.2%
vi)	On International Relations and Defence Committee reports	0 0%	0 0%	15:13 0.7%	2:28 0.3%
vii)	On reports of special inquiry committees	0 0%	0 0%	30:20 1.4%	11:48 1.3%
11.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	6:35 0.4%	0 0%	14:50 0.7%	8:24 0.9%
12.	Motions to agree domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations	9:11 0.6%	0 0%	10:16 0.5%	1:09 0.1%
13.	Motion for an Address on the Queen's Speech	21:14 1.3%	27:46 31%	29:05 1.3%	28:07 3.0%
14.	Motions for an Address not on the Queen's Speech nor on delegated legislation	5:51 0.4%	0 0%	0:30 <0.1%	0
15.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	116:56 7.1%	4:19 4.8%	180:56 8.3%	44:53 4.8%
16.	Church of England Measures	2:11 0.1%	0 0%	01:04 0.1%	0
17.	Treaties ¹²	6:34 0.4%	-	-	-
18.	Public bills (details on pages 5–6)	809:07 49.3%	10:35 11.8%	704:33 32.4%	450:26 48.2%
19.	Private bills	00:05 <0.1%	0 0%	00:09 <0.1%	0:04 <0.1%
20.	Approval of affirmative instruments	120:58 7.4%	5:46 6.4%	168:39 7.7%	35:33 3.8%
21.	Motions to annul negative instruments	1:37 0.1%	0 0%	0 0%	1:36 0.2%
22.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	12:33 0.8%	0 0%	28:10 1.3%	6:42 0.7%
23.	Formal business (including tributes and excluding prayers and introductions)	17:43 1.1%	1:27 1.6%	33:18 1.5%	4:56 0.5%
24.	Adjournments during pleasure (breaks during a sitting)	176:59 10.8%	9:40 10.8%	46:45 2.2%	5:03 0.5%

¹² Select Committee report debates on Treaties will be counted under item 10. Debates on non-domestic select committee reports as appropriate

		2019-21	2019	2017-19	2016-17
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	809:07 49.3%	10:35 ¹³ 11.83%	704:33 32%	450:26 48.2%
2.	Public bills according to House the bill was introduced into:				
i)	Bills which started in the Lords	108:53 6.6%	7:24 8.3%	284:36 13.1%	110:48 11.9%
ii)	Bills which started in the Commons	700:14 42.6%	3:11 3.6%	419:57 19.3%	339:38 36.4%
3.	Public bills according to type:				
i)	Government bills	788:39 48%	10:11 11.4%	599:14 27.5%	407:18 43.6%
ii)	Private members' bills	20:28 1.2%	0:24 0.4%	105:19 4.8%	43:08 4.6%
4.	Time spent on each stage of bill proceedings (formal motions and notification of Royal Assent not included):				
i)	First reading—total	1:01 0.6%	0:31 0.6%	01:08 0.1%	0:40 <0.1%
ii)	Second reading—total	160:46 9.8%	09:44 ¹⁴ 10.9%	207:20 9.5%	123:58 13.3%
	Second reading according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	22:46 1.4%	06:39 3.4%	41:39 1.9%	19:10 2.1%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	119:53 7.3%	03:05 3.4%	88:13 4.1%	68:35 7.3%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	10:17 0.6%	0 0%	47:36 2.2%	29:56 3.2%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	7:50 0.5%	0 0%	27:11 1.3%	6:17 0.7%
iii)	Committee of the whole House stage—total excluding time in Grand Committee	318:33 19.4%	0:03 ¹⁵ 0.1%	297:31 13.7%	177:38 19.0%
	Committee stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	35:48 2.2%	0 0%	94:37 4.3%	24:32 1.6%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	281:32 17.1%	0:03 0.1%	181:26 8.3%	148:24 15.9%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0	0	14:23	4:42

¹³ All bills that achieved Royal Assent this session had multiple stages in one day. The Birmingham Commonwealth Games Bill [HL] completed its Lords stages but did not complete its Commons stages.

¹⁴ Health Service Safety Investigations Bill [HL], Early Parliamentary General Election Bill and Historical Institutional Abuse (Northern Ireland) Bill [HL] had Second Readings on different days from the rest of their stages. Birmingham Commonwealth Games Bill [HL] and Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Bill [HL] are included here as they had Second reading: Committee stage: Report stage on one day.

¹⁵ Early Parliamentary General Election Bill included here as Committee stage: Report stage: Third reading on same day

		2019-21	2019	2017-19	2016-17
		0%	0%	0.7%	0.5%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	1:13 0.1%	0 0%	07:05 0.3%	0
iv)	Report stage—total	255:40 15.6%	0:09 0.2%	160:04 7.4%	22:32 13.1%
	Report stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	227:31 13.9%	0:09 0.2%	60:31 2.8%	22:29 2.4%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	28:09 1.7%	0 0%	92:23 4.2%	98:42 10.6%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	0 0%	03:24 0.2%	1:21 0.1%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	0 0%	03:46 0.2%	0
v)	Third reading and passing—total	12:40 0.8%	0:07 ¹⁶ 0.1%	17:00 0.8%	11:20 1.2%
	Third reading and passing according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	3:15 0.2%	0:07 0.1%	06:41 0.3%	4:10 0.4%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	9:09 0.6%	0 0%	09:30 0.4%	7:02 0.8%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	0 0%	00:07 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0:16 <0.1%	0 0%	00:42 <0.1%	0:06 <0.1%
vi)	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons—total	59:52 3.6%	0 0%	20:44 1%	13:52 1.5%
	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	7:36 0.5%	0 0%	14:32 0.7%	3:55 0.4%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	52:16 3.2%	0 0%	06:12 0.3%	9:57 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%

¹⁶ Birmingham Commonwealth Games Bill [HL] included here as had a distinct Third Reading on a different day to other stages

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.

		2019-21	2019	2017-19	2016-17
	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	88	2	67	34
	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	331:07	6:05	204:24	112:37
	Average length of Grand Committee sittings	3:46	3:03	3:03	3:19
1.	Number of public bill committee stages taken in Grand Committee ¹⁷	10	0	13	7
	Time spent	125:32 37.9%	0 0%	37:47 19%	61:18 54.4%
2.	Number of Law Commission bill second reading debates taken in Grand Committee	0	0	1	1
	Time spent	0	0 0%	01:24 0.7%	1:34 1.4%
3.	Pieces of delegated legislation debated in Grand Committee	170	14	214	66
	Time spent	87:13 26.3%	6:05 100%	96:15 47.1%	20:50 18%
4.	Treaties	1	-	-	-
	Time spent	1:23 0.4%	-	-	-
4.	Number of debates taken in Grand Committee	37	0	58	24
	Time spent	69:18 20.5%	0 0%	63:19 31%	26:28 23.5%
i)	Number of questions for short debate taken in Grand Committee	16	0	50	20
	Time spent	13:59 0.6%	0 0%	46:24 22.7%	18:30 16.4%
ii)	Number of debates on select committee reports taken in Grand Committee	12	0	1	4
	Time spent	25:14:00 1.1%	0 0%	2:23 1.2%	7:58 7.1%
iii)	Number of other debates	9	0	7	0
	Time spent	28:42 1.3%	0 0%	14:32 7.1%	0

¹⁷ Includes a Private Members Bill which had a Committee Stage on a Friday in GC

		2019-21	2019	2017-19	2016-17
5.	Other	49:04 2.1%	0 0%	5:39 2.8%	2:26 2.2%
i)	Formal business	4:45 0.2%	0 0%	0 0%	0:02 <0.1%
ii)	Adjournments (breaks during a sitting) ¹⁸	44:19 1.9%	0 0%	5:39 2.8%	2:25 2.1%

¹⁸ Adjournments in Grand Committees are usually for divisions in the chamber, also used in hybrid proceedings between items of business to allow members to enter and exit the room in a socially distant manner

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE AT THE END OF SESSION 2019 (29 April 2021)

By Party/Group

Party/Group	Life peers	Excepted hereditary peers	Bishops	Total
Conservative	215	44		259
Labour	172	3		175
Liberal Democrat	83	3		86
Crossbench	154	31		185
Archbishops and bishops			26	26
Other parties	13			13
Non-affiliated (current member) *	43	3		46
TOTAL	680	84	26	790

NB The table excludes 30 peers on leave of absence, 3 disqualified as senior members of the judiciary and 1 suspended member.

* Including the Lord Speaker

By Type

	Men	Women	Total
Archbishops and bishops	21	5	26
Life peers under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876	8	1	9
Life peers under the Life Peerages Act 1958	479	223	702
Excepted hereditary peers under the House of Lords Act 1999	87	0	87
TOTAL	595	229	824