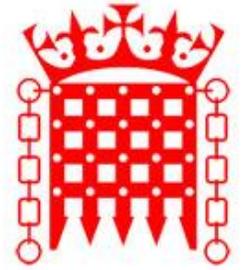


Introduction to the Lords



How the Lords teams work



- Different structures depending on how big the group of Peers is.
- Conservatives – There are three special advisers and a number of civil servants;
- Labour 10-11 staff working primarily on legislation and supporting parliamentary activity;
- Lib Dems – smaller office, with advisors covering policy briefs in the Commons and the Lords;
- Crossbench – small office with mainly admin support.



A week in the Lords

- Monday to Wednesday – government business – so usually legislation and committee reports;
- Thursday is usually given over to general debates, though sometimes government business is scheduled;
- Sitting Fridays are for Private Members' Bills, and usually happen once or twice a month;
- Oral questions happen every day;
- Statements and Urgent Questions happen as and when;
- You can find the House of Lords business on the Parliament website: <https://calendar.parliament.uk/calendar/Lords/All/2018/7/16/Daily>

Cross-party working



- This is an essential part of successful working in the Lords;
- No party has a majority, so to get anything agreed (or to win a vote!) requires a consensus across at least two parties;
- The four groupings in the Lords work together far closer than their counterparts in the Commons;
- If you want an issue raised then approach Peers from more than one party.

Legislation



- This is the main focus of the Lords, as a scrutinising and revising Chamber;
- Bills can start in the Commons or the Lords. The stages of the Bill in each House are First Reading, Second Reading, Committee Stage, Report Stage and Third Reading;
- At Committee Stage every amendment is debated, unlike in the Commons where amendments are selected for debate;
- Voting takes place at Committee stage and Report stage, though more commonly at Report stage.



Further information and questions

- Meet the Lords – BBC documentary from early 2017. All on YouTube but sometimes on iPlayer too.
- A blog written by myself and a former colleague about how to engage with the Lords:
[http://www.labourlords.org.uk/the rules of engagement](http://www.labourlords.org.uk/the_rules_of_engagement)
- UK Parliament – role and work of the House of Lords:
<https://www.parliament.uk/about/faqs/house-of-lords-faqs/role/>