



STATISTICS ON BUSINESS AND MEMBERSHIP

Session 2021-2022: 11 May 2021 to 28 April 2022

In this session the House sat in hybrid format and the remote voting system was in use until 18 August 2021 due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

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Dates of sessions:

2021-22	11 May 2021 to 28 April 2022
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

Times are shown in the form hours:minutes

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

		2021-22	2019-21	2019	2017-19
SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of sitting days ¹ (excluding days when the House sat for swearing-in only)	156	222	15	350
2.	Number of weeks during which the House sat	37	57	4	88
3.	Number of hours for which the chamber sat	1198:53	1642:41	89:29	2177:49
4.	Average length of sittings in the chamber	7:41	7:20	5:58	6:13
5.	Number of sittings continuing beyond 10 pm	58	40	2	52
6.	Number of sittings continuing to midnight and beyond	9	4	0	10
7.	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	96	88	2	67
8.	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	292:58	331:07	6:05	204:24
9.	Number of Friday sittings	15	13	0	23
10.	Average daily attendance	367	352 ²	471	458
DIVISIONS (VOTES) IN THE SESSION					
1.	Number of divisions	210	173	1	138
2.	Average number of members voting per division	320 ³	493 ⁴	336	360
3.	Government victories in divisions	75 33.7%	53 31%	0	31 22.5%
4.	Government defeats in divisions	128 61%	114 66%	1 100%	69 50%
5.	Unwhipped divisions	7 3.3%	6 3.5%	0	38 27.5%
BUSINESS IN THE SESSION					
1.	Total sitting time in the chamber and in Grand Committees	1491:51	1973:48	95:27	2382:13
(a)	Bills	842:39 56.5%	934:44 47.4%	10:35 11.1%	743:44 31.2%
(b)	Delegated legislation	122:05 8.2%	222:21 11.2%	11:49 12.4%	293:04 12.3%
(c)	Debates	265:05 17.8%	255:19 12.9%	48:11 50.4%	861:01 36.1%
(d)	Other	262:02 17.6%	561:24 28.4%	24:52 26.1%	484:24 20.3%

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 other sessions. [Further information on the rule changes is available on the House of Lords Library pages.](#)

³ Due to the Covid 19 pandemic [the remote voting system was used in this session until 18 August 2021](#). This average is not directly comparable with other sessions

⁴ 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 other sessions.](#)

BUSINESS IN THE CHAMBER

		2021-22	2019-21	2019	2017-19
QUESTIONS — Number of:					
1.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling up to 40 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday) ⁵	569	826	44	1291
2.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 15 minutes of questions and answers) ⁶	40	111	4	70
3.	Questions for written answer	8,018	15,141	590	18,198
DEBATES — Number of motions in each category:					
1.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	21	18	0	85
2.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot and time-limited to 2, 2½ or 3 hours)	8	6	2	25
3.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	2	15	1	18 ⁷
4.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	3	12	4	32
5.	Questions for short debate—total	22	25	2	134
i)	Taken in normal time	0	6	1	62
ii)	Taken in a dinner/lunch break	12	6	0	40
iii)	Topical	10	13	1	32
6.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	9	5	0	69
i)	On European Union Committee reports	2	3	0	29
ii)	On other non-domestic select committee reports	7	2	0	38
7.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	3	6	0	16
8.	Motions to consider domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations and consequential motions	10	24	0	0
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	2 ⁸
STATEMENTS — Number of:					
1.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	159	229	12	399
2.	Written statements	777	941	99	1818

⁵ Until 21 April 2020 thirty minutes were allocated for Oral Questions

⁶ Until 21 April 2020 ten minutes were allocated for each PNQ

⁷ Includes the debate of the Report from the Lord Speaker's committee on the size of the House

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.

		2021-22	2019-21	2019	2017-19
DELEGATED LEGISLATION — Number of:					
1.	Motions to approve affirmative instruments	195	350 ⁹	22	565 ¹⁰
2.	Motions to annul negative instruments	4 ¹¹	1	0	0
3.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	20 ¹²	13	0	31
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)	16:29 1.4%	23:34 1.4%	1:46 2%	36:04 1.7%
2.	Introductions of new members	0:56 0.1%	4:54 0.3%	1:25 1.6%	2:33 0.1%
3.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling up to 40 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday) ¹³	99:06 8.3%	142:25 8.7%	5:34 6.2%	164:56 7.6%
4.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 15 minutes of questions and answers) ¹⁴	10:10 0.8%	27:38 1.7%	0:46 0.9%	12:39 0.6%
5.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	47:02 3.9%	44:56 2.7%	0 0%	196:47 9%
6.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot)	16:44 1.4%	12:13 0.7%	4:32 5.1%	61:28 2.8%
7.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	4:37 0.4%	23:17 1.4%	2:38 2.9%	61:30 2.8%
8.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	19:54 1.7%	27:33 1.7%	10:53 12.2%	133:39 6.1%
9.	Questions for short debate—total	19:48 1.7%	26:39 1.6%	2:22 2.6%	147:20 6.8%
i)	Taken in normal time	0 0%	7:44 0.5%	1:27 1.6%	77:33 3.7%
ii)	Taken in the dinner/lunch break	10:26 0.9%	6:30 0.4%	0 0%	39:50 1.8%
iii)	Topical	9:22 0.8%	12:25 0.76%	0:55 1%	29:57 1.4%
10.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total ¹⁵	15:49 1.3%	8:32 0.5%	0 0%	142:17 6.5%
i)	On European Union Committee reports ¹⁶	2:36 0.2%	4:03 0.2%	0 0%	60:20 2.8%
ii)	On Science and Technology Committee reports	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	9:11 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](#).

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 A deferred division took place on the [Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development etc.\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021](#). This meant that a humble address on this SI was moved twice and is included twice here.

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¹³ Before 21 April 2020 thirty minutes were allocated for Oral Questions.

¹⁴ Before 21 April 2020 ten minutes were allocated for each PNQ.

¹⁵ Five new sessional committees, the Built Environment Committee, Environment and Climate Change Committee, European Affairs Committee, Industry and Regulators Committee and a Justice and Home Affairs Committee were appointed in March 2021 and will be listed in the 2022-2023 Sessional Statistics as they had no reports debated in the Chamber this session.

¹⁶ The European Union Committee’s last report was published on 26 March 2021, and the committee was not reappointed at the start of the 2021-22 session, but its reports were still being debated in that session.

		2021-22	2019-21	2019	2017-19
iii)	On Economic Affairs Committee reports	0:05 <0.1%	4:29 0.28%	0 0%	12:14 0.6%
iv)	On Constitution Committee reports	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	6:07 0.3%
v)	On Communications Committee reports	2:40 0.2%	0 0%	0 0%	8:51 0.4%
vi)	On International Relations and Defence Committee reports	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	15:13 0.7%
vii)	On International Agreement Committee reports	1:13 0.1%	0 0%	-	-
viii)	On Public Service Committee reports	2:41 0.2%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
ix)	On reports of special inquiry committees	6:34 0.5%	0 0%	0 0%	30:20 1.4%
11.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House (including agreeing non-domestic select committee reports)	0:51 0.1%	6:35 0.4%	0 0%	14:50 0.7%
12.	Motions to agree domestic select committee reports, including accompanying recommendations	10:44 0.9%	9:11 0.6%	0 0%	10:16 0.5%
13.	Motion for an Address on the Queen's Speech	33:26 2.8%	21:14 1.3%	27:46 31%	29:05 1.3%
14.	Motions for an Address not on the Queen's Speech nor on delegated legislation	0 0%	5:51 0.4%	0 0%	0:30 <0.1%
15.	Ministerial statements made and debated in the House	73:29 6.1%	116:56 7.1%	4:19 4.8%	180:56 8.3%
16.	Church of England Measures	0:29 <0.1%	2:11 0.1%	0 0%	1:04 0.1%
17.	Treaties	1:35 0.1%	6:34 0.4%	-	-
18.	Public bills (details on pages 5–6)	746:07 62.2%	809:07 49.3%	10:35 11.8%	704:33 32.4%
19.	Private bills	0:04 <0.1%	0:05 <0.1%	0 0%	0:09 <0.1%
20.	Approval of affirmative instruments	22:16 1.9%	120:58 7.4%	5:46 6.4%	168:39 7.7%
21.	Motions to annul negative instruments	3:12 0.3%	1:37 0.1%	0 0%	0 0%
22.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	12:14 1%	12:33 0.8%	0 0%	28:10 1.3%
23.	Formal business (including tributes and excluding prayers and introductions)	7:20 0.6%	17:43 1.1%	1:27 1.6%	33:18 1.5%
24.	Adjournments during pleasure (breaks during a sitting)	36:31 3%	176:59 10.8%	9:40 10.8%	46:45 2.2%

		2021-22	2019-21	2019	2017-19
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	746:07 62.2%	809:07 49.3%	10:35 ¹⁷ 11.83%	704:33 32%
2.	Public bills according to House the bill was introduced into:				
i)	Bills which started in the Lords	140:24 11.7%	108:53 6.6%	7:24 8.3%	284:36 13.1%
ii)	Bills which started in the Commons	605:43 50.5%	700:14 42.6%	3:11 3.6%	419:57 19.3%
3.	Public bills according to type:				
i)	Government bills	697:37 58.2%	788:39 48%	10:11 11.4%	599:14 27.5%
ii)	Private members' bills	48:30 4.0%	20:28 1.2%	0:24 0.4%	105:19 4.8%
4.	Time spent on each stage of bill proceedings (formal motions and notification of Royal Assent not included):				
i)	First reading—total	0:56 <0.1%	1:01 0.6%	0:31 0.6%	1:08 0.1%
ii)	Second reading—total	148:52 12.4%	160:46 9.8%	9:44 ¹⁸ 10.9%	207:20 9.5%
	Second reading according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	23:35 2.0%	22:46 1.4%	6:39 3.4%	41:39 1.9%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	80:31 6.7%	119:53 7.3%	3:05 3.4%	88:13 4.1%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	37:02 3.1%	10:17 0.6%	0 0%	47:36 2.2%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	7:44 0.6%	7:50 0.5%	0 0%	27:11 1.3%
iii)	Committee of the whole House stage—total excluding time in Grand Committee	335:50 28.0%	318:33 19.4%	0:03 ¹⁹ 0.1%	297:31 13.7%
	Committee stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	37:58 3.2%	35:48 2.2%	0 0%	94:37 4.3%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	297:11 24.8%	281:32 17.1%	0:03 0.1%	181:26 8.3%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0:41 <0.1%	0 0%	0 0%	14:23 0.7%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	1:13 0.1%	0 0%	7:05 0.3%
iv)	Report stage—total	202:11 16.9%	255:40 15.6%	0:09 0.2%	160:04 7.4%

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ Early Parliamentary General Election Bill included here as Committee stage: Report stage: Third reading on same day.

		2021-22	2019-21	2019	2017-19
	Report stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	29:49 2.5%	227:31 13.9%	0:09 0.2%	60:31 2.8%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	172:22 14.4%	28:09 1.7%	0 0%	92:23 4.2%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3:24 0.2%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3:46 0.2%
v)	Third reading and passing—total	9:29 0.8%	12:40 0.8%	0:0720 0.1%	17:00 0.8%
	Third reading and passing according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	1:56 0.2%	3:15 0.2%	0:07 0.1%	6:41 0.3%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	5:24 0.5%	9:09 0.6%	0 0%	9:30 0.4%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	1:07 0.1%	0 0%	0 0%	0:07 <0.1%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	1:02 0.1%	0:16 <0.1%	0 0%	0:42 <0.1%
vi)	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons—total	47:55 4%	59:52 3.6%	0 0%	20:44 1%
	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	7:14 0.6%	7:36 0.5%	0 0%	14:32 0.7%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	40:41 3.4%	52:16 3.2%	0 0%	6:12 0.3%
	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%

²⁰ 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, as itemized below. All Lords may participate in Grand Committees and proceedings mirror those in the chamber on comparable business, save that no divisions may take place.

		2021-22	2019-21	2019	2017-19
	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	96	88	2	67
	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	292:58	331:07	6:05	204:24
	Average length of Grand Committee sittings	3:03	3:46	3:03	3:03
1.	Public bill committee stages taken in Grand Committee	14	10 ²¹	0	13
	Time spent	91:22 31.2%	125:32 37.9%	0 0%	37:47 19%
2.	Law Commission bill second reading debates in Grand Committee	1	0	0	1
	Time spent	2:17 0.8%	0	0 0%	1:24 0.7%
3.	Pieces of delegated legislation debated in Grand Committee	177	170	14	214
	Time spent	83:54 28.6%	87:13 26.3%	6:05 100%	96:15 47.1%
4.	Debates before Second Reading in Grand Committee	2	-	-	-
	Time spent	2:49 1%	-	-	-
5.	Debates on treaties in Grand Committee	0	1	-	-
	Time spent	0 0%	1:23 0.4%	-	-
6.	General debates in Grand Committee	63	37	0	58
	Time spent	94:35 32.3%	69:18 20.5%	0 0%	63:19 31%
i)	Questions for short debate taken in Grand Committee	33	16	0	50
	Time spent	29:57 1.5%	13:59 0.6%	0 0%	46:24 22.7%
ii)	Debates on select committee reports in Grand Committee	19	12	0	1
	Time spent	36:43 1.8%	25:14:00 1.1%	0 0%	2:23 1.2%
iii)	Other debates in Grand Committee	11	9	0	7
	Time spent	27:55 1.4%	28:42 1.3%	0 0%	14:32 7.1%
7.	Other	18:01 6.1%	49:04 2.1%	0 0%	5:39 2.8%
i)	Formal business in Grand Committee	0:53 <0.1%	4:45 0.2%	0 0%	0 0%
ii)	Adjournments (breaks during a sitting) in Grand Committee ²²	17:08	44:19	0	5:39

²¹ Includes a Private Members Bill which had a Committee Stage on a Friday in GC.

²² 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.

		2021-22	2019-21	2019	2017-19
		0.8%	1.9%	0%	2.8%

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE AT THE END OF SESSION 2021-22 (28 April 2022)

By Party/Group

Party/Group	Life peers	Excepted hereditary peers	Bishops	Total
Conservative	209	46		255
Labour	164	4		168
Liberal Democrat	80	3		83
Crossbench	149	34		183
Archbishops and bishops			25	25
Other parties	12	0		12
Non-affiliated (current member) *	36	2		38
TOTAL	650	89	25	764

NB The table excludes 41 peers on leave of absence, 3 disqualified as senior members of the judiciary and 1 suspended member.

* Including the Lord Speaker and Senior Deputy Speaker

By Type

	Men	Women	Total
Archbishops and bishops	20	5	25
Life peers under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876	8	1	9
Life peers under the Life Peerages Act 1958	461	223	684
Excepted hereditary peers under the House of Lords Act 1999	91	0	91
TOTAL	580	229	809