



STATISTICS ON BUSINESS AND MEMBERSHIP

Session 2019: 14 October 2019 to 5 November 2019

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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Dates of sessions:

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
2015-16	27 May 2015 to 12 May 2016

Times are shown in the form hours:minutes

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

		2019	2017-19	2016-17	2015-16
SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of sitting days ¹ (excluding days when the House sat for swearing-in only)	15	350	141	149
2.	Number of weeks during which the House sat	4	88	35	37
3.	Number of hours for which the chamber sat	89:29	2177:49	934:11	1012:42
4.	Average length of sittings in the chamber	5:58	6:13	6:38	6:48
5.	Number of sittings continuing beyond 10 pm	2	52	31	53
6.	Number of sittings continuing to midnight and beyond	0	10	2	2
7.	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	2	67	34	39
8.	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	6:05	204:24	112:37	131:28
9.	Number of Friday sittings	0	23	11	10
10.	Average daily attendance	471	458	484	497
DIVISIONS (VOTES) IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of divisions	1	138	77	113 ²
2.	Average number of members voting per division	336	360	396	365
3.	Government victories in divisions	0	31 22.5%	37 48%	53 47%
4.	Government defeats in divisions	1 100%	69 50%	38 49%	60 53%
5.	Unwhipped divisions	0	38 27.5%	2 3%	0
BUSINESS IN THE SESSION					
1.	Total sitting time in the chamber and in Grand Committees	95:27	2382:13	1,046:48	1,154:10
(a)	Bills	10:35 11.1%	743:44 31.2%	513:22 49.0%	578:38 50.6%
(b)	Delegated legislation	11:49 12.4%	293:04 12.3%	64:41 6.2%	62:17 5.4%
(c)	Debates	48:11 50.4%	861:01 36.1%	327:10 31.3%	345:50 30.2%
(d)	Other	24:52 26.1%	484:24 20.3%	141:35 13.5%	157:25 13.8%

¹ Includes a sitting on Saturday 19 October 201

² The statistics about divisions exclude one inquorate division.

BUSINESS IN THE CHAMBE

		2019	2017-19	2016-17	2015-16
QUESTIONS — Number of:					
1.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling 30 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday)	44	1291	508	548
2.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 10 minutes of questions and answers)	4	70	19	5
3.	Questions for written answer	590	18,198	6,872	8,294
DEBATES — Number of motions in each category:					
1.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	0	85	32	32
2.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot and time-limited to 2, 2½ or 3 hours)	2	25	12	8
3.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	1	18 ³	0	0
4.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	4	32	8 ⁴	16
5.	Questions for short debate—total	2	134	64	70
i)	Taken in normal time	1	62	23	29
ii)	Taken in a dinner/lunch break	0	40	32	33
iii)	Topical	1	32	9	8
6.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	0	69	26	14
i)	On European Union Committee reports	0	29	14	7
ii)	On other non-domestic select committee reports	0	38	12	7
7.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	0	16	3	9
8.	Motions to consider domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations and consequential motions	0	0	8	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	0	2 ⁵	0	1
STATEMENTS — Number of:					
1.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	12	399	93	90
2.	Written statements	99	1818	614	707

³ Includes the debate of the Report from the Lord Speaker’s committee on the size of the House

⁴ A debate on the outcome of the European Union referendum took place over two days.

⁵ On the occasion of HRH Prince Charles’s 70th birthday, the House presented an Address to HM the Queen and a message to HRH Prince Charles

		2019	2017-19	2016-17	2015-16
DELEGATED LEGISLATION — Number of:					
1.	Motions to approve affirmative instruments	22	565 ⁶	141	108
2.	Motions to annul negative instruments	0	0	1	4
3.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	0	31	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)	1:46 2%	36:04 1.7%	14:40 1.6%	15:48 1.6%
2.	Introductions of new members	1:25 1.6%	2:33 0.1%	1:23 0.1%	5:02 0.5%
3.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling 30 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday)	5:34 6.2%	164:56 7.6%	4:50 6.9%	69:44 6.9%
4.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 10 minutes of questions and answers)	0:46 0.9%	12:39 0.6%	3:23 0.4%	0:52 0.1%
5.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	0 0%	196:47 9%	78:46 8.2%	75:45 7.5%
6.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot)	4:32 5.1%	61:28 2.8%	24:42 2.6%	18:09 1.8%
7.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	2:38 2.9%	61:30 2.8%	0 0%	0 0%
8.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	10:53 12.2%	133:39 6.1%	38:58 4.2%	60:27 6.0%
9.	Questions for short debate—total	2:22 2.6%	147:20 6.8%	66:41 7.1%	71:51 7.1%
i)	Taken in normal time	1:27 1.6%	77:33 3.7%	26:47 2.9%	32:49 3.2%
ii)	Taken in the dinner/lunch break	0 0%	39:50 1.8%	31:35 3.4%	31:23 3.1%
iii)	Topical	0:55 1%	29:57 1.4%	8:19 0.9%	7:39 0.8%
10.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	0 0%	142:17 6.5%	56:23 6.0%	29:11 2.9%
i)	On European Union Committee reports	0 0%	60:20 2.8%	29:31 3.2%	9:31 0.9%
ii)	On Science and Technology Committee reports	0 0%	9:11 0.4%	3:32 0.4%	2:19 0.2%
iii)	On Economic Affairs Committee reports	0 0%	12:14 0.6%	3:21 0.4%	3:35 0.4%
iv)	On Constitution Committee reports	0 0%	6:07 0.3%	3:37 0.4%	2:15 0.2%

⁶ 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.

		2019	2017-19	2016-17	2015-16
v)	On Communications Committee reports	0 0%	8:51 0.4%	2:06 0.2%	6:06 0.6%
vi)	On International Relations and Defence Committee reports	0 0%	15:13 0.7%	2:28 0.3%	-
vii)	On reports of special inquiry committees	0 0%	30:20 1.4%	11:48 1.3%	5:25 0.5%
11.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	0 0%	14:50 0.7%	8:24 0.9%	4:02 0.4%
12.	Motions to agree domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations	0 0%	10:16 0.5%	1:09 0.1%	1:22 0.1%
13.	Motion for an Address on the Queen's Speech	27:46 31%	29:05 1.3%	28:07 3.0%	36:35 3.6%
14.	Motions for an Address not on the Queen's Speech nor on delegated legislation	0 0%	0:30 <0.1%	0	0:27 <0.1%
15.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	4:19 4.8%	180:56 8.3%	44:53 4.8%	48:38 4.8%
16.	Church of England Measures	0 0%	01:04 0.1%	0	0:43 0.1%
17.	Public bills (details on pages 5–6)	10:35 11.8%	704:33 32.4%	450:26 48.2%	526:58 52.0%
18.	Private bills	0 0%	00:09 <0.1%	0:04 <0.1%	0:06 <0.1%
19.	Approval of affirmative instruments	5:46 6.4%	168:39 7.7%	35:33 3.8%	17:31 1.7%
20.	Motions to annul negative instruments	0 0%	0 0%	1:36 0.2%	8:01 0.8%
21.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	0 0%	28:10 1.3%	6:42 0.7%	8:56 0.9%
22.	Formal business (including tributes and excluding prayers and introductions)	1:27 1.6%	33:18 1.5%	4:56 0.5%	6:30 0.6%
23.	Adjournments during pleasure (breaks during a sitting)	9:40 10.8%	46:45 2.2%	5:03 0.5%	6:03 0.6%

		2019	2017-19	2016-17	2015-16
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	10:35 ⁷ 11.83%	704:33 32%	450:26 48.2%	526:58 52.0%
2.	Public bills according to House the bill was introduced into:				
i)	Bills which started in the Lords	7:24 8.3%	284:36 13.1%	110:48 11.9%	167:54 16.6%
ii)	Bills which started in the Commons	3:11 3.6%	419:57 19.3%	339:38 36.4%	359:04 35.5%
3.	Public bills according to type:				
i)	Government bills	10:11 11.4%	599:14 27.5%	407:18 43.6%	489:57 48.4%
ii)	Private members' bills	0:24 0.4%	105:19 4.8%	43:08 4.6%	37:01 3.7%
4.	Time spent on each stage of bill proceedings (formal motions and notification of Royal Assent not included):				
i)	First reading—total	0:31 0.6%	01:08 0.1%	0:40 <0.1%	0:37 0.1%
ii)	Second reading—total	09:44 ⁸ 10.9%	207:20 9.5%	123:58 13.3%	117:31 11.6%
	Second reading according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	06:39 3.4%	41:39 1.9%	19:10 2.1%	25:25 2.5%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	03:05 3.4%	88:13 4.1%	68:35 7.3%	59:39 5.9%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	47:36 2.2%	29:56 3.2%	27:26 2.7%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	27:11 1.3%	6:17 0.7%	5:01 0.5%
iii)	Committee of the whole House stage—total excluding time in Grand Committee	0:03 ⁹ 0.1%	297:31 13.7%	177:38 19.0%	227:13 22.4%

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ Early Parliamentary General Election Bill included here as Committee stage: Report stage: Third reading on same day

		2019	2017-19	2016-17	2015-16
	Committee stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	94:37 4.3%	24:32 1.6%	50:18 5.0%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	0:03 0.1%	181:26 8.3%	148:24 15.9%	173:24 17.1%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	14:23 0.7%	4:42 0.5%	3:02 0.3%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	07:05 0.3%	0	0:29 <0.1%
iv)	Report stage—total	0:09 0.2%	160:04 7.4%	22:32 13.1%	135:52 13.4%
	Report stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	0:09 0.2%	60:31 2.8%	22:29 2.4%	44:58 4.4%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	92:23 4.2%	98:42 10.6%	90:39 9.0%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	03:24 0.2%	1:21 0.1%	0:15 <0.1%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	03:46 0.2%	0	0
v)	Third reading and passing—total	0:07 ¹⁰ 0.1%	17:00 0.8%	11:20 1.2%	13:42 1.4%
	Third reading and passing according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	0:07 0.1%	06:41 0.3%	4:10 0.4%	3:51 0.4%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	09:30 0.4%	7:02 0.8%	9:32 0.9%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	00:07 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1	0:06 <0.1%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	00:42 <0.1%	0:06 <0.1%	0:13 <0.1%
vi)	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons—total	0 0%	20:44 1%	13:52 1.5%	30:10 3.0%
	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	14:32 0.7%	3:55 0.4%	11:57 1.2%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	06:12 0.3%	9:57 1.1%	18:13 1.8%
	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%

¹⁰ 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	2017-19	2016-17	2015-16
	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	2	67	34	39
	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	6:05	204:24	112:37	131:28
	Average length of Grand Committee sittings	3:03	3:03	3:19	3:22
1.	Number of public bill committee stages taken in Grand Committee	0	13	7	6
	Time spent	0 0%	37:47 19%	61:18 54.4%	51:34 39.2%
2.	Number of Law Commission bill second reading debates taken in Grand Committee	0	1	1	0
	Time spent	0 0%	01:24 0.7%	1:34 1.4%	0
3.	Pieces of delegated legislation debated in Grand Committee	14	214	66	90
	Time spent	6:05 100%	96:15 47.1%	20:50 18%	27:49 21.2%
4.	Number of debates taken in Grand Committee	0	58	24	44
	Time spent	0 0%	63:19 31%	26:28 23.5%	48:01 36.5%
i)	Number of questions for short debate taken in Grand Committee	0	50	20	37
	Time spent	0 0%	46:24 22.7%	18:30 16.4%	34:11 26.0%
ii)	Number of debates on select committee reports taken in Grand Committee	0	1	4	4
	Time spent	0 0%	2:23 1.2%	7:58 7.1%	5:39 4.3%
iii)	Number of other debates	0	7	0	3
	Time spent	0 0%	14:32 7.1%	0	8:11 6.2%
5.	Other	0 0%	5:39 2.8%	2:26 2.2%	4:04 3.1%
i)	Formal business	0 0%	0 0%	0:02 <0.1%	0:02 <0.1%
ii)	Adjournments (breaks during a sitting) ¹¹	0 0%	5:39 2.8%	2:25 2.1%	4:02 3.1%

¹¹ Adjournments in Grand Committees are usually for divisions in the chamber.

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE AT THE END OF SESSION 2019 (5 November 2019)

By Party/Group

Party/Group	Life peers	Excepted hereditary peers	Bishops	Total
Conservative	196	46	0	242
Labour	177	4	0	181
Liberal Democrat	91	3	0	94
Crossbench	155	31	0	186
Archbishops and bishops	0	0	26	26
Other parties	15	0	0	15
Non-affiliated (current member) *	41	7	0	48
TOTAL	675	91	26	792

NB The table excludes 14 peers on leave of absence, 5 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	21	5	26
Life peers under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876	10	1	11
Life peers under the Life Peerages Act 1958	469	214	683
Excepted hereditary peers under the House of Lords Act 1999	91	1	92
TOTAL	591	221	812