

The House of Lords is an essential part of the UK Parliament and one of the busiest legislative chambers in the world. Its members work on behalf of the UK public, using their professional experience and specialist knowledge to ensure workable laws, often persuading the government to make policy changes on a diverse range of issues.

Contents

Work of the House of Lords	1
Making effective laws	2
Advising, revising and scrutinising	3
Considering the small print	8
Holding the government to account	10
Influencing public policy	16
Building international relationships	22
Reaching out	26
Lords online	28
Facts and figures	29

Work of the House of Lords

This publication reviews the activities of members of the House of Lords during the 2010–12 parliamentary session which ran from 25 May 2010 to 1 May 2012.

It was an unusually long session due to the decision to move to a new parliamentary timetable, based on five-year parliaments, with each annual session starting in May. Because of the normal time required for a new government to develop its legislative proposals, the first session was extended, rather than curtailed, to match the new timetable.

During the 2010–12 session, members examined 80 bills on issues ranging from child poverty to immigration. They considered 10,031 amendments and 49 bills became law.



Making effective laws

Parliament's main job is to examine bills and approve new laws. The Lords plays a crucial role in the process, debating the main principles, scrutinising their content line by line and suggesting improvements. Members also help to ensure that all new laws are well drafted, effective and workable.

Creating law

The House of Lords shares responsibility for law-making with the House of Commons, and prior to becoming Acts of Parliament, bills (draft laws) are debated and scrutinised by both Houses. Bills go through set stages – where their purpose and detail can be examined – in both Houses before they receive royal assent (are signed off by the Queen) and become Acts of Parliament (law).

The House of Lords is known for rigorous scrutiny of the detail of a bill, working to address potential problems and close any loopholes to make better, more effective laws.

Its amendments may or may not be agreed by the House of Commons, but the Lords has a crucial ability to ask the government and Commons to think again and, in some cases, put forward alternative amendments in response.

The 2010–12 session

During the session, 42 bills were introduced into Parliament by the government and received royal assent, passing into law. In addition, seven private members' bills received royal assent. Of these, one started in the Lords and six in the Commons.

80

Bills handled

49

Bills received
royal assent

10,031

Amendments
tabled

2,496

Amendments
passed

Advising, revising and scrutinising

The 2010–12 session saw the coalition government propose several pieces of major social and constitutional legislation. Though the progress of these bills was not always straightforward, members of the House of Lords persuaded the government to make a number of policy changes.

Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011

(Royal assent: 16 February 2011)

This bill provided for the next General Election to be held under the Alternative Vote system if the change was endorsed in a referendum on 5 May 2011.

The bill also laid out new rules for the distribution of constituencies in the House of Commons which would cut the number of seats to 600 rather than the current 650. The rules gave priority to numerical equality as a principle, so that there would be a similar number of voters in each constituency. Regular redistributions would take place every five years.



‘Norman Fowler, the Thatcher government cabinet minister, says ex-ministers have to be “reasonably cautious” in speaking out on departmental issues. That didn’t stop him being behind the largest defeat the coalition has suffered in the Lords so far. He opposed the “rather silly” proposal to split the Isle of Wight into two – and won with a majority of 75.’

Total Politics



In the Lords

Labour peers’ opposition centred on the proposed boundary changes. They also supported an amendment insisting on a voter turnout threshold of 40 per cent for the result of the referendum on the voting system to be binding. Crossbenchers called for the independent Boundary Commission to be given the freedom to hold public inquiries on the proposed changes where necessary.

The bill took 17 days to go through the Lords – including one 20-hour overnight sitting – as agreement was sought.

The Labour amendment on 40 per cent turnout was overturned in the Commons but one amendment, put forward by Lord Fowler (Conservative), received cross-party support and was ultimately accepted by the government. The amendment ensured that the Isle of Wight, which, under the new proposals, faced being split into two constituencies with one linked to the mainland, should remain intact as one seat.

Public Bodies Act 2011

(Royal assent: 11 December 2011)

The Public Bodies Bill was a piece of largely 'enabling' legislation – meaning it would be the main legislative vehicle for taking forward the government's review of public bodies. It would allow ministers, by order, to abolish, merge or transfer the functions of certain public bodies without the need for further primary legislation by Parliament.

In the Lords

Peers challenged the constitutional implications of proposals that would give ministers the power to reform or even abolish public bodies with limited further parliamentary scrutiny.

Debate in the chamber focused on the potential for the bill to undermine the independence of valuable public bodies. One of the organisations under threat was the Youth Justice Board (YJB), set up in 1998 to provide custodial places for juvenile offenders in England and Wales with an emphasis on welfare, children's rights and addressing the causes of offending behaviour.

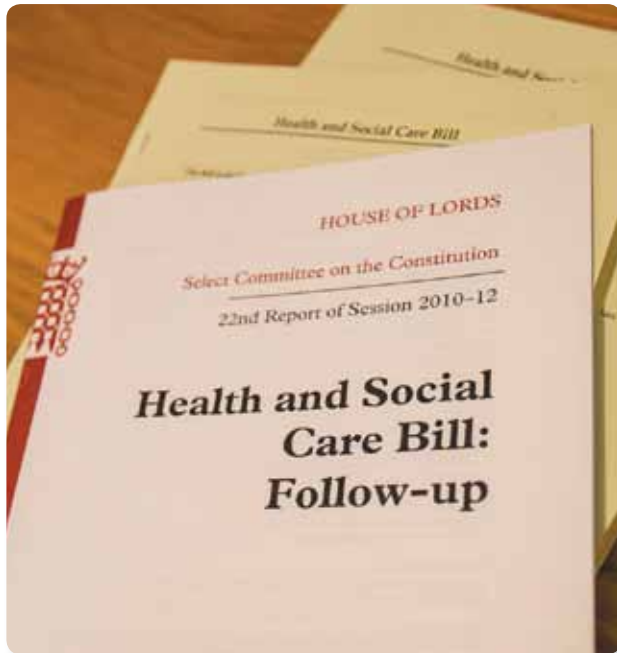
An amendment proposing that the YJB be removed from the list of public bodies facing closure was passed by a majority of 63 with support from all major political parties. Lords also voted to remove the position of Chief Coroner from the list.

In November 2011, the government announced it would no longer seek to abolish the post of Chief Coroner. Shortly afterwards it was confirmed that the YJB would also remain in place.



'Plans to abolish the Youth Justice Board have been abandoned amid fears the government faced a humiliating defeat by peers.'

The Daily Telegraph



Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Royal assent: 27 March 2012)

The Health and Social Care Bill set out the biggest proposed shake-up of the NHS since it was established in 1948. During its passage through the Lords, the value of the professional experience within the House was clear as many of the amendments were drafted by current medical practitioners and looked to address issues and omissions in the original bill.

In the Lords

The Health and Social Care Bill was eventually passed after more than a year of debate in both Houses. A Lords amendment at second reading to block the bill altogether was defeated by 354 votes to 220.

Before the bill reached report stage in the Lords in February 2012, the government had already accepted 137 changes after significant opposition from peers and MPs as well as from medical professionals and campaign groups.

During a 15-day committee stage, Lords voted in favour of amendments, including one which insisted on the parity of mental and physical illness.

In total, 374 amendments were agreed in the Lords and sent back to the Commons in March 2012. All were accepted before the bill received royal assent and became law.

'Building on the considerable changes voted in by MPs at report stage, the Lords amendments offer an alternative vision of public sector reform.'

Nuffield Trust

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012

(Royal assent: 1 May 2012)

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill put forward a wide range of reforms to the justice system, as well as major structural changes to the administration of legal aid. It aimed to trim £350m from the annual budget for civil legal aid.

In the Lords

The bill faced opposition as Lords voted against the government 11 times – more than any other bill put before Parliament during the 2010–12 session. Concerned that the proposals threatened access to justice for all members of society, peers inserted the phrase that individuals should have access to legal services that ‘effectively meet their needs’.

Lords also voted in favour of an amendment that exempted asbestos victims from the new no-win no-fee arrangements.

To address specific concerns about domestic violence, peers voted to extend the types of evidence accepted to allow victims to receive access to legal aid in domestic abuse cases.

When the bill returned to the Commons, MPs overturned all Lords amendments – using the ‘financial privilege’ rule which states that the Lords may not rule on financial matters – but made several significant changes, including broadening the definition of domestic violence for legal aid purposes to include emotional and psychological harm, not just physical abuse.



Considering the small print

Delegated legislation – also known as secondary or subordinate legislation – fills in the gaps in Acts of Parliament, providing many of the specific details and practical measures that make a law complete and enforceable. These details are provided in regulations, orders or rules, known generally as statutory instruments (SIs).

The power to make delegated legislation is, as the name suggests, delegated to ministers, and SIs are subject to considerably less parliamentary control than bills. For this reason, it is particularly important that delegated legislation is kept under close scrutiny. The House of Lords has two committees dedicated to this, each focusing on a different stage in the legislative process.

85

Committee
reports to
the House

Before an Act is made: scrutinising ministerial powers

The Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee examines the text of all bills to ensure that the level of delegated power to make SIs is appropriate and will receive the right level of scrutiny. If it is not, the committee reports to the House to recommend changes or seek clarifications of the government's intent.

This committee has earned a formidable reputation as a 'watchdog' over the granting of ministerial power and the government almost always accepts its recommendations.

After an Act is made: examining delegated legislation

The Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee (formerly the Merits Committee) considers all SIs to assess whether they seem likely to achieve their stated policy objective. The committee reports on a small proportion of these which it judges deserve to be brought to the attention of the House.

Work in 2010–12

During the 2010–12 session, the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee was active in looking at new ministerial powers, including those in the Health and Social Care Bill and the Welfare Reform Bill.

In particular, the committee took a close interest in the Public Bodies Bill which gave ministers the power to abolish or reorganise public bodies or ‘quangos’. The committee’s recommendations included a much greater role for Parliament in scrutinising ministers’ plans. That scrutiny work is now being undertaken by the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee in the Lords and by departmental select committees in the Commons.

The Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee has reported on a number of Public Bodies Orders, including hearing oral evidence on two orders seeking to restructure the organisation responsible for canals and waterways.

The government introduced a number of significant policy changes through secondary legislation during the 2010–12 session. The Merits Committee reported on many of these, including SIs that increased higher education tuition fees, reformed immigration rules and changed the social security benefits system.

The committee also looked at a series of SIs responding to the events of the Arab Spring including imposing, changing or removing financial sanctions on Egypt, Libya and Syria.

As well as looking at new material, the committee continued to monitor how the government uses public consultations and the responses to them when considering whether SIs are likely to achieve their policy objectives.

1,147

SIs examined

53

SIs reported
to the
House



Holding the government to account

Around 35 per cent of the time of the House is spent in holding the government to account for its decisions and actions through questions and debates in the chamber to which government ministers must respond.

Questions

A 30-minute question time takes place at the start of business in the chamber from Monday to Thursday. A maximum of four questions are posed by members. They can be on any subject – local, national or international – for which the government is responsible.

Once the government spokesperson has answered, there is then a chance for a short exchange of related, or ‘supplementary’, questions. The government spokesperson must answer each one. Questions may also be asked in writing and the government must respond within two weeks.

Statements

The government announces important policy initiatives and reports on national and international issues in the chamber. Statements are usually made in both Houses and are followed in the Lords by an opportunity for members to ask questions and make observations.

Debates

Debates allow members to put their experience to good use by drawing the government's attention to particular concerns and ideas. At the end of every debate, a government minister responds to the questions, concerns and other matters that have been raised. The breadth and diversity of membership is reflected in the huge range of subjects covered, and debates in the Lords can play an important role in shaping future policy initiatives and legislation.

1,080

Oral
questions

16,980

Written
questions

145

Oral
statements

2,349

Written
statements

Education: Special educational needs (21 October 2010)

Following the publication of Ofsted's special educational needs and disability review in September 2010, Lords debated current government policy on special educational needs (SEN) provision.

Baroness Warnock (Crossbench), author of a significant 1978 report on the subject, tabled the debate. She sought confirmation that the government would take account of Ofsted's findings in its recently announced green paper (a document to prompt initial feedback on a policy proposal) 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability.'

'Despite the warmth, friendship and care which many professionals give so freely to parents and children, parents are too often left with a sense that they are in an adversarial struggle with a system whose default position will constantly fail their children unless they constantly push back against it.'

Lord Condon (Crossbench)

The debate covered a broad range of issues surrounding SEN provision, including:

- the need to separate the terminology of disability discrimination from that associated with SEN
- the continued pervasive link between deprivation and educational failure
- difficulties surrounding assessments and statementing – the need to make the system consistent and clear for parents, schools and other education and training providers
- improvements needed in teacher training
- future challenges in education funding
- the need for optimism, especially given the progress made since the Warnock Report.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools, Lord Hill of Oareford (Conservative), responded on behalf of the government. He gave assurances that the Ofsted review – together with the contributions made by members in the debate – would feed into the Department of Education's green paper.

114

General
debates

92

Questions for
short debate

Active citizenship (18 November 2010)

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of the government's intention to promote the idea of the 'Big Society', members of the Lords looked to call attention to the role of active citizenship in society.

The debate was put forward by Lord MacLennan of Rogart (Liberal Democrat), a former MP and President of the Liberal Democrats. Opening the debate, he spoke of how active citizenship can be encouraged in many different ways and outlined some of the major issues, including:

- how individuals can contribute
- the problem of funding and the role of businesses and institutions
- the need to support education in citizenship
- wider issues concerning the role of the individual and the state.

'My fear is that if the government seek to direct civil society to plug the gaps made by cuts, they will lose the very qualities of the sector that have allowed it to grow and be creative and supportive.'

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour)

Speakers included two current vice presidents of the Local Government Association, a senior rabbi, a former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, the official historian to the Conservative Party and a former minister for the Third Sector.

Members spoke of their personal and professional experience of active citizenship and the ideas underpinning the 'Big Society' and voiced concerns about the impact of spending cuts on core funding for many voluntary and community organisations.

In responding to the debate, frontbench spokesperson Lord Taylor of Holbeach (Conservative) offered more detail on initiatives to support social action across all parts of the UK.



Libya (1 April 2011)

Lord Howell of Guildford (Conservative), Foreign Office minister, tabled the debate in the midst of the Libyan crisis. The debate followed the London conference on Libya on 29 March, as well as the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1973 in February, which demanded an immediate ceasefire and authorised a no-fly zone.

The debate covered several key points, including:

- clarification of the government's view of developments in the Middle East and North Africa
- objectives as discussed and agreed at the recent London conference
- the wider impact of the Arab Spring on oil markets, energy supplies and world trade.

Among the speakers were three former defence chiefs, a former NATO Secretary General, a former chairman of the EU Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee, a director of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce and a former head of the Middle East department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



'Our action is saving lives and is protecting hundreds of thousands of civilians in Libya; that is what the UN security resolution was for, and that is why we are implementing it.'

Lord Howell of Guildford
(Conservative)



Frontline nursing care (1 December 2011)

Baroness Emerton (Crossbench), President of the Florence Nightingale Foundation, tabled the debate which considered how and why nursing as a profession may have lost its status in the eyes of the public.

The debate, which drew contributions from members including a former nurse, the former chair of an NHS Primary Care Trust and the current chair of the Heart of England NHS Foundation, covered a range of issues, including:

- nursing education and training
- specialist nursing
- safe staffing levels.

Among the spectators in the public gallery were 11 members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), there to hear at first hand members debating issues that affect nurses every day.

‘The result of yesterday’s debate now gives us an excellent opportunity to follow up with the minister and look at how staffing levels and ratios can be guaranteed in practice.’

**Dr Peter Carter, RCN Chief Executive
& General Secretary**

Future of the UK manufacturing industry (8 December 2011)

The ongoing financial crisis and its effect on the UK economy was a recurring theme in debates during the 2010–12 session.

Lord Haskel (Labour), a former government spokesperson for trade and industry, tabled a debate about the UK manufacturing industry and asked two key questions:

- how manufacturing could help rebalance the UK economy
- how the government plans to both retain and develop the manufacturing sector in the face of increasing competition from overseas.

In the debate that followed, focusing on the continued successes of UK manufacturing and the particular challenges it faces in today's world, speakers included prominent business figures, academics, entrepreneurs and several former DTI ministers. Members agreed that for the industry to continue to grow it must be supported by government actions, including measures to boost technology investment, ensure access to a skilled workforce and promote the image of the sector.



'We have the support
of the best creative
industries, the best design,
the best accountants, the
best lawyers in the world;
it is all there.'

Lord Bilimoria (Crossbench)

Influencing public policy

The House of Lords also examines important areas of UK public policy through its select committees. Members use their professional experience to carry out investigative, subject-focused work. Committees are a valuable way for members to provoke discussion outside Parliament and make recommendations to government.

Committees are smaller groups of members, appointed by the House to conduct certain tasks on its behalf, which meet outside the chamber. They consider specific policy areas or issues – ranging from short, narrowly focused investigations to broad, long-term inquiries – and usually produce reports on their findings. Once published, committee reports are debated in the House and the government must respond.

House of Lords committees particularly benefit from the experience and knowledge of the members of the House, which ensures their work carries authority within Parliament and beyond.

A number of select committees are established on a longstanding basis. They develop expertise in particular subject areas, and may revisit subjects covered in previous inquiries to assess the impact of their recommendations.

The House of Lords also regularly appoints short-term committees to examine particular subjects. In addition, some committees are appointed jointly with the House of Commons, for example to conduct pre-legislative scrutiny.

During the 2010–12 session, Lords select committees published 73 reports on subjects ranging from economic affairs, to the powers of the EU and advances in science and technology.

Recent reports drew the government's attention to Lords committees' views on:

- media ownership and the news
- the use of nanotechnologies in food and food packaging
- the impact of the market domination of the major audit firms.

Communications Committee

The committee investigates public policy areas related to the media, communications and creative industries.

Committee members include media professionals and others with relevant experience in industry, politics and law. In 2010–12, the committee conducted inquiries into subjects including the BBC Trust and the future of investigative journalism.

Investigative journalism (Report published 16 February 2012)

The committee's investigation into 'The Future of Investigative Journalism' took place against the background of perhaps the greatest media scandal in a generation – phone hacking. In its report, the committee looked at the media landscape in which investigative journalism operated, concluding that news organisations, regulators and relevant legal bodies needed to make important changes if the future of investigative journalism was to be assured.

Key recommendations

Its report recommended the introduction of an audit trail or two-stage internal process within media organisations to track and record decisions: first to commence an investigation and second,



'Investigative journalism has vital role, say Lords but newspapers face a "triple whammy" of threats to their future.'

Daily Mail

to publish a story. This would provide two internal check points for testing whether a story fell within the public interest, and a record which should then be used by regulators when evaluating individual cases.

The report also called for legal clarity and consistency through the publication of guidelines by the prosecuting authorities, to help media outlets decide whether conducting an investigation or publishing a story could lead to prosecution.

Constitution Committee

The committee investigates:

- issues relating to the constitution, such as how judges are appointed, devolution and referendums
- the impact of bills – if it thinks a bill raises constitutional issues it seeks information and clarification from the government, and often reports to the house.

In 2010–12, the committee conducted inquiries into subjects including the constitutional reform process, the draft Cabinet Manual and fixed-term parliaments.

Health and Social Care Bill

(Report published 30 September 2011)

The committee focused on whether the bill risked undermining the government's constitutional responsibilities with regard to the NHS. Its report raised concerns about the loss of NHS accountability to Parliament under the original proposals, and recommended that the bill be amended to put the issue of responsibility beyond legal doubt.

'The coalition's reorganisation of the NHS risks diluting the government's "constitutional responsibilities" to the health service, an influential Lords committee has warned.'

The Guardian

In October 2011, it was announced that the bill would be amended to confirm that 'the Secretary of State retains ultimate responsibility to Parliament for the provision of the health service in England.'

The committee published a follow-up report in December 2011, revisiting the bill to respond to concerns raised by members from all sides of the House which were not resolved by the government's response to their initial report.

Key recommendations

- Clause 1 should be amended to state that 'the Secretary of State retains ministerial responsibility to Parliament for the provision of health services in England.'
- The duty of the Secretary of State to promote the autonomy of health care providers should be amended to state that it is subject to 'the existing duty to promote a comprehensive health service.'

Economic Affairs Committee

The committee:

- investigates current economic issues
- reviews the performance and behaviour of the economy and regularly meets Bank of England and Treasury officials
- may set up a sub-committee each year to look at some parts of the Finance Bill.

In 2010–12, the committee conducted inquiries into subjects including the economic impact and effectiveness of development aid. It also launched an inquiry into the economic impact on the UK of Scottish independence.

Auditors: Market concentration and their role (Report published March 2011)

The committee found that the audit market was dominated by an oligopoly of four large firms. This limited competition and choice. The report called for an investigation by the Competition Commission, which is now underway. It is expected that the investigation will be completed in 2013.

Key findings

- The breakdown of dialogue between bank auditors and regulators made the financial crisis worse. The committee welcomed the Code of Practice brought in by the Bank of England to restore dialogue, but regretted that a stronger, statutory obligation was not adopted.
- International accounting standards (IFRS) had serious weaknesses in relation to bank audits and the committee called on the government to give a lead in international negotiation for improvement.



EU Committee

The committee:

- examines draft EU laws before they are agreed in the EU
- looks at other EU-related matters before decisions are taken on them
- keeps a check on government action at EU level
- has sub-committees focusing on particular subjects.



'I am pleased the report recognises that agricultural biotechnology should be one of the tools available to farmers to improve productivity.'

Dr Julian Little, Chairman of the Agricultural Biotechnology Council

The EU Committee is the oldest and largest of the Lords investigative committees, with six sub-committees involving more than 80 members. The sub-committees conduct individual inquiries and scrutinise a range of policy areas and European Commission proposals.

Members involved in the work of the committee and its sub-committees include former ministers, EU commissioners, MEPs and ambassadors.

Innovation in EU Agriculture

(Report published 7 July 2011)

This year-long inquiry investigated how innovation in EU agriculture can be encouraged as farmers face new challenges such as climate change, water scarcity and the need to encourage sustainable improvements in output.

Key recommendation

The EU must do more to stimulate and invest in innovation in the agricultural sector. The committee argued that agricultural innovation should be central to EU and UK policy-making to deal with the rising global population, climate change and food price volatility.

Science and Technology Committee

The committee investigates:

- public policy areas which are, or ought to be, informed by scientific research
- technological challenges and opportunities
- public policy towards science itself.

The committee's membership includes many leading scientists as well as other professionals with relevant experience in industry, politics and law. In 2010–12, it conducted inquiries into subjects including nuclear research and development capabilities, and science and heritage.

Behaviour change and 'nudging' (Report published 11 July 2011)

The committee carried out a year-long investigation into the way the government tries to influence people's behaviour using behaviour change interventions; a strategy commonly termed as 'nudging'. Its report found that 'nudges' used in isolation will often not be effective in changing the behaviour of the population. Instead, a whole range of approaches – including some regulatory measures – are needed to change behaviour in a way that will make a real difference to society's biggest problems.

Key findings

- The government must commission and fund more applied research about what measures work to influence population behaviour change.
- The government should appoint an independent Chief Social Scientist to provide robust and independent scientific advice.
- The government should take steps to implement a traffic light system of nutritional labelling on all food packaging.
- Voluntary agreements with businesses in relation to public health have major failings and are not a proportionate response to the scale of the problem of obesity. If more effective agreements cannot be reached, or if they show minimal benefit, the government should pursue behaviour change with regard to obesity by other means.

'A welcome and timely report...

The public health profession has long argued that "nudging" is but one aspect of a wide programme of interventions to help people make changes in their lives which promote good health and wellbeing.'

UK Faculty of Public Health

Building international relationships

The House of Lords has an important role to play in fostering and maintaining relationships with other countries, their parliaments and political leaders.

Members of the Lords act as ambassadors for the House, for Parliament and for the UK. Through their participation in parliamentary visits and cooperation with different multilateral parliamentary organisations, members extend understanding, both within and about the House. By engaging with their international counterparts, members are able to share, apply and extend their specific expertise in a broader context.



Parliamentary visits

The House of Lords hosts visitors from parliaments around the world, and also sends delegations of members and staff to attend international assemblies and meetings. These events provide valuable opportunities to exchange knowledge and experience on topical issues affecting the UK and the international community, on the business of running an effective parliament, and on discovering new ways of working together.

International engagement activities allow members to work on building democracy and strengthening parliaments in other countries, particularly in the developing world, and to focus energies on substantial real-world issues, such as climate change, human rights and conflict prevention. As an agent of parliamentary diplomacy, the House of Lords is respected internationally for the experience and enthusiasm of its members.

**Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers
of the Commonwealth in Trinidad and Tobago
in January 2011 | © CSPOC**

Highlights from the 2010–12 session

- The Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza represented the House at the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth in Trinidad and Tobago in January 2012. She also attended the 14th meeting of the Association of European Senates hosted by the French Senate in March, and extended an invitation to its members to meet at Westminster in 2013.
- Lord Roper represented the Lord Speaker at the annual meetings of the Conference of Speakers of European Parliaments in 2011 in Brussels and in 2012 in Warsaw.
- Lord Chidgey represented the House at plenary meetings of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in Paris and the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan, South Korea.
- At home, the Lord Speaker received a number of visiting speakers and presidents of parliaments, including speakers from Italy, Russia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bhutan, Vietnam and Israel, as well as the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She also presided over meetings in the House of Lords of members of both Houses with H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan and with Mr Yevgeni Primakov, former Prime Minister of Russia.
- The House received many visits at both member and official level, eg the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Finnish Parliament, the Standing Committee on International Trade from the Canadian House of Commons, the Committee on Procedure and House Rules to the National Assembly of Kenya, the Deputy President of the State Council of Oman, to mention but a few.
- Seven members of House of Lords staff agreed to take part in an EU Twinning Project in support of capacity building in the Parliament of Kosovo. This work continues.

The Lord Speaker hosting a meeting of members of both Houses with King Abdullah II of Jordan in November 2011



International parliamentary organisations

Members of the House of Lords serve on UK delegations to various international bodies, usually alongside MPs. As well as fulfilling an essential parliamentary role – to represent the UK abroad – these delegations provide an opportunity for members to contribute to and influence international debates and decisions that affect the UK and its citizens.



The British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union

The British Group IPU counts some 350 peers amongst its membership. Peers are engaged in the management and running of the group, with seven members represented on the Executive Committee, and those members also hold key posts on sub-committees, in particular the Audit Committee.

In 2010–12, some 20 peers took part in bilateral delegations arranged by the British Group to counterpart national parliaments in countries such as Cuba, Kosovo, Chile and Indonesia (delegations comprise four members of the Commons and two peers).

Members of the Lords also take an active role in welcoming foreign delegations to Westminster; and visiting delegates frequently meet select committees, hold discussions on the procedures and reforms of the House and visit the chamber to observe debates.

The British Group is strongly supported in its work by the Lord Speaker, who is an Honorary President of the Group.

The Lord Speaker and Mr Speaker with the bust of Randal Cremer, the co-founder of the IPU

British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA)

Nine peers serve as members, and seven as associate members, of BIPA, including Lord Dubs who is the Chair of BIPA's Committee D (Environmental and Social Affairs). Members take part in conference and committee proceedings, including most recently the 23rd plenary session of BIPA, held in Brighton in October 2011, and the 24th plenary session, held in Dublin in May 2012.

Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)

Six members of the Lords are part of the UK delegation to PACE. Each year, they participate in four plenary sessions held in Strasbourg. In addition, they are active participants in the work of committees set up by the assembly to examine a range of subjects.

NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA)

Four members of the Lords serve as members of NATO PA, participating in bi-annual plenary sessions in addition to meetings of NATO PA's five committees and eight sub-committees. In November 2011, the UK delegation hosted the 78th Rose-Roth Seminar entitled '2011–2014: Afghanistan Towards Transition'. Lords members made valuable contributions to what was an extremely well received seminar.

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCEPA)

The House of Lords provides three UK delegates to OSCEPA, an organisation comprising 57 member states from North America and Central Asia as well as Europe. Each year, delegates participate in two plenary sessions of OSCEPA, including four during the 2010–12 parliamentary session.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is the professional association of all Commonwealth parliamentarians, an active network of over 17,000 people.

CPA UK is one of the largest and most active branches. Its specific focus is on parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentary strengthening activity, seeking to foster cooperation and understanding between parliaments, promote good parliamentary practice and advance parliamentary democracy.

CPA UK's activities include annual conferences, seminars and numerous bilateral parliamentary strengthening and diplomacy programmes with Commonwealth parliaments each year. In July 2011, CPA UK, working with both Houses of Parliament, hosted the 57th annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC 2011).

Reaching out

The House of Lords works for the people of the UK and it is vital that there is a strong relationship between Parliament and the public. Members explain the work of the House through a range of formal and informal outreach activities.

As well as chairing business in the chamber, the Lord Speaker is an ambassador for the House and champions an active outreach programme designed to engage the public, especially young people, with the work of the Lords. In July 2011, Baroness D'Souza was elected as the second Lord Speaker, replacing Baroness Hayman who had held the office since July 2006.

Peers in Schools

The Lord Speaker's Peers in Schools programme, where schools can apply to be visited by a member of the House to hear direct explanations of their work and the role of the Lords, continues to grow.

Members including academics, former teachers, scientists, lawyers, former cabinet ministers and civil servants visited more than 500 schools during the 2010–12 session. The programme reached over 25,000 students.

'It was a WOW! Our students were engaged throughout the presentation: thrilled, inspired, informed, encouraged and motivated by a better understanding of the difference between the two Houses of Parliament and the process involved in enacting bills.'

Hasmonean High School, North London



Lord Haskel visits Waldegrave School for Girls in Richmond

Chamber events

Once every year the House of Lords chamber is taken over by the public and used for a debating event.

'Elect, Select or Reject: The Future of the House of Lords'

In December 2010, 220 students from schools and colleges across England and Wales took part in a debate about what kind of second chamber there should be.

Four teams presented the options for reform from the despatch boxes: fully elected; fully appointed; hybrid; or abolition. Each team of 15-18-year-olds was mentored by a member of the Lords who provided behind-the-scenes support and advice.



Students from Robert Clack School in Dagenham present the option for a fully elected House of Lords

The social enterprise Debate Mate was also involved in helping the students to develop their arguments, refine their positions and fine-tune their debating skill.

Young parliamentarians debate climate change

In September 2011, the Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza chaired a debate as part of celebrations marking 100 years of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

This fourth Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP) was designed to reinforce the CPA's commitment to involving the younger generation in parliament, democracy and the Commonwealth. Some 100 CYP members, together with young people from Commonwealth diaspora communities in the UK, explored the impact of reducing carbon emissions on developing economies and global climate change in a debate centred on the fictional country 'Commonwealthland'.

'I am delighted to welcome so many young people from across the Commonwealth and the UK, coming together today in the chamber, to discuss the crucial issue of climate change, in the fifth such youth outreach event for the House of Lords.'

The Lord Speaker, Baroness D'Souza

Lords online

The 2010–12 parliamentary session saw the continued development of multimedia and online resources to complement the Lords website at parliament.uk/lords.

@UKHouseofLords

Launched in September 2011, the House of Lords Twitter feed keeps the public up to date with news from the chamber, committees and more. With more than 11,000 followers, it makes sure the work of the House reaches an active online audience.

Lordsoftheblog.net

Lords of the Blog is a cross-party initiative managed by the Hansard Society and supported by the House of Lords. It provides an independent forum for members to discuss all aspects of the work of the House with a broad online audience.

Image and video content – promoting the core work of the House including committee work and outreach events – is also available on YouTube and Facebook.

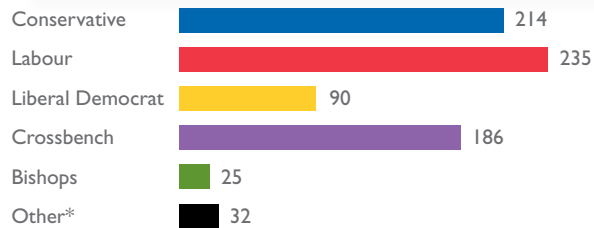


Facts and figures

Sessional statistics are also available to download from parliament.uk/lords.

Members (as at 1 May 2012)

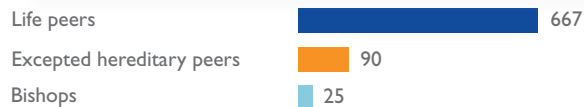
Party strengths



* 16 members from other political parties and 16 non-affiliated members

Note: These figures exclude 21 members who were on leave of absence, 2 who were suspended, 12 disqualified as senior members of the judiciary and one disqualified as an MEP.

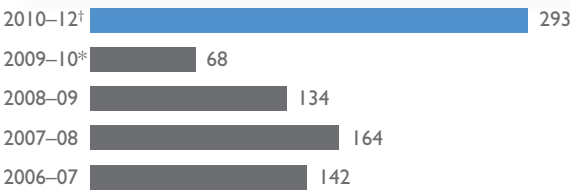
By type



Sitting days

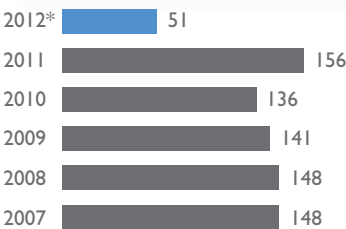
The unit that defines Parliament's work is a session. Prior to the 2011 Fixed Term Parliaments Act, it varied in length but, whether calculated by session, calendar or financial year, the working year averages around 150 sitting days for both Houses.

By session



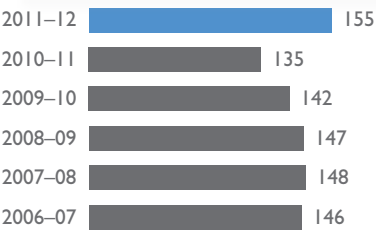
† Long session due to Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011
* Short session due to General Election

By calendar year



* 2012 calendar year to end-of-session at 1 May

By financial year



Working patterns

Average daily attendance

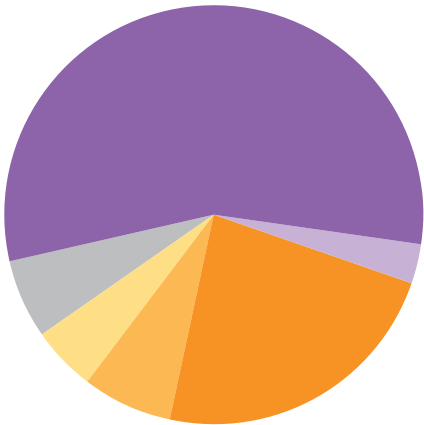


Average length of sittings (hours)



How time was spent

Legislation	59%
Bills	56%
Statutory instruments	3%
Scrutiny	35%
Debates	23%
Questions	7%
Statements	5%
Other	6%*



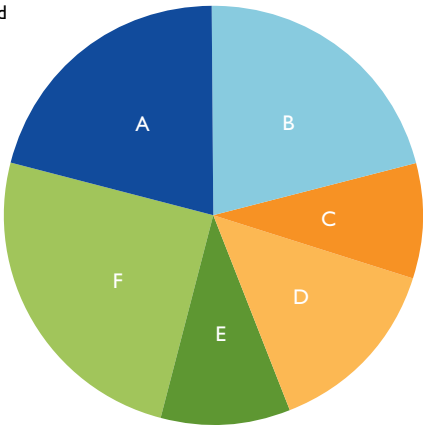
Source: House of Lords sessional statistics 2010–12
* Includes member introductions, daily prayers, adjournments and other formal business

Costs

Expenditure in the 2011/12 financial year

Total costs in 2011/12 amounted to £108.8 million. This includes works expenditure (which covers the House of Lords' share of all accommodation, maintenance and building costs including the Grade I listed Palace of Westminster).

A Staff costs	21%
B Members' expenses	21%
C Security	9%
D Estates and works	14%
E Other expenditure	10%
F Non-cash costs (building depreciation etc.)	25%
Total costs (millions)	£108.8
Cost per taxpayer	£3.61†



† Based on an estimated 30.1 million income tax payers in 2011/12 (source: HM Revenue & Customs)

Public legislation 2010–12

More public bill sessional statistics – including a breakdown of amendments by stage, grand committee proceedings and details of all bills receiving royal assent – can be found online at parliament.uk/lords.

Bills introduced in the House of Lords	Amendments tabled	Amendments made	Government defeats
Government Bills (11)			
Academies	301	20	1
Budget Responsibility and National Audit	58	10	0
Charities	24	20	0
Consumer Insurance (Disclosure and Representations)	11	3	0
Energy	367	133	0
Local Government	12	3	0
Pensions	100	11	0
Public Bodies	385	110	4
Sunday Trading (London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games)	16	4	0
Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc.	128	52	0
Trusts (Capital and Income)	0	0	0
Total	1402	366	5

	Amendments tabled	Amendments made
Private Members' Bills		
Airports (Amendment)	0	0
Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality)	0	0
Building Regulations (Review)	1	0
Caravan Sites	0	0
Company Remuneration	0	0
Contaminated Blood (Support for Infected and Bereaved Persons)	0	0
Defamation	0	0
Demonstrations in the Vicinity of Parliament (Removal of Authorisation Requirements)	0	0
Devolution (Time)	0	0
Dog Control	24	21
Electric Personal Vehicles (Use on Highways)	0	0
European Union Membership (Economic Implications)	0	0
House of Lords (Amendment) [formerly: House of Lords Reform]	534	31
Human Trafficking (Further Provisions and Support for Victims)	0	0
Inheritance (Cohabitants)	0	0
Live Music	37	37
Marine Navigation	0	0
Marine Navigation Aids	0	0
Mental Health (Discrimination)	0	0
Online Safety	0	0
Parliament Square (Management)	1	1
Re-Export Controls	0	0
Referendum (European Union)	0	0
Rehabilitation of Offenders (Amendment)	1	1
Remembrance Sunday (Closure of Shops)	0	0
Scrap Metal Dealers (Amendment)	0	0
Smoke-free Private Vehicles	0	0
Social Care Portability	0	0
Subterranean Development	0	0
Torture (Damages)	0	0
Wind Turbines (Minimum Distances from Residential Premises)	0	0
Total	598	91

Bills brought from the House of Commons	Amendments tabled	Amendments made	Government defeats
Government Bills (32)			
Armed Forces	50	6	2
Consolidated Fund	0	0	0
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)	0	0	0
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) (No. 2)	0	0	0
Education	469	110	0
Equitable Life	0	0	0
European Union	147	15	4
Finance	0	0	0
Finance (No. 2)	0	0	0
Finance (No. 3)	0	0	0
Fixed-term Parliaments	95	9	1
Health and Social Care	1516	390	2
Identity Documents	26	1	1
Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders	862	352	11
Loans to Ireland	0	0	0
Localism	1589	514	0
London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (Amendment)	16	3	0
National Insurance Contributions	30	0	0
Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies	518	105	4
Police (Detention and Bail)	0	0	0
Police Reform and Social Responsibility	1149	170	1
Postal Services	211	29	0
Protection of Freedoms	345	152	1

	Amendments tabled	Amendments made	Government defeats
Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Grant	0	0	0
Scotland	232	43	0
Sovereign Grant	0	0	0
Superannuation	31	13	0
Supply and Appropriation (Anticipation and Adjustments)	0	0	0
Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates)	0	0	0
Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures	128	12	0
Water Industry (Financial Assistance)	0	0	0
Welfare Reform	615	115	7
Total	8029	2039	34
Private Members' Bills (6)			
Coinage (Measurement)	0	0	
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment)	0	0	
Estates of Deceased Persons (Forfeiture Rule and Law of Succession)	0	0	
Public Services (Social Value)	0	0	
Sports Grounds Safety Authority	0	0	
Wreck Removal Convention	2	0	
Total	2	0	

Divisions by bill 2010–12		Number of divisions
Titles		
Academies		5
Armed Forces		2
Education		11
European Union		8
Fixed-term Parliaments		7
Health and Social Care		32
House of Lords (Amendment) [formerly: House of Lords Reform]		2
Identity Documents		2
Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders		35
Local Government		2
Localism		9
National Insurance Contributions		1
Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies		35
Pensions		4
Police Reform and Social Responsibility		18
Postal Services		5
Protection of Freedoms		4
Public Bodies		18
Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Grant		1
Scotland		1
Sunday Trading (London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games)		3
Superannuation		1
Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures		2
Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc.		2
Welfare Reform		17
Total		227



Investigative committee reports 2010–12

Communications

- Regulation of television advertising
- The governance and regulation of the BBC
- The future of investigative journalism

Constitution

- Terrorist Asset Freezing etc. Bill
- Sessional Report 2009–10
- Government response to the report on Referendums in the United Kingdom
- Public Bodies Bill [HL]
- The government's constitutional reform programme
- Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill
- Fixed-term Parliaments Bill
- Money bills and Commons financial privilege
- 9th Report – Meetings with the Lord Chief Justice and the Lord Chancellor
- The Cabinet Manual
- European Union Bill
- Meeting with Lord Jay of Ewelme, Chairman
- Part 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill
- Police (Detention and Bail) Bill
- The Process of Constitutional Change
- Scotland Bill
- Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Bill
- Health and Social Care Bill
- Protection of Freedoms Bill

- Part 1 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill
- Health and Social Care Bill: follow-up
- Voting at the close of poll
- Referendum on Scottish Independence
- Judicial Appointments

Economic Affairs

- Meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England
- Auditors: Market concentration and their role
- Government response to report on auditors: Market concentration and their role
- The Finance Bill 2011
- Final Report of the Independent Commission on Banking
- The Economic Impact and Effectiveness of Development Aid

European Union

- Subsidiarity assessment: distribution of food products to deprived persons
- Subsidiarity assessment: admission of third-country nationals as seasonal workers
- Annual Report 2010
- Government and commission responses session 2009–10
- Money laundering: data protection for suspicious activity reports

- Future inter-parliamentary scrutiny of EU foreign, defence and security policy
- The EU strategy for economic growth and the UK national reform programme
- The EU's Afghan police mission
- Implementing the Stockholm Programme: home affairs
- Amending Article 136 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
- The United Kingdom opt-in to the Passenger Name Record directive
- The Future of Economic Governance in the EU – Volume I
- The Future of Economic Governance in the EU – Volume II – Evidence
- The workload of the Court of Justice of the European Union
- Grassroots sport and the European Union
- EU Financial Framework from 2014
- Re-launching the single market
- The EU internal security strategy
- The EU and Sudan: on the brink of change
- Innovation in EU agriculture
- The EU financial supervisory framework: an update
- Sovereign credit ratings: Shooting the messenger?
- Safety first: Mobility of healthcare professionals in the EU
- Tunnel vision? Completing the European rail market
- The Euro Area crisis
- Towards a financial transaction tax?
- The EU: Sudan and South Sudan: follow-up report

- The EU drugs strategy
- The modernisation of higher education in Europe
- The European Union's policy on criminal procedure
- The United Kingdom opt-in to the draft directive on proceeds of crime
- The Multiannual Financial Framework 2014–20
- European defence capabilities: lessons from the past, signposts for the future

Science and Technology

- Public procurement as a tool to stimulate innovation
- Behaviour change
- Nuclear research and development capabilities
- The role and functions of departmental Chief Scientific Advisers
- Science and Heritage: follow-up

General debates 2010–12

June 2010

- Pensions: Automatic enrolment
- Social policy
- Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970: 40th Anniversary
- Small and medium-sized enterprises: Government policy
- Health: Primary and community care
- Latin America
- Zimbabwe
- House of Lords reform
- Olympic Games and Paralympic Games 2010
- International development: Universal primary education

July 2010

- Foreign policy
- Local communities
- Africa: Post-conflict stabilisation
- Housing
- Criminal justice system
- Rural communities
- Policing and crime
- Poverty
- Transport
- Women in society

October 2010

- Food: Regulation and guidance
- Rural communities: Prince's Countryside Fund
- Apprenticeships
- Human trafficking
- Education: Special educational needs
- Immigration
- Education: Pupils and young people
- Healthcare
- Bloody Sunday Inquiry

- Higher education: Funding
- Charitable sector

November 2010

- Housing: Spending review
- Media: Ownership
- Diplomacy
- Health: Cancer
- Active citizenship
- Common Agricultural policy
- Health and Safety: Common sense common safety
- Police
- Comprehensive Spending Review 2010
- Energy: Climate change
- Interim report: Leader's group on members leaving the House
- Defence: Strategic Security and Defence Review

December 2010

- Human rights
- Philanthropy
- Local Authority Grants: Impact of cuts
- Sport: Health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Gulf of Mexico: Oil spill
- NHS: Reorganisation

January 2011

- NHS: Frontline and specialised services
- Turkey
- Violence against women
- Coalition government
- Armed forces: Post-service welfare
- Tourism

February 2011

- Arts: Funding
- Children: Parenting for success in school
- Marriage
- NATO

March 2011

- Forestry Commission
- International Women's Day
- British Overseas Territories
- Children: Early intervention
- Financial crime: Legislation
- Economy: Government policies
- Economy: Growth
- Rebalancing the economy
- NHS: Standards of care and commissioning
- Zimbabwe

April 2011

- Government departments: Soft power
- Poverty in the developing world
- Libya

May 2011

- Chechnya and the North Caucasus
- Disabled people
- Agriculture: Global food security
- Communities
- Civil Legal Aid
- European Convention on Human Rights

June 2011

- House of Lords: Working practices
- House of Lords reform
- Treaty on European Union

July 2011

- Media: News Corporation

September 2011

- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- Health Professionals: EEA and Non-EEA citizens

- Independent Commission on Banking
- NHS Future Forum

October 2011

- Building Stability Overseas Strategy
- Health: Non-communicable diseases
- Planning
- Universities: Impact of government policy
- Crime: Home protection
- Schools: History
- Employment
- Impact of government policies on family budgets

November 2011

- Creative industries
- EU: Financial stability and economic growth
- Remembrance Day
- Transparency
- Funding of care and support
- Government procurement policy

December 2011

- Health: Neurological conditions
- United Kingdom manufacturing industry
- Christians in the Middle East
- International Development policy
- Nursing

January 2012

- Cities
- Electoral registration
- Green agenda

February 2012

- Council of Europe
- European Union: Recent developments
- Housing strategy

March 2012

- Economy: Budget statement
- Middle East and North Africa
- International Women's Day
- Middle East

Short debates 2010–12

June 2010

- United Kingdom: Competitiveness
- Drugs and crime
- Poverty
- Korean Peninsula: Human rights
- Gulf War Illnesses
- Health: Stroke treatment

July 2010

- NHS: Pain management services
- Prisons
- Environment: Low-carbon technologies
- Biodiversity

October 2010

- Health: Addiction to prescribed drugs
- Millennium Development Goals
- Health: Neurological conditions
- Olympic Games: Olympic truce
- House of Lords: Reform
- Divorce
- Education: Lifelong learning
- Education: Languages

November 2010

- Transport: Bus industry
- Health: Diabetes
- Royal Family: Civil list
- Parliament: Elected House of Lords
- Sport and recreation
- Health: Academic health partnerships
- Health: Epilepsy
- Economy: Manufacturing
- Railways: Public procurement
- Central Asia and South Caucasus
- Iran

December 2010

- Arctic Ice Cap
- Tote
- Population growth
- Hospices and palliative care services
- National Health Service: Global health

January 2011

- Health: Parkinson's Disease
- UK Border Agency: Visas and passports
- Health: Maternal health
- Defence: Military covenant

February 2011

- Railway heritage
- Education: Children with diabetes
- Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and Human Tissue Authority
- Children: Sexual exploitation
- Health: Mental health strategy
- Israel

March 2011

- Elections: Voting arrangements
- Clothing industry: Ethical and sustainable fashion
- Drug use and possession: Royal Commission
- Visas: Points-based system
- Agriculture: Regulation
- Motorways
- Health: Polymyalgia rheumatica and giant cell arteritis
- Health: Neuromuscular services
- Youth crime and anti-social behaviour

April 2011

- Education: 16 to 18-year-olds
- Health: Obesity
- United Nations International Year of Youth
- Health and safety at work

May 2011

- Middle East peace process
- The Big Society
- Air passenger duty and developing economies

June 2011

- Women: Special Operations Executive
- Research (Science & Technology Committee Report)
- Anti-Semitism

- Disabled people: User-led organisations
- Migrant domestic workers
- War Widows' Association of Great Britain
- Barnett Formula
- European Union: Economic governance (EUC Report)
- Biological diversity
- Female genital mutilation

July 2011

- Corporate governance and accountability

September 2011

- Multiculturalism: Interfaith dialogue
- Kosovo

October 2011

- Social enterprise
- Aviation
- European Union Committee: Court of Justice of the European Union
- India
- Northern Ireland: Economy
- Animals: Experimentation
- Middle East: Water

November 2011

- Big Society
- Children: Secure children's homes
- Energy: Wind farms
- Agriculture: Egg industry
- Sovereign credit ratings EUC Report
- Transport links
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- United Nations: Specialised agencies
- Voluntary sector funding
- Prevent strategy

December 2011

- Digital technologies
- Food waste
- Schools: Sport
- Citizens Advice Bureaux
- Saudi Arabia
- National wellbeing
- European Union Committee Report: Money laundering

January 2012

- European Union: Healthcare
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Independent Monitoring Commission for Northern Ireland
- Aviation: Civil aviation industry
- Design education and growth
- Tax: Avoidance
- Health: Stroke care

February 2012

- Occupational pensions
- People trafficking
- European Union: Trade agreements
- Gaza
- Olympic Games 2012: Match fixing and suspicious betting
- Assisted dying
- Internet: Low-cost flight information

March 2012

- Roads: Motorists and cyclists
- International development: Sanitation and water
- Terezin Declaration: Holocaust era assets
- South Sudan
- Para-Phenylenediamine
- Autism Act 2009
- Joseph Kony

April 2012

- Armed Forces: Personnel
- Housing: Flats
- Health: Pancreatic cancer



Image credits

iStock.com: pp. 3–5, pp. 7–20. Unless otherwise stated all other images are © House of Lords 2012. Every effort has been made to trace copyright holders. We apologise for any errors or omissions and would be grateful if notified of any corrections that should be incorporated in future reprints.

Find out more

Contact us or go online for information about business, membership and outreach activities.

The House of Lords Information Office



020 7219 3107



hinfo@parliament.uk



House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW

Lords online



parliament.uk/lords



[@UKHouseofLords](https://twitter.com/UKHouseofLords)



facebook.com/UKHouseofLords



youtube.com/UKHouseofLords

For video and audio coverage go to:
parliamentlive.tv

