



## STATISTICS ON BUSINESS AND MEMBERSHIP

Session 2022-2023: 10 May 2022 to 26 October 2023<sup>1</sup>

### **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

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Sittings of the House and divisions (votes)

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### **BUSINESS IN THE CHAMBER**

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**Dates of sessions:**

**2022-23     10 May 2022 to 26 October 2023**

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

Times are shown in the form hours:minutes

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<sup>1</sup> **During this session Queen Elizabeth II died and King Charles III acceded to the throne.**

# BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

		2022-23	2021-22	2019-21	2019
<b>SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE IN THE SESSION</b>					
1.	Number of sitting days (excluding days when the House sat for swearing-in only)	220 <sup>2</sup>	156	222	15 <sup>3</sup>
2.	Number of weeks during which the House sat	52	37	57	4
3.	Number of hours for which the chamber sat	1471:42	1198:53	1642:41	89:29
4.	Average length of sittings in the chamber	6:41	7:41	7:20	5:58
5.	Number of sittings continuing beyond 10 pm	44	58	40	2
6.	Number of sittings continuing to midnight and beyond	5	9	4	0
7.	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	117	96	88	2
8.	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	327:18	292:58	331:07	6:05
9.	Number of Friday sittings	19	15	13	0
10.	Average daily attendance	397	367	352 <sup>4</sup>	471
<b>DIVISIONS (VOTES) IN THE SESSION</b>					
1.	Number of divisions	186	210	173	1
2.	Average number of members voting per division	352	320 <sup>5</sup>	493 <sup>6</sup>	336
3.	Government victories in divisions	55 29.6%	75 33.7%	53 31%	0
4.	Government defeats in divisions	125 67.2%	128 61%	114 66%	1 100%
5.	Unwhipped divisions	6 3.2%	7 3.3%	6 3.5%	0
<b>BUSINESS IN THE SESSION</b>					
1.	Total sitting time in the chamber and in Grand Committees	1799:00	1491:51	1973:48	95:27
(a)	Bills	904:24 50.3%	842:39 56.5%	934:44 47.4%	10:35 11.1%
(b)	Delegated legislation	164:16 9.1%	122:05 8.2%	222:21 11.2%	11:49 12.4%
(c)	Debates	381:10 21.2%	265:05 17.8%	55:19 12.9%	48:11 50.4%
(d)	Other	349:10 19.4%	262:02 17.6%	561:24 28.4%	24:52 26.1%

<sup>2</sup> The swearing in day on 12 September 2022 was not counted as a sitting day so is not included in these statistics.

<sup>3</sup> Includes a sitting on Saturday 19 October 2019.

<sup>4</sup> 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.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Due to the Covid 19 pandemic [the remote voting system was used in this session until 18 August 2021](#). This average is therefore not directly comparable with other sessions.

<sup>6</sup> 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

		2022-23	2021-22	2019-21	2019
<b>QUESTIONS — Number of:</b>					
1.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling up to 40 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday) <sup>7</sup>	788	569	826	44
2.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 15 minutes of questions and answers) <sup>8</sup>	37	40	111	4
3.	Questions for written answer	10,820	8,018	15,141	590
<b>DEBATES — Number of motions in each category:</b>					
1.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	32	21	18	0
2.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot and time-limited to 2, 2½ or 3 hours)	14	8	6	2
3.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	6	2	15	1
4.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	5	3	12	4
5.	Questions for short debate—total	40	22	25	2
i)	Taken in a dinner/lunch break	12	12	6	0
ii)	Taken at any other time <sup>9</sup>	12	0	6	1
iii)	Topical	16	10	13	1
6.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	28	9	5	0
i)	On sessional committee reports	23	6	5	0
ii)	On special inquiry committee reports	4	3	0	0
iii)	On reports by temporary committees	1 <sup>10</sup>	-	-	-
7.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House	0	3	6	0
8.	Motions to consider domestic select committee reports, including consequential motions	14	10	24	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 negative instruments	4	0	1	0
<b>STATEMENTS — Number of:</b>					
1.	Ministerial statements (oral) <sup>11</sup>	248	159	229	12
2.	Written statements	1085	777	941	99

<sup>7</sup> Until 21 April 2020 thirty minutes were allocated for Oral Questions.

<sup>8</sup> Until 21 April 2020 ten minutes were allocated for each PNQ.

<sup>9</sup> Previously listed as ‘Taken in normal time’.

<sup>10</sup> [The Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee was a temporary committee to fulfil a specific purpose.](#)

<sup>11</sup> Includes repeated Urgent Questions.

		2022-23	2021-22	2019-21	2019
	<b>DELEGATED LEGISLATION — Number of:</b>				
1.	Motions to approve affirmative instruments	288	195	350 <sup>12</sup>	22
2.	Motions to annul negative instruments	1	4 <sup>13</sup>	1	0
3.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	38	20 <sup>14</sup>	13	0
	<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)	23:42 1.6%	16:29 1.4%	23:34 1.4%	1:46 2%
2.	Introductions of new members	3:43 0.3%	0:56 0.1%	4:54 0.3%	1:25 1.6%
3.	Oral questions (up to four questions totalling up to 40 minutes are taken each day Monday – Thursday) <sup>15</sup>	137:02 9.3%	99:06 8.3%	142:25 8.7%	5:34 6.2%
4.	Private notice questions (oral questions on urgent matters, up to 15 minutes of questions and answers) <sup>16</sup>	9:48 0.7%	10:10 0.8%	27:38 1.7%	0:46 0.9%
5.	General back-bench debates (allocated by party/group)	73:55 5%	47:02 3.9%	44:56 2.7%	0 0%
6.	General back-bench debates (allocated by ballot)	31:00 2.1%	16:44 1.4%	2:13 0.7%	4:32 5.1%
7.	Other general back-bench debates (not on the normal debate day)	19:09 1.3%	4:37 0.4%	23:17 1.4%	2:38 2.9%
8.	General “take note” debates initiated by the Government	32:03 2.2%	19:54 1.7%	27:33 1.7%	10:53 12.2%
9.	Questions for short debate—total	38:26 2.6%	19:48 1.7%	26:39 1.6%	2:22 2.6%
i)	Taken in the dinner/lunch break	11:52 0.8%	10:26 0.9%	6:30 0.4%	0 0%
ii)	Taken at any other time <sup>17</sup>	12:15 0.8%	0 0%	7:44 0.5%	1:27 1.6%
iii)	Topical	14:19 1%	9:22 0.8%	12:25 0.76%	0:55 1%
10.	Debates on non-domestic select committee reports—total	56:22 3.8%	15:49 1.3%	8:32 0.5%	0 0%
i)	On sessional committee reports	46:05 3.1%	9:15 0.8%	8:32 0.5%	0 0%
ii)	On reports of special inquiry committees	8:29 0.58%	6:34 0.5%	0 0%	0 0%
iii)	On temporary committee reports	1:48 0.1%	-	-	-
11.	Motions to agree a resolution of the House	0 0%	0:51 0.1%	6:35 0.4%	0 0%

<sup>12</sup> 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](#).

<sup>13</sup> 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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<sup>15</sup> Before 21 April 2020 thirty minutes were allocated for Oral Questions.

<sup>16</sup> Before 21 April 2020 ten minutes were allocated for each PNQ.

<sup>17</sup> Previously listed as “Taken in normal time”.

		2022-23	2021-22	2019-21	2019
12.	Motions to agree domestic select committee reports, including consequential motions	7:31 0.5%	10:44 0.9%	9:11 0.6%	0 0%
13.	Motion for an Address on the Queen's Speech	29:53 2%	33:26 2.8%	21:14 1.3%	27:46 31%
14.	Motions for an Address not on the Queen's Speech or on negative instruments	2:46 0.2%	0 0%	5:51 0.4%	0 0%
15.	Ministerial statements (oral) <sup>18</sup>	101:02 6.9%	73:29 6.1%	116:56 7.1%	4:19 4.8%
16.	Church of England Measures	0:15 <0.1%	0:29 <0.1%	2:11 0.1%	0 0%
17.	Treaties	0 0%	1:35 0.1%	6:34 0.4%	-
18.	Public bills (details on pages 5–6)	780:55 53:1%	746:07 62.2%	809:07 49.3%	10:35 11.8%
19.	Private bills	1:47 0.1%	0:04 <0.1%	0:05 <0.1%	0 0%
20.	Approval of affirmative instruments	39:51 2.7%	22:16 1.9%	120:58 7.4%	5:46 6.4%
21.	Motions to annul negative instruments	1:52 0.1%	3:12 0.3%	1:37 0.1%	0 0%
22.	Other proceedings on delegated legislation	22:06 1.5%	12:14 1%	12:33 0.8%	0 0%
23.	Formal business (including tributes and excluding prayers and introductions)	25:52 <sup>19</sup> 1.8%	7:20 0.6%	17:43 1.1%	1:27 1.6%
24.	Adjournments during pleasure (breaks during a sitting)	32:20 <sup>20</sup> 2.2%	36:31 3%	176:59 10.8%	9:40 10.8%

<sup>18</sup> Includes repeated Urgent Questions.

<sup>19</sup> Includes oath taking to King Charles III.

<sup>20</sup> Adjournments in the 2022-23 session include [Lord Soley's Valedictory speech](#).

		2022-23	2021-22	2019-21	2019
<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	780:55 53.1%	746:07 62.2%	809:07 49.3%	10:35 11.83%
<b>2.</b>	Public bills according to House the bill was introduced into:				
<b>i)</b>	Bills which started in the Lords	145:25 9.9%	140:24 11.7%	108:53 6.6%	7:24 8.3%
<b>ii)</b>	Bills which started in the Commons	635:29 43.2%	605:43 50.5%	700:14 42.6%	3:11 3.6%
<b>3.</b>	Public bills according to type:				
<b>i)</b>	Government bills	723:02 49.1%	697:37 58.2%	788:39 48%	10:11 11.4%
<b>ii)</b>	Private members' bills	57:50 3.9%	48:30 4.0%	20:28 1.2%	0:24 0.4%
<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	1:11 0.1%	0:56 <0.1%	1:01 0.6%	0:31 0.6%
<b>ii)</b>	Second reading—total	169:18 11.5%	148:52 12.4%	160:46 9.8%	9:44 10.9%
	Second reading according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	23:30 1.6%	23:35 2.0%	22:46 1.4%	6:39 3.4%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	98:48 6.7%	80:31 6.7%	119:53 7.3%	3:05 3.4%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	24:38 1.7%	37:02 3.1%	10:17 0.6%	0 0%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	22:22 1.5%	7:44 0.6%	7:50 0.5%	0 0%
<b>iii)</b>	Committee of the whole House stage—total excluding time in Grand Committee	366:30 24.9%	335:50 28.0%	318:33 19.4%	0:03 0.1%
	Committee stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	46:24 3.2%	37:58 3.2%	35:48 2.2%	0 0%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	313:59 21.3%	297:11 24.8%	281:32 17.1%	0:03 0.1%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	1:58 0.1%	0:41 <0.1%	0 0%	0 0%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	4:09 0.3%	0 0%	1:13 0.1%	0 0%
<b>iv)</b>	Report stage—total	190:53 13%	202:11 16.9%	255:40 15.6%	0:09 0.2%
	Report stage according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	38:41 2.6%	29:49 2.5%	227:31 13.9%	0:09 0.2%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	152:08 10.3%	172:22 14.4%	28:09 1.7%	0 0%

		2022-23	2021-22	2019-21	2019
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	0:2 <0.1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	0:2 <0.1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>v)</b>	Third reading and passing—total	12:23 0.8%	9:29 0.8%	12:40 0.8%	0:07 0.1%
	Third reading and passing according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	1:36 0.1%	1:56 0.2%	3:15 0.2%	0:07 0.1%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	7:08 0.5%	5:24 0.5%	9:09 0.6%	0 0%
	c) Private members' bills which started in the Lords	1:29 0.1%	1:07 0.1%	0 0%	0 0%
	d) Private members' bills which started in the Commons	2:10 0.1%	1:02 0.1%	0:16 <0.1%	0 0%
<b>vi)</b>	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons—total	39:53 2.7%	47:55 4%	59:52 3.6%	0 0%
	Consideration of bills returned from the House of Commons according to type:				
	a) Government bills which started in the Lords	6:13 0.4%	7:14 0.6%	7:36 0.5%	0 0%
	b) Government bills which started in the Commons	33:40 2.3%	40:41 3.4%	52:16 3.2%	0 0%
	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, 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.

		2022-23	2021-22	2019-21	2019
	Number of days on which Grand Committees met	117	96	88	2
	Number of hours for which Grand Committees sat	327:18	292:58	331:07	6:05
	Average length of Grand Committee sittings	02:47	3:03	3:46	3:03
<b>1.</b>	Public bill committee stages taken in Grand Committee	10	14	10 <sup>21</sup>	0
	Time spent	120:30 36.8%	91:22 31.2%	125:32 37.9%	0 0%
<b>2.</b>	Law Commission bill second reading debates in Grand Committee	1	1	0	0
	Time spent	1:12 0.4%	2:17 0.8%	0	0 0%
<b>3.</b>	Pieces of delegated legislation debated in Grand Committee	231	177	170	14
	Time spent	100:27 30.7%	83:54 28.6%	87:13 26.3%	6:05 100%
<b>4.</b>	Debates before Second Reading in Grand Committee	0	2	-	-
	Time spent	0 0%	2:49 1%	-	-
<b>5.</b>	Debates on treaties in Grand Committee	0	0	1	-
	Time spent	0 0%	0 0%	1:23 0.4%	-
<b>6.</b>	General debates in Grand Committee	70	63	37	0
	Time spent	90:05 27.5%	94:35 32.3%	69:18 20.5%	0 0%
<b>i)</b>	Questions for short debate taken in Grand Committee	37	33	16	0
	Time spent	34:17 10.5%	29:57 1.5%	13:59 0.6%	0 0%
<b>ii)</b>	Debates on select committee reports in Grand Committee	28	19	12	0
	Time spent	46:17 14.1%	36:43 1.8%	25:14:00 1.1%	0 0%
<b>iii)</b>	Other debates in Grand Committee	5	11	9	0
	Time spent	9:31 2.9%	27:55 1.4%	28:42 1.3%	0 0%
<b>7.</b>	Other	15:04 4.6%	18:01 6.1%	49:04 2.1%	0 0%
<b>i)</b>	Formal business in Grand Committee	0:13 0.1%	0:53 <0.1%	4:45 0.2%	0 0%

<sup>21</sup> Includes a Private Members' Bill which had a Committee Stage on a Friday in Grand Committee.



		<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2019-21</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>ii)</b>	Adjournments (breaks during a sitting) in Grand Committee <sup>22</sup>	14:51 4.5%	17:08 0.8%	44:19 1.9%	0 0%

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<sup>22</sup> Adjournments in Grand Committees are usually for divisions in the chamber. They were also used between items of business in hybrid proceedings during the Covid 19 pandemic to allow members to enter and exit the room in a socially distanced manner.

## COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE AT THE END OF SESSION 2022-2023 (26 October 2023)

### By Party/Group

Party/Group	Life peers	Excepted hereditary peers	Bishops	Total
Conservative	222	45		<b>267</b>
Labour	167	4		<b>171</b>
Liberal Democrat	78	4		<b>82</b>
Crossbench	148	34		<b>182</b>
Archbishops and bishops			25	<b>25</b>
Other parties	13			<b>13</b>
Non-affiliated (current member) *	35	3		<b>38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>778</b>

**NB** The table excludes 38 peers on leave of absence, 2 disqualified as senior members of the judiciary and one suspended member.

\* Including the Lord Speaker and Senior Deputy Speaker

### By Type

	Men	Women	Total
Archbishops and bishops	19	6	<b>25</b>
Life peers under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876	7	1	<b>8</b>
Life peers under the Life Peerages Act 1958	465	231	<b>696</b>
Excepted hereditary peers under the House of Lords Act 1999	90	0	<b>90</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>819</b>