



BRIEFING PAPER

Number 01663, 19 December 2016

Short Money

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Summary

Short Money – funding to support opposition parties – was introduced in 1975.

The current scheme is administered under a Resolution of the House of 26 May 1999, as amended by a resolution of 23 March 2016.¹ New reporting requirements, setting out the information parties in receipt of Short Money have to provide in their accounts, were agreed on 7 July 2016. Short Money is made available to all opposition parties in the House of Commons that secured either two seats or one seat and more than 150,000 votes at the previous General Election. Short Money is not available to parties whose Members have not sworn the oath. The scheme has three components:

- Funding to assist an opposition party in carrying out its Parliamentary business
 - The amount available is determined by the number of seats and votes won by a party at the previous general election.
- Funding for the opposition parties' travel and associated expenses
 - The amount available is apportioned between qualifying parties in the same proportion as general funding
- Funding for the running costs of the Leader of the Opposition's office
 - A fixed annual budget is available

All the elements are updated annually in line in with the consumer price index.

There is both a floor and a ceiling to the amount of Short Money to assist with its parliamentary business that a party with no more than five Members is entitled to.

Financial support (Cranborne Money) is also provided to the two largest opposition parties and the Crossbench peers in the House of Lords.

A scheme to provide representative money to parties who have not taken their seats in the House of Commons was introduced in November 2005.

When the House revised the arrangements for Short Money in 2016 it also required the Members Estimate Committee to report on whether any changes ought to be made to the Short Money scheme "in the light of the proposed reduction in the number of Members of this House". The *Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011* as amended has provided for a reduction in the number of Members from 650 to 600. The Boundary Commissions are required to produce proposals to give this effect by 1 October 2018, with changes implemented at the following general election. The MEC is required to make its report before the end of the current (2016-17) Session of Parliament.

¹ HC Deb 26 May 1999 Vol 332 c427-9 (see Appendix 4 for the text of the resolution). Note the resolution was altered by the Members Estimate Committee, see Appendix 4; [HC Deb 23 March 2016 cc1714-1716](#)

1. Introduction: Short Money overview

Short Money – funding to support opposition parties – was introduced in 1975 (see Section 5 for a note on the historical background).

Short Money is made available to all opposition parties in the House of Commons that secured either two seats or one seat and more than 150,000 votes at the previous General Election. Short Money is not available to parties whose Members have not sworn the oath.

The current scheme is administered under a Resolution of the House of 26 May 1999, as amended by a resolution of 23 March 2016.² New reporting requirements were specified in July 2016 (see section 4.1). The March 2016 resolution reset the figures in the funding formula; changed the uprating index from the retail price index to the consumer price index; and introduced a floor and a ceiling in funding entitlements for parties with no more than five Members.

The scheme has three components:

- Funding to assist an opposition party in carrying out its Parliamentary business
- Funding for the opposition parties' travel and associated expenses
- Funding for the running costs of the Leader of the Opposition's office

The amounts available to the parties from the first two components are calculated, as set out below, and the third element is a flat rate:

- **General funding for Opposition Parties** – the amount payable to qualifying parties from 1 April 2016 is **£16,938** for every seat won at the last election plus **£33.83** for every 200 votes gained by the party.
- **Travel Expenses for Opposition Parties** – the total amount payable under this component of the scheme for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2016 is **£186,073** apportioned between each of the Opposition parties in the same proportion as the amount given to each of them under the basic funding scheme set out above.
- **Leader of the Opposition's Office** – under the third component of the scheme, **£789,146** is available for the running costs of the Leader of the Opposition's office for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2016.

Each component is uprated annually on 1 April by the percentage increase in the consumer price index in the year to the previous December.³ Allocations throughout a Parliament are based on the results of the previous General Election.

² HC Deb 26 May 1999 Vol 332 c427-9 (see Appendix 4 for the text of the resolution). Note the resolution was altered by the Members Estimate Committee, see Appendix 4; [HC Deb 23 March 2016 cc1714-1716](#)

³ Uprating has been based on December's inflation rate since April 2004; prior to this the inflation rate in March was used as the basis for uprating Short Money. Until

There is both a floor and a ceiling to the amount of Short Money to assist with its parliamentary business that a party with no more than five Members is entitled to. The floor is set at 50% of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's staffing budget for non-London area MPs. The ceiling is set at 150% of the same budget.

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's staffing budget for non-London area MPs is £141,400 for 2016/17.

- The ceiling is set at £212,100 (i.e. 150% of the IPSA budget); and
- The floor is set at £70,700 (i.e. 50% of the same budget).

Table 1 below shows how much each qualifying party is entitled to in the 2016/17 financial year (entitlements in previous years are set out in Appendix 2).

Table 1: Short Money allocations, 2016/17 (£)

	General	Travel	Leader of the Opposition	Total
Democratic Unionist Party	166,661.00	3,845.94		170,506.94
Green Party (1)	212,100.00	4,894.65		216,994.65
Labour Party	5,510,661.00	127,169.17	789,146.00	6,426,976.17
Liberal Democrats*	544,170.00	12,557.69		556,727.69
Plaid Cymru (2)	81,532.00	1,881.57		83,413.57
Social Democratic and Labour Party (3)	70,700.00	1,631.49		72,331.49
Scottish National Party	1,194,540.00	27,566.34		1,222,106.34
UK Independence Party (1)	212,100.00	4,894.65		216,994.65
Ulster Unionist Party (3)	70,700.00	1,631.49		72,331.49

(1) Party has five or fewer MPs, funding limited by ceiling

(2) Party has five or fewer MPs, funding not affected

(3) Party has five or fewer MPs, funding raised by floor

Source: House of Commons, Corporate Services

Parties claiming Short Money must provide the Accounting Officer of the House of Commons (the Clerk of the House) with an auditor's certificate confirming that all expenses claimed were incurred exclusively in relation to the party's Parliamentary business.

During 2016/17 new transparency requirements will be introduced. They were to be determined by the Members Estimate Committee.⁴ However, on 7 July 2016, the House agreed the requirements on the basis of a Government motion (see section 4.1).

Official Opposition – salaries

In addition to the funding for parliamentary business to opposition parties, the Leader of the Opposition, the Opposition Chief Whip and a maximum of two Assistant Opposition Whips in the House of Commons receive a salary from public funds on top of their parliamentary salary.⁵ The *Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 (Amendment) Order 2011* implemented the Cabinet's decision to reduce ministerial salaries, taken in May 2010.⁶ The Order also set rates for the salaries of qualifying

April 2015, the retail price index was used to uprate Short Money. Following the resetting of amounts in 2016, the consumer price index will be used to uprate Short Money from April 2017 onwards

⁴ [HC Deb 23 March 2016 cc1714-1716](#)

⁵ *Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975* (chapter 27), sections 1 and 2 and Schedule 2

⁶ For further details see House of Commons Library Standard Note, [Members' pay and allowances from April 2010](#), SN/PC/5436

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Opposition office-holders. The Order came into force on 14 July 2011. In accordance with the Order, salary entitlements increased on 31 March 2015, and again on 1 April 2016. The current and previous entitlements are:

	From 14 July 2011	31 March 2015	1 April 2016
Leader of the Opposition	£63,098	£63,489	£63,762
Opposition Chief Whip	£33,002	£33,207	£33,350
Assistant Opposition Whip	£19,239	£19,358	£19,441

Source: [Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 \(Amendment\) Order 2011](#), SI 2011/1689; Cabinet Office

2. Background to the March 2016 changes to Short Money

2.1 Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015 – proposals to reduce Short Money allocations

The Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015, published on 25 November 2015, proposed reducing Short Money allocations by 19% and then freezing them for the remainder of the Parliament:

Reducing the cost of politics

1.308 The government has taken a series of steps to reduce the cost of politics, including cutting and freezing ministerial pay, abolishing pensions for councillors in England and legislating to reduce the size of the House of Commons. However, since 2010, there has been no contribution by political parties to tackling the deficit. Indeed, taxpayer-funded Short Money has risen year-on-year from £6.9 million in 2010-11 to £9.3 million in 2015-16.

1.309 Therefore, subject to confirmation by Parliament, the government proposes to **reduce Short Money allocations by 19%, in line with the average savings made from unprotected Whitehall departments over this Spending Review**. Allocations will then be frozen in cash terms for the rest of the Parliament, removing the automatic RPI indexation. Policy Development Grant allocations will also be reduced by a similar proportion, ensuring that political parties in receipt of taxpayer-funding contribute to the savings being asked of local and central government.⁷

In an Institute for Government blog post, Hannah White noted that it was not clear from the Spending Review whether 'Cranborne Money', provided to the two largest opposition parties and the Crossbench peers in the House of Lords, or 'Representative Money', available to parties who have not taken their seats in the House of Commons (currently Sinn Fein) would also be reduced.⁸

At Business Questions on 26 November 2015, Chris Bryant, the Shadow Leader of the House of Commons, raised the matter:

... yesterday the Chancellor said that he will cut the money provided to Opposition parties—to all Opposition parties—by 19%. I would gently remind the Leader of the House that what goes around comes around. Will the Leader confirm that this is not actually up to the Chancellor; it is up to this House? Will he confirm that every previous change to Short money was made on the basis of cross-party consultation? Was there any discussion with the Opposition parties? Was there any discussion with the Finance Committee of this House or with the Members Estimate Committee? Did the Leader of the House know about this

⁷ HM Treasury, *Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015*, November 2015, Cm 9162

⁸ Hannah White, "[Short money: cutting the cost of politics?](#)", *Institute for Government blog*, 27 November 2015

proposal when he sat at the last meeting of the Members Estimate Committee?

When Labour was in government we were never afraid of proper scrutiny, so we introduced Short money, and we increased it in 1997. That meant that the Tory party received—it claimed—£45.7 million from the taxpayer between 1997 and 2010.⁹

In response, Chris Grayling, the Leader of the House, told the House that:

Short money has risen in total by 50% since 2010. After the changes set out yesterday, it returns to the level it was set at in 2010.¹⁰

Jeffrey Donaldson also raised the proposed reduction in Short Money with the Leader of the House, contrasting it with no plans to reduce Representative Money allocations:

Mr Jeffrey M. Donaldson (Lagan Valley) (DUP): We are not against cutting the cost of politics, but when Short money is cut and that impacts on smaller parties in this House, whose Members come here and make an effort to contribute, whereas nothing is done to cut the allowances of Members from Northern Ireland who do not bother to turn up and do not make a contribution to this House, it leaves us questioning why the Government have done this.

Chris Grayling: Clearly, over the coming days we will have discussions with all the parties affected by the change, including with the right hon. Gentleman's party.

As he is well aware, the politics of Northern Ireland are complicated and our prime desire is to ensure that we continue to see Northern Ireland peaceful, developing and prosperous.¹¹

Cranborne Money and Representative Money schemes are described in sections 6 and 7, respectively.

2.2 Consultation with political parties

In response to an Urgent Question on Short Money and Policy Development Grants on 11 February 2016, John Penrose, the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, announced that the Electoral Commission had consulted on changes to Policy Development Grants and that "there have been informal discussions about parallel changes to Short money between political parties as well. I can confirm that we plan to initiate further, more formal consultations on Short money shortly".¹²

Following the Minister's response, he was questioned on why Short Money was being singled out when the costs associated with ministers' special advisers were also rising.¹³ Although there was generally opposition to the proposals from the opposition benches, and some concerns expressed by Government backbenchers, Douglas Carswell

⁹ [HC Deb 26 November 2015 c1540](#)

¹⁰ [HC Deb 26 November 2015 c1541](#)

¹¹ [HC Deb 26 November 2015 cc1545-1546](#)

¹² [HC Deb 11 February 2016 c1737](#)

¹³ [HC Deb 11 February 2016 c1742](#), c1744

(UKIP) told the House that he was “delighted that the Government are cutting Short money”.¹⁴

On 18 February 2016, during the February recess, the Government issued a consultation paper, *Short money allocations: Request for views*, with a deadline for written responses of 7 March 2016. The consultation paper sought views on whether the existing components of funding should be reduced or whether the Scheme should be amended to make savings – it suggested protecting smaller parties and altering the balance between the seats and votes elements of the formula. It asked whether an inflation uprating mechanism should be re-introduced and whether the CPI (rather than the RPI) would be the appropriate measure. It suggested how greater transparency could be achieved and asked “What information should be provided?” It also asked “What savings should be made to Representative Money?”¹⁵

A further Urgent Question on Short Money was granted on 23 February 2016.¹⁶ Opposition parties generally criticised the proposals, again with the exception of Douglas Carswell. Once again they highlighted, among other things, the rising costs of ministers’ special advisers. There was some support for reductions in the Short Money budget from the Government backbenches, although Andrew Tyrie thought that proposals for such a substantial cut needed to be reconsidered. He felt it was unacceptable to make the cut in one year and asked whether it could be phased in.¹⁷ There was more general support for increased transparency over how Short Money was used.¹⁸

2.3 Motion to amend the Short Money resolution

On 17 March 2016, the Leader of the House, Chris Grayling, announced that a motion relating to Short Money would be considered on Wednesday 23 March.¹⁹ He said that he was “grateful for the collaborative discussions that have taken place”.²⁰

The motion relating to Short Money was tabled on 21 March.²¹ It set out amendments to both the Short Money and the Representative Money resolutions. The Leader of the House also issued the following written statement outlining the background to and effect of the motion:

The Leader of the House of Commons (Chris Grayling): I wish to update the House on the Government’s proposed reforms to Short money.

The autumn statement in November outlined proposals to reform Short money and last month, the Cabinet Office published a

¹⁴ [HC Deb 11 February 2016 c1740](#)

¹⁵ Cabinet Office, *Short money allocations: Request for views*, 18 February 2016

¹⁶ [HC Deb 23 February 2016 cc167-177](#)

¹⁷ [HC Deb 23 February 2016 cc170-171](#)

¹⁸ [HC Deb 23 February 2016 c170](#), c172

¹⁹ [HC Deb 17 March 2016 c1089](#)

²⁰ [HC Deb 17 March 2016 c1092](#)

²¹ The motion was published in [Future Business for Tuesday 22 March 2016](#), under the heading “Opposition Parties (Financial Assistance)”

request for views, which was followed by further constructive discussions with political parties.

These discussions have now concluded and the Government are bringing forward a package of proposals to reform Short money and Representative money, recognising the importance of an effective Opposition to hold the Government to account. The changes will deliver an estimated cumulative £3.6 million saving to taxpayer-funded Short money over this Parliament and increase transparency and accountability over how taxpayers' money is spent.

A motion delivering these reforms will be tabled later today for consideration by the House on Wednesday 23 March. In summary, the motion will propose the following changes:

The annual indexation would be linked to CPI rather than RPI.

The CPI change would mean that Short money figures for the 2016-17 financial year would be based on the uprating of the 2015-16 figures by reference to CPI, rather than RPI.

Transparency requirements would be introduced to safeguard the spending of taxpayers' money. It would provide for a regime of publishing audited accounts, with a breakdown of Short money spending, including transparency over senior staff salaries.

The Members Estimates Committee would determine the detail of the auditing and transparency regime; the reporting should commence for the 2016-17 financial year.

The transparency regime would reflect the need for enhanced scrutiny of HM Opposition.

The Members Estimates Committee would be tasked to consider the effect of planned reduction in the size of the House of Commons on the Short money formula from 2020-21 onwards, recognising the goal of reducing the cost of politics; it would report by end of the 2016-2017 session.

A minimum funding floor would be introduced for the smallest parties (parties up to and including five MPs). This would be 50% of the IPSA staff allowance for one non-London area MP.

A maximum funding ceiling would be introduced for the smallest parties (parties up to and including five MPs). This would be 150% of the IPSA staff allowance for one non-London area MP.

The resolution would come into effect from the start of 2016-17 financial year.

The Representative money scheme would be amended to mirror the changes to Short money.

In addition, policy development grants will remain frozen, so they will fall in real terms in each year over this Parliament.

These balanced and reasonable proposals will deliver a significant saving of taxpayers' money, reducing expenditure by 10.6% compared with forecast levels, and will further extend the Government's ongoing transparency agenda.²²

2.4 Decision

The House agreed to motion on Short Money on 23 March 2016, without debate or a division.²³

²³ [HC Deb 23 March 2016 cc1714-1716](#)

3. What is the money used for?

Short Money general funds are largely spent on research support for front-bench spokesmen, assistance in the Whips' offices and staff for the Leader of the Opposition. Paragraph 1 of the original Resolution in 1975 provided that financial assistance to qualifying parties was available "to assist that party in carrying out its Parliamentary business", and paragraph 6 required parties to certify "that the expenses in respect of which assistance is claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to that party's Parliamentary business".

Since its introduction in 1975, two major changes to the scope of Short Money have been made. First, in 1993, separate provision was made for the first time for "financial assistance towards travelling and associated expenses necessarily incurred by an opposition party's spokesmen in relation to the party's Parliamentary business". Second, in 1999, it was agreed to introduce "a separately identified sum specifically for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, in recognition of the constitutional role played by, and thus the specific demands on, the holder of that post".²⁴

The current Resolution reflects the original Resolution of 1975 and incorporates these changes (the 1999 Resolution is set out in full in Appendix 4):

- 1.—(1) Financial assistance to assist an opposition party in carrying out its Parliamentary Business shall be available ...
- 2.—(1) ... financial assistance towards travelling and associated expenses necessarily incurred by an opposition party's spokesmen in relation to the party's parliamentary business shall be available ...
- 3.—(1) Financial assistance shall be available for the costs necessarily incurred in the running of the Leader of the Opposition's Office ...
4. Any claims for financial assistance towards travelling expenses under paragraph 2 are to be made to the Accounting Officer of the House; and a party claiming such assistance shall
 - (a) Furnish that Officer with a statement of the facts on which the claim is based;
 - (b) Certify to that Officer that the expenses which are claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business in accordance with this resolution.²⁵

Some other minor changes have occurred. Following a review of Short Money in 1988, John Wakeham, then the Leader of the House, announced the absorption into the Short Money scheme of some existing forms of assistance to the official Opposition:

In particular, it is proposed that the existing separate arrangements, which pre-date the introduction of 'Short' money, whereby certain office equipment, Postal facilities and stationery, are provided for the official Opposition out of departmental Votes

²⁴ HC Deb 26 May 1999 c428

²⁵ House of Commons, *Votes and Proceedings*, 26 May 1999

shall be brought to an end. The current arrangements for the employment of four officially paid staff in the official Opposition Whips' Office would however, remain unaltered.²⁶

3.1 Short Money and the coalition (2010-15)

Short Money is only available to opposition parties. As a result of the coalition agreement between the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties, following the 2010 general election, neither party qualified for Short Money in the 2010 Parliament. There had been rumours that the Liberal Democrats hoped to continue receiving Short Money.²⁷ However, speaking at Business Questions, Sir George Young, the Leader of the House, confirmed that the Liberal Democrats no longer qualified for Short Money. On 3 June 2010, he said that:

Short money is available to Opposition parties; it is not available to Government parties.²⁸

Although Sir George had said Short Money was not available to Government parties, on 3 June he also said that "On the more general question, we are committed to a reform of party funding, and that was announced in the Queen's Speech".²⁹

Then on 10 June, he again confirmed that Short Money was only available to opposition parties:

I make it absolutely clear that Short money is available to Opposition parties. The Liberal Democrats are a party of government and therefore Short money is not available to them.³⁰

And that "Short money is available only to Opposition parties; we have no plans to change that".³¹

No changes to the Short Money regime were made during the 2010 Parliament.

²⁶ *Ibid*

²⁷ Michael Crick, "[Rumours that Lib Dems hope to continue receiving Short money](#)", *Michael Crick's blog*, 19 May 2010; Michael Crick, "[The Lib Dems respond to Short Money rumours](#)", *Michael Crick's blog*, 19 May 2010

²⁸ HC Deb 3 June 2010 c591

²⁹ HC Deb 3 June 2010 c591

³⁰ HC Deb 10 June 2010 c468

³¹ HC Deb 10 June 2010 c470

4. Accounting for Short Money

Short Money is funded through the House of Commons Members Vote. The sums payable to parties generally are paid automatically in arrears every month, as is the sum to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition. The travel element has to be claimed when qualifying journeys are made. Parties claiming Short Money must provide the Accounting Officer of the House of Commons (the Clerk of the House) with an auditor's certificate confirming that all expenses claimed were incurred exclusively in relation to the party's Parliamentary business. This was confirmed in a parliamentary answer in 2000 and 2010.³² From 2016/17 onwards, parties in receipt of Short Money have to provide accounts and information on salaries of staff funded from Short Money (see section 4.1).

The 1999 resolution included a requirement to provide "the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent auditor" within nine months of the end of the financial year, to confirm that monies received were used in relation to parliamentary business (para 5(1) of the resolution). On 21 January 2013, the MEC agreed to implement an end-of-May deadline for submission of audit certificates for Short money and representative money.³³

However, until the changes made to the reporting requirements for the current financial year, very little information was published about the qualifying parties' use of their Short Money allocation in carrying out their parliamentary business. There has been some concern over the years about whether Short Money is being used appropriately.³⁴

4.1 Requirements for 2016-17 onwards

When it consulted on Short Money in February 2016, the Government asked:

Should there be greater transparency on the spending of Short money? What information should be published?³⁵

³² HC Deb 13 April 2000 Vol 348 c272W; HC Deb 10 June 2010 c483; HC Deb 12 October 2010 c4MC

³³ House of Commons Commission, [Decisions 21 January 2013](#), Item 2

³⁴ e.g. see Fraser Kemp's Early Day Motion 214 1997/98; "Watchdog to study Tory spending", *The Times*, 28 Oct 1999; e.g. see "MP urges PwC to probe Tory use of public money", *Financial Times*, 28 Dec 1999; e.g. see "Tories 'spend public cash on campaigning'", *Guardian*, 24 June 2000; e.g. see "Tories 'spending public funds on propaganda'", *The Times*, 19 Feb 2000; "Inquiry into Tory spending", *Sunday Telegraph*, 23 April 2000. In 2001, in its inquiry into special advisers, the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) also considered Short Money because Lord Neill, whilst chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, had wondered whether a Short Money-type scheme would be appropriate for funding special advisers [Public Administration Select Committee, *Special Advisers: Boon or Bane*, 13 March 2001, HC 293 2000-01, paras 40-53; *Special Advisers: Boon or Bane: The Government's Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2000-01*, 18 December 2001, HC 463 2001-02]

³⁵ Cabinet Office, [Short money allocations: Request for views](#), 18 February 2016

During the exchanges following the Urgent Question on 23 February 2016, a number of opposition parties considered that “transparency would be broadly supported”.³⁶

On 23 March 2016, the House changed the reporting requirements for parties claiming Short Money. They are still required to provide an Auditor’s Certificate within two months of the end of the financial year. For the financial year 2016/17 onwards parties will also be required to provide accounts.

The resolution provided that the MEC would determine exactly what parties need to publish, and it set out the broad requirements.³⁷ However, on 7 July 2016, the House agreed the requirements on the basis of a Government motion.

On 7 July 2016, the House agreed a new Schedule to the Short Money resolution of 26 May 1999, as codified by the MEC and amended on 23 March 2016, which set out matters that have to be included in the accounts to be published by each political party claiming financial assistance (see Appendix 4(c) and (d)).

Broadly, anyone working for the Official Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition who receives at least 50% of their salary from this funding has to be identified. If they have worked for a named Member, the Member has to be identified. Either their salary, if above a specified threshold, or their pay band has to be reported (see Box 1). Total staff costs and other costs have to be reported.

Other parties, including any in receipt of Representative Money, have to report the total number of people paid at least 50% of their salary from these funds; total staff costs and other costs have to be reported.

Box 1: Salary bands of staff employed who are funded from Short Money or Representative Money

The Schedule defined the bands and threshold for reporting the salaries of staff in the following way:

The pay bands and threshold amount referred to above shall be those applicable for the year in question to Ministers’ special advisers, as determined by the Accounting Officer of the House.³⁸

When information about the pay of Government special advisers was published in December 2015, their salaries were reported in four bands:

Special Adviser Pay Bands for 2015-16

PB1 - up to 52,999

PB2 - 53,000 - 69,999

PB3 - 70,000 - 94,999

PB4 - 95,000 - 142,000

Actual salaries of £63,000 or higher were reported.³⁹

Special adviser pay bands for 2016/17 have not yet been published.

³⁶ HC Deb 23 February 2016 [c172](#); [c170](#)

³⁷ [HC Deb 23 March 2016 c1715](#) (para (9) of the resolution)

³⁸ [HC Deb 7 July 2016 c1147](#)

³⁹ [HCWS439](#), 17 December 2015 (see the attached “Special Advisers” document)

5. Historical background

“Short money” was introduced by the Wilson Government following a commitment in the Queen’s Speech of 12 March 1974:

My Ministers will consider the provision of financial assistance to enable Opposition parties more effectively to fulfil their Parliamentary functions.⁴⁰

Edward Short fleshed out the proposal in a statement on Members’ allowances in July 1974:

A more immediate need is to provide additional support for the Opposition parties in Parliament - support which they certainly require if they are to play their full part here. The then Opposition and, I believe, the whole House benefited greatly from the Rowntree scheme, but more permanent arrangements are now necessary. Following our commitment in the Queen’s Speech, I have had very helpful discussions with the parties opposite. I now plan to bring firm proposals before the House in the autumn.

The main areas of support which we believe are needed are in the staffing of the Opposition Leader’s and Chief Whip’s offices, and in research assistance for shadow Front Bench spokesmen. The smaller parties also need staff support, but, naturally, on a smaller scale. We take the view that the parties should decide their own staffing arrangements, and I shall propose, therefore, that they be allocated funds for this purpose, borne upon the House Vote. These would be calculated by a formula based on the number of seats and votes won, the details of which I should like to discuss further, with the parties opposite after the recess.⁴¹

The Opposition welcomed the principle of the scheme and talks between the parties were entered into. Progress was delayed by the October 1974 General Election, but Mr Short made a further announcement on 19 December giving details of the formula to be used in the allocation of funds.⁴² The main elements of the scheme included:

- the formula would take into account both seats in the House and votes at the last election
- there would be an upper limit in the case of the Official Opposition
- the scheme would be confined to parties having at least:
two Members elected at the previous general election, or
one Member elected and a minimum of 150,000 votes cast.
- the allocation of funds between the Commons and the Lords would be for parties to decide

⁴⁰ HC Deb 12 Mar 1974 Vol 870 c47

⁴¹ HC Deb 29 July 1974 Vol 878 c32. The “Rowntree scheme” mentioned in the text refers to corporate contributions made by the Rowntree Social Services Trust Ltd to the main political parties, and particularly the Liberal Party/Social Democratic Party, in the 1970s and early 1980s. (see Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, *British Political Finance 1830-1980*, 1981, p 197ff; Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, “Trends in British Political Funding 1979-1983”, *Parliamentary Affairs*, Summer 1985, Vol 38, p336

⁴² HC Deb 19 Dec 1974 Vol 883 cc1823-4

- the amounts were maximum amounts and parties would have to account for expenditure within the limits to the House's Accounting Officer

The initial formula was set at £500 per seat and £1 for every 200 votes cast at the preceding general election, subject to an overall maximum in respect of any one party of £150,000.

A debate on a motion to approve the proposed scheme took place on 20 March 1975. On that day the House of Commons approved by 142 to 47 the following resolution:

1 That in the opinion of this House it is expedient that as from 1st January 1975 provision shall be made for financial assistance to any Opposition party in this House to assist that party in carrying out its Parliamentary business:

2 That for the purpose of determining the annual maxima of such assistance the following formula shall apply: -

£500 for each seat won by the party concerned plus £1 for every 200 votes cast for it at the preceding General Election, provided that the maximum payable to any party shall not exceed £150,000:

3 That it shall be a condition of qualification for such assistance that a party must either have at least two Members elected to the House as members of that party at the preceding General Election, or that it has one such Member and received at least 150,000 votes at that Election:

4 That any party wishing to claim such assistance shall make to the Accounting Officer of the House a statement of the facts on which this claim is based:

5 That the cost of this provision shall be borne on the House of Commons Vote:

6 That parties making claims under this provision shall be required to certify to the Accounting Officer of the House that the expenses in respect of which assistance is claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to that party's Parliamentary business:

7 That claims under these new arrangements shall be made quarterly, and that the annual maxima shall be applicable to claims made in respect of expenses incurred during any one calendar year.⁴³

The resolution backdated the scheme to 1 January 1975 and the funding formula was therefore calculated on the results of the October 1974 Election. The figures set in 1975 were periodically updated in 1978,⁴⁴ 1980,⁴⁵ 1983,⁴⁶ 1985⁴⁷ and 1988,⁴⁸ by amending the 1975 resolution. In addition, from 1985, monthly claims were permitted;⁴⁹

⁴³ HC Deb 25 Mar 1975 Vol 888 cc1869-70

⁴⁴ HC Deb 13 February 1978 cc173-204

⁴⁵ HC Deb 7 August 1980 cc935-962 [adjourned], HC Deb 12 November 1980 cc509-546

⁴⁶ HC Deb 8 March 1983 cc804-811

⁴⁷ HC Deb 23 January 1985 cc1097-1103

⁴⁸ HC Deb 21 June 1988 cc1075-1098

⁴⁹ HC Deb 23 January 1985 cc1097-1103

and, in 1987, the overall maximum that parties were entitled to was removed.⁵⁰

In 1993 a new resolution was agreed (replacing the 1975 resolution (as amended)). The periodic uprating ceased as a mechanism to annually increase the seat and vote components of general funding in line with inflation was introduced. In addition, financial assistance towards travelling in relation to Parliamentary business was introduced. The resolution also switched Short Money allocations from a calendar year to a financial year basis, with effect from 1 April 1994 (transitional arrangements included a “fifteen-month year” from 1 January 1993 to 31 March 1994).⁵¹

The current resolution governing Short Money was agreed on 26 May 1999 and replaced the 1993 resolution. It introduced a specific sum for the Leader of the Opposition. In addition, it increased the value of the votes and seats elements of the formula by a factor of 2.7, in the light of the report on party funding by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.⁵²

The Members Estimate Committee (MEC) updated the Resolution in March 2004. It also decided that annual uprating should be based on the retail price index in December, rather than the previous March.⁵³

On 21 January 2013, the MEC agreed to implement an end-of-May deadline for submission of audit certificates for Short money and representative money.⁵⁴ The revised resolution was published in the MEC's *Consolidated list of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members as at 1 April 2013*.⁵⁵ The Resolution of 26 May 1999 and the resolution as revised by the MEC are set out in Appendix 4.

Changes in the allocations of Short Money from 1997/98 are detailed in Appendix 2(a) and (b). The recent evolution of the per seat and per 200 votes elements in Appendix 2(c) and historic levels of the rates per seat and per 200 votes are shown in Appendix 2(d). Appendix 2(e) charts the level of funding available to the Leader of the Opposition's Office since it was introduced in 1999.

On 1 February 2012, Sir George Young, the Leader of the House of Commons, said that he had not considered changing the annual indexation of Short Money from the retail prices index to the consumer prices index.⁵⁶

⁵⁰ HC Deb 26 November 1987 Vol 123 cc481-501

⁵¹ HC Deb 4 November 1993 cc595-617

⁵² HC Deb 26 May 1999 cc427-429

⁵³ Members Estimate Committee, [*List of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members, as modified by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee*](#), June 2006, 2nd edition, pp20-21

⁵⁴ House of Commons Commission, [*Decisions 21 January 2013*](#), Item 2

⁵⁵ Members Estimate Committee, [*Consolidated list of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members as at 1 April 2013*](#), 26 March 2013, HC 918 2012-13, Annex 2

⁵⁶ HC Deb 1 February 2012 c706W

6. House of Lords: Cranborne money

Since 1996, there has been a similar scheme in the House of Lords.

A House of Lords resolution was agreed on 27 November 1996, to provide financial assistance for opposition parties in the House of Lords. The funding is referred to as Cranborne Money, after the then Leader of the House of Lords.

The 1996 resolution covered only the two larger opposition parties and allowed for annual increases, in line with inflation, from 1 April 1997. It provided that:

(1) Financial assistance shall be available to assist the Opposition and the second largest opposition party in carrying out their Parliamentary business. ...

Under the resolution, the Cranborne Money scheme was backdated to cover the period 1 October 1996 to 31 March 1997.⁵⁷

On 29 July 1999, the House of Lords agreed to double the amount of money made available to the two main opposition parties, following the publication of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report on the funding of political parties. It also agreed to introduce financial assistance to the Convenor of Crossbench Peers. The funding for the opposition parties increased from 1 April 1999 and the new money for the Convenor of Crossbench Peers was introduced from 1 October 1999.⁵⁸

On 30 July 2002, the House of Lords agreed a resolution, which replaced the two earlier resolutions – bringing the administration of all financial assistance under the same scheme. The resolution also allowed a one-off increase above the annual inflation-linked uprating with effect from 1 April 2002.⁵⁹ The text of the 2002 resolution is set out in Appendix 5 of this note.

On 20 March 2008, the House of Lords agreed, without a division, to increase the funding to the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers. Baroness D'Souza, the convenor at the time, explained that the increase (from £41,003 in 2007/08 to £61,003 in 2008/09) would "enable us to engage a part-time assistant".⁶⁰

In June 2010, the House of Lords removed references to the second largest opposition party from the Resolution as the Liberal Democrats had joined the Government. On 9 July 2015, after the coalition came to an end, following the general election, references to the second largest

⁵⁷ HL Deb 27 Nov 1996 Vol 576 cc267-272

⁵⁸ HL Deb 29 July 1999 cc1677-1684. Baroness Jay's introductory speech, presenting the motion, suggested that the funds for the Cross-Bench Peers are a new and separate scheme (as opposed to an extension of "Cranborne money") [*Ibid* c1677].

⁵⁹ HL Deb 30 July 2002 Vol 638 cc817-21

⁶⁰ HL Deb 20 March 2008 cc371-372

party were reinstated in the 2002 Resolution (see below for more detail).

Also on 9 July 2015, an above inflation increase (from £73,565⁶¹ in 2014/15 to £87,761 in 2015/16) was provided “to the Convenor of the Cross Benches to provide the resources needed for him to operate an office with two full-time members of staff”.⁶²

The amount of Cranborne Money allocated to parties in the House of Lords since 1997/98 is set out in Appendix 3. In 2016/17, the amounts allocated are:

Labour:	£587,117
Liberal Democrats:	£293,142
Cross Bench:	£89,165

The scheme makes provision for general election years to be split into pre-election and post-election periods in order to accommodate changes of Government etc. Parties claiming Cranborne Money must provide the Accounting Officer of the House of Lords (the Clerk of the Parliaments) with an auditor’s certificate confirming that all expenses claimed were incurred exclusively in relation to the party’s parliamentary business.

It had generally been the practice from time to time for some of the House of Commons Short Money allowance to be allocated by the parties to their Lords’ colleagues for their Parliamentary duties. The creation of the Lords scheme may mean that this should no longer happen, at least to the same degree as previously, although the Government’s memorandum of 6 May 1998 to the Committee on Standards in Public Life (Neill Committee) review of party funding appeared to assume that the practice could continue:

The new scheme does not prevent parties continuing to allocate some of the basic Short money to support activities in the Lords. There is no connection between entitlement to Cranborne money and entitlement to Short money.⁶³

Official Opposition – salaries

Both the Leader of the Opposition and Opposition Chief Whip in the Lords are paid salaries from public funds, under the *Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975*. Since July 2011, entitlements have been determined in accordance with the *Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 (Amendment) Order 2011*. From 1 April 2016 the entitlements are:

Leader of the Opposition	£69,433
Opposition Chief Whip	£64,206 ⁶⁴

⁶¹ Inflation would have increased this to £74,226.

⁶² [HL Deb 9 July 2015 c252](#)

⁶³ Committee on Standards in Public Life, *The Funding of Political Parties in the United Kingdom*, Cm 4057, 13 Oct 1998, para 10

⁶⁴ [Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 \(Amendment\) Order 2011](#), SI 2011/1689; Cabinet Office

6.1 Cranborne Money and the coalition (2010-15)

On 24 June 2010, the House of Lords agreed a motion that removed references to the “second largest opposition party” from the resolution on Cranborne Money. Its effect was that from 12 May 2010 only the Labour Party and the Cross Benches would qualify for Cranborne Money.⁶⁵ The amounts that both groups were entitled to under the 2002 resolution were not changed. As a party within the Government, the Liberal Democrats no longer qualified for Cranborne Money.

In the short debate on the motion, Baroness Boothroyd (a Cross Bencher) suggested that it might have been possible to argue that the Cross Benches should now qualify as the second largest opposition party. Although she did not pursue this argument, she did ask the Leader of the House to “review the allocation of Cranborne money in the light of my unashamed appeal for a better deal for these benches”.⁶⁶

Viscount Tenby, another Cross Bencher, supported Baroness Boothroyd’s case. Lord Alderdice suggested that all parties should receive funding, whether in government or opposition, to help parties engage with stakeholders.⁶⁷

In replying to the debate, Lord Strathclyde, the Leader of House of Lords, said that he considered the amount allocated to the main opposition party was about right; and that he was “always happy to receive representations from the Cross Benches and from the convenor about whether that figure should be raised”. However, he argued that Cranborne Money supported opposition parties and that he was “not enormously attracted to” Lord Alderdice’s idea.⁶⁸

On 9 July 2015, the House of Lords agreed a motion that restored Cranborne Money to the Liberal Democrats following their return to the Opposition benches. The Resolution provided that:

... with effect from 8 May 2015, the resolution of the House of 24 June 2010 (financial assistance to opposition parties) shall cease to have effect; and the resolution of the House of 30 July 2002 (financial assistance to opposition parties) shall have effect from 8 May 2015 as it would have done if the resolution of the House of 24 June 2010 had not been passed.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ HL Deb 24 June 2010 cc1429-1435

⁶⁶ HL Deb 24 June 2010 c1431

⁶⁷ HL Deb 24 June 2010 cc1431-1433

⁶⁸ HL Deb 24 June 2010 cc1433-1435

⁶⁹ [HL Deb 9 July 2015 cc251-254](#)

7. Financial support for Sinn Fein

Although the 1999 Resolution on Short Money does not specifically state this, Short Money is not available to parties whose Members have not sworn the oath, because it was introduced to offer assistance for parliamentary duties. Paragraph 1 of the original Short Money Resolution in 1975 provided that financial assistance was available to parties “to assist that party in carrying out its parliamentary business” and paragraph 6 required parties to certify “that the expenses in respect of which assistance is claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to that party’s parliamentary business”. These terms are repeated in the current resolution of 26 May 1999.

However, on 8 February 2006, the House of Commons agreed to a motion that created a similar scheme solely for an opposition party “represented by Members who have chosen not to take their seats”. The motion provided for “expenses wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred for the employment of staff and related support to Members designated as that party’s spokesman in relation to the party’s representative business.” There is no definition of “representative business” in the motion, and, hitherto, the term has not been used in parliamentary procedure. The terms of the motion would appear to allow Sinn Fein to use funds calculated on the same terms as Short Money for different types of expenditure, such as for press and publicity and other representative functions. Other opposition parties have access to Short Money to support parliamentary business only and no equivalent extension for representative work has been announced for them.

The Resolution was amended on 23 March 2016. In line with the amendments to the Short Money Resolution, changes were made to the seats and votes elements used to calculate amount of Representative Money a party was entitled to; the uprating formula was amended to use the consumer prices index instead of the retail prices index; and reporting requirements were changed.

The 2006 Resolution and the 2013 Resolution are included at Appendix 6.⁷⁰

Sinn Fein’s allocation under the scheme for the 2016/17 year is:

	Main budget (£)	Travel budget (£)
Total	97,556.00	2,224.32

Source: House of Commons, Department of HR and Change

On 30 June 2010, Nigel Dodds initiated a debate on Parliamentary allowances and Short Money. In responding to the debate, David

⁷⁰ Some details of the debate on the 2006 motion are included in the House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/PC/1667, [Sinn Fein, allowances and access to Commons facilities](#)

Heath, the Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, reviewed the changes that had occurred in the political landscape in Northern Ireland since Sinn Fein members were first allowed to claim allowances in 2001 and funding analogous to Short Money for representative business was introduced in 2006. David Heath said:

Whatever arguments were made in 2001 and 2006, they were made in a different political context. Northern Ireland has moved on. The principle for the future must be that all elected Members should take their seats and play as full a role as possible as Members of the House.⁷¹

After making some comments on the changes to the Parliamentary allowances regime, at the end of his speech, he commented on representative money:

Representative money is a matter for the House. Any change to the current position requires a decision of the House and a debate at which Members can again put forward their views.

I have listened carefully to the right hon. Gentleman's arguments, and to those of his hon. Friends and others. I will ensure that the arguments raised are drawn to the attention of my right hon. Friends the Leader of the House, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Prime Minister. The Government will listen to all sides of the debate, but we are mindful of the very strong views that have been expressed in the debate today and the real issues of principle at play in relation to financial assistance for those MPs who do not take their seats.

Over the coming months Ministers will be talking to all Northern Ireland parties to address how to take the issue forward in light of the views and clear issues of principle we discussed today. The right hon. Gentleman has my assurance of that. I congratulate him on securing the debate and on expressing his views clearly and precisely. I will ensure that they are communicated to my right hon. Friends who will deal with the matter in the future.⁷²

In June 2011, Nigel Dodds asked again about the future arrangements for this allowance.⁷³

Nigel Dodds has continued to raise questions on this issue. On 14 September 2011, he reminded the Prime Minister of a commitment “to deal with the scandal of people who are elected to this House, do not take their seats, and yet continue to be paid millions of pounds in allowances, including the equivalent of Short money, which they can use for party political purposes while we have to use it for parliamentary purposes”. He asked for a “vote to deal with that scandal”. The Prime Minister told him that the issue “needs addressing”.⁷⁴

On 29 January 2013, DUP Members secured a Westminster Hall debate on Political Party Funding. They used the debate to argue further for changes to the state funding available to Sinn Fein.⁷⁵ For the Labour Opposition, Angela Smith commented that Representative Money was

⁷¹ 30 June 2010 c252WH

⁷² HC Deb 30 June 2010 c253WH

⁷³ HC Deb 30 June 2011 c1123

⁷⁴ HC Deb 14 September 2011 cc1036-1037

⁷⁵ [HC Deb 29 January 2013 cc215WH-229WH](#)

“an anomaly that needs to be looked at” but that it was a matter for the House.⁷⁶

For the Government, Tom Brake, the Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, argued that whether Representative Money was available to Sinn Fein was a matter for the House and he suggested that the DUP approach the Backbench Business Committee for time for a debate.⁷⁷

On 18 April 2013, in response to a parliamentary question on stopping the provision of funding to Members who do not take their seats, Andrew Lansley, the Leader of the House, reiterated that “Such provision is a matter for the House itself to determine”.⁷⁸

DUP Member, Gregory Campbell raised the issue again in this Parliament, in a written question to the Leader of the House, which was answered on 22 June 2015:

Gregory Campbell: To ask the Leader of the House, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to end the payment of allowances to hon. Members who do not take their seats.

Chris Grayling: The pay and allowances for Members of Parliament are a matter for IPSA. In administering pay and allowances IPSA is bound by both legislation and the resolutions of this House.

It is established in legislation that that only those MPs who choose to take their seats by swearing the oath are eligible for a salary.

On 8 February 2006, the House passed a resolution providing financial assistance to parties whose Members have not taken their seats towards expenses “wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred for the employment of staff and related support to Members designated as that party’s spokesmen in relation to the party’s representative business.”

The preference of the Government is that all elected Members should play a full part in the business of the House.⁷⁹

⁷⁶ [HC Deb 29 January 2013 c230WH](#)

⁷⁷ [HC Deb 29 January 2013 cc232WH-233WH](#)

⁷⁸ [HC Deb 18 April 2013 c513W](#)

⁷⁹ [PQ 2962](#), 22 June 2015

Appendix 1: Short Money allocations, 2016/17

Party	Seats (2015)	Value (per seat)	Votes	Votes/200 (rnd'd down)	Value per V/200	TOTAL (full year equivalent)	Rounded	Entitlement	Leader of the Opposition	Total	Apportion % (to 4 decimal places)	Travel (full year equivalent)	GRAND TOTAL
		£16,938.00			£33.83								TOTAL
DUP	8	£135,504.00	184,260	921	£31,157.43	£166,661.43	£166,661.00	£166,661.00	£0.00	£166,661.00	2.0669%	£3,845.94	£170,506.94
Green	1	£16,938.00	1,157,630	5,788	£195,808.04	£212,746.04	£212,746.00	£212,100.00	£0.00	£212,100.00	2.6305%	£4,894.65	£216,994.65
Labour	232	£3,929,616.00	9,347,033	46,735	£1,581,045.05	£5,510,661.05	£5,510,661.00	£5,510,661.00	£789,146.00	£6,299,807.00	68.3437%	£127,169.17	£6,426,976.17
Lib Dems	8	£135,504.00	2,416,046	12,080	£408,666.40	£544,170.40	£544,170.00	£544,170.00	£0.00	£544,170.00	6.7488%	£12,557.69	£556,727.69
Plaid Cymru	3	£50,814.00	181,704	908	£30,717.64	£81,531.64	£81,532.00	£81,532.00	£0.00	£81,532.00	1.0112%	£1,881.57	£83,413.57
SDLP	3	£50,814.00	99,809	499	£16,881.17	£67,695.17	£67,695.00	£70,700.00	£0.00	£70,700.00	0.8768%	£1,631.49	£72,331.49
SNP	56	£948,528.00	1,454,436	7,272	£246,011.76	£1,194,539.76	£1,194,540.00	£1,194,540.00	£0.00	£1,194,540.00	14.8148%	£27,566.34	£1,222,106.34
UKIP	1	£16,938.00	3,881,093	19,405	£656,471.15	£673,409.15	£673,409.00	£212,100.00	£0.00	£212,100.00	2.6305%	£4,894.65	£216,994.65
UUP	2	£33,876.00	114,935	574	£19,418.42	£53,294.42	£53,294.00	£70,700.00	£0.00	£70,700.00	0.8768%	£1,631.49	£72,331.49
Totals	314	£5,318,532.00	18,836,946	94,182	£3,186,177.06	£8,504,709.06	£8,504,708.00	£8,063,164.00	£789,146.00	£8,852,310.00	100.0000%	£186,073.00	£9,038,383.00
Representative Money													
Sinn Fein	4	£67,752.00	176232	881	£29,804.23	£97,556.23	£97,556.00	£97,556.00	£0.00	£97,556.00	1.1954%	£2,224.32	£99,780.32

*Parties with no more than 5 MPs are highlighted

The "Entitlement" column differs from the rounded total if a party no more than 5 MPs is affected by the funding ceiling or floor

Source: House of Commons, Department of HR and Change

Appendix 2: Short Money allocations

(a) Allocations (£), 1997/98 – 2009/10

Totals comprise: general funding for Opposition Parties; travel expenses for Opposition Parties; and, from its introduction in April 1999, funding for the Leader of the Opposition's Office.

	Conservative Party	Liberal Democrats	Scottish National Party	Plaid Cymru	Ulster Unionist Party	Democratic Unionist Party	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Total
1997/98 (1)	1,075,129.65	405,311.23	50,301.74	23,110.45	51,841.26	12,659.40	20,215.02	1,638,568.75
1998/99	1,112,889.69	419,559.87	52,070.47	23,921.74	53,660.30	13,103.96	20,925.09	1,696,131.12
1999/2000	3,377,670.28	1,084,895.59	134,629.26	61,852.66	138,735.36	33,867.63	54,106.29	4,885,757.07
2000/01	3,465,131.69	1,112,906.04	138,106.31	63,454.86	142,333.03	34,744.20	55,505.93	5,012,182.06
2001/02 (2)	3,439,066.23	1,155,583.33	117,088.75	68,252.79	103,968.52	71,017.22	54,844.25	5,009,821.09
2002/03	3,459,536.50	1,174,410.37	113,091.76	69,897.25	95,832.96	80,017.07	55,112.74	5,047,898.65
2003/04	3,566,927.49	1,210,901.83	116,605.78	72,067.46	98,807.51	82,500.73	56,824.20	5,204,635.00
2004/05	3,666,885.49	1,244,855.74	119,875.44	74,087.32	101,576.29	84,812.57	58,416.99	5,350,509.84
2005/06 (3)	4,206,057.88	1,536,220.92	129,257.23	62,406.99	10,080.56	140,842.05	55,152.11	6,140,017.73
2006/07	4,343,068.75	1,596,867.38	132,662.51	62,232.48		149,689.05	55,788.84	6,340,309.01
2007/08	4,534,000.79	1,667,009.30	138,491.26	64,967.46		156,271.26	58,241.92	6,618,981.99
2008/09	4,715,453.55	1,733,771.54	144,035.82	67,568.05		162,524.14	60,572.91	6,883,926.01
2009/10	4,757,906.12	1,749,385.30	145,332.53	68,175.91		163,986.90	61,118.24	6,945,905.00

Source: House of Commons Operations Directorate, Department of Resources

Notes: (1) Data for the period after the General Election on 1 May 1997 only (i.e. not a full financial year)

(2) 67 days based on results of 1997 General Election and 298 days based on results of 2001 General Election.

The data below show the whole year equivalents for both elections: (a) 1997; and (b) 2001

2001/02 (a)	3,545,032.26	1,138,614.50	141,295.98	64,917.69	145,612.00	35,545.58	56,786.60	5,127,804.61
2001/02 (b)	3,415,241.65	1,159,398.47	111,646.18	69,002.63	94,605.73	78,992.39	54,407.55	4,983,294.60

(3) 35 days based on results of 2001 General Election and 330 days based on results of 2005 General Election.

The data below show the whole year equivalents for both elections: (a) 2001; and (b) 2005

2005/06 (a)	3,795,002.51	1,288,293.00	124,058.28	76,675.14	105,125.80	87,776.26	60,457.00	5,537,387.99
2005/06 (b)	4,249,654.66	1,562,516.30	129,808.63	60,893.70	nil	146,470.24	54,589.47	6,203,933.00

(4) The Ulster Unionist Party did not qualify for Short Money after the 2005 General Election because it had only one seat and secured less than 150,000 votes.

(b) Allocations (£) 2009/10-2015/16

Totals comprise: general funding for Opposition Parties; travel expenses for Opposition Parties; and, from its introduction in April 1999, funding for the Leader of the Opposition's Office.

	Conservative Party	Labour Party	Liberal Democrats	Scottish National Party	Plaid Cymru	Democratic Unionist Party	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Green Party	Ulster Unionist Party	United Kingdom Independence Party	Total
2009/10	4,757,906.12	-	1,749,385.30	145,332.53	68,175.91	163,986.90	61,118.24	-	-	-	6,945,905.00
2010/11 (1)	467,172.96	5,197,038.79	171,768.04	159,880.41	68,779.42	145,351.04	60,833.04	51,325.79	-	-	6,322,149.49
2011/12	-	6,024,340.74	-	168,794.55	71,970.02	149,822.57	63,561.02	59,501.11	-	-	6,537,990.01
2012/13	-	6,155,514.00	-	171,885.00	73,288.00	152,569.00	64,725.00	60,589.00	-	-	6,678,570.00
2013/14	-	6,509,319.85	-	182,386.15	77,763.99	161,883.86	68,677.82	64,292.71	-	-	7,064,324.38
2014/15	-	6,684,794.15	-	187,297.34	79,858.37	166,249.65	70,528.29	66,019.67	-	-	7,254,744.45
2015/16 (2), (3)	-	6,463,815.62	497,351.76	1,117,645.48	83,169.70	170,324.83	69,491.08	202,380.01	49,004.15	619,127.93	9,272,310.56
2016/17 (4)	-	6,426,976.17	556,727.69	1,222,106.34	83,413.49	170,506.94	72,331.49	216,994.65	72,331.49	216,994.65	9,038,382.91

Source: House of Commons, Corporate Services

Notes

(1) 35 days based on the results of 2005 General Election and 330 days based on results of 2010 General Election

The data below show the whole year equivalents for both elections: (a) 2005 and (b) 2010

2010/11 (a)	4,871,946.61	nil	1,791,295.27	148,814.86	69,809.95	167,917.21	62,582.11	-	-	-	7,112,366.01
2010/11 (b)	nil	5,748,239.79	nil	161,053.61	68,669.69	142,957.40	60,647.63	56,769.87	-	-	6,238,337.99

(2) 37 days based on the results of 2010 General Election and 329 days based on results of 2015 General Election

The data below show the whole year equivalents for both elections: (a) 2010 and (b) 2015

2015/16 (a)	nil	6,791,611.21	0.00	190,283.05	81,133.52	168,906.68	71,655.23	67,071.48	0	0	7,370,661.17
2015/16 (b)	nil	6,426,951.07	556,595.54	1,221,938.52	83,398.69	170,484.32	69,247.70	217,597.08	54,515.25	688,756.30	9,489,484.47

(3) The Liberal Democrats qualified for general funding from Short Money from 10 May 2015

(4) SDLP and UUP funds were raised by the funding floor for parties with five or fewer MPs introduced at the beginning of 2016/17

Green Party and UKIP funds were reduced by the funding ceiling for parties with five or fewer MPs introduced at the beginning of 2016/17

(c) General funding rates, 1997/98 onwards (£)

	Per seat	Per 200 votes
1997/98	3,840.65	7.67
1998/99	3,975.07	7.94
1999/2000	10,732.69	21.44
2000/01	11,011.73	21.99
2001/02	11,265.00	22.50
2002/03	11,411.45	22.79
2003/04	11,765.20	23.50
2004/05	12,094.63	24.16
2005/06	12,518.00	25.00
2006/07	12,793.00	25.55
2007/08	13,356.00	26.67
2008/09	13,890.00	27.74
2009/10	14,015.00	27.99
2010/11	14,351.00	28.66
2011/12	15,039.85	30.04
2012/13	15,761.76	31.48
2013/14	16,250.37	32.46
2014/15	16,689.13	33.33
2015/16	16,956.16	33.86
2016/17	16,938.00	33.83

Source: House of Commons,
Corporate Services

(d) Historic funding rates (£)

from	Per seat	Per 200 votes	Overall limit
1 January 1975	500.00	1.00	150,000
1 January 1978	550.00	1.10	165,000
1 January 1980	962.50	1.925	290,000
1 January 1983	1,080.00	2.16	325,000
1 January 1985	1,500.00	3.00	450,000
1 January 1988	2,550.00	5.10	-

Source: Resolutions of the House of Commons

Note: From 1 January 1993 (for fifteen months) the allocations were:

£4,080 per seat; and

£8.16 per 200 votes

From 1 April 1994 the allocations were:

£3,442.50 (plus uprating) per seat; and

£6.89 (plus uprating) per 200 votes

From 1 April 1995 amounts were increased in line with inflation.

Further information on Short Money before 1993 can be found in:

- House of Commons Library Research Paper, [‘Short Money’: Financial Assistance to Opposition Parties](#), RP 93/99, 3 November 1993

(e) Funding for the Leader of the Opposition's Office
Funding available (£ per financial year)

1999/2000	500,000.00
2000/01	513,000.00
2001/02	524,799.00
2002/03	531,621.39
2003/04	548,101.65
2004/05	563,448.50
2005/06	583,169.00
2006/07	595,999.00
2007/08	622,223.00
2008/09	647,112.00
2009/10	652,936.00
2010/11	668,606.00
2011/12	700,699.00
2012/13	734,333.00
2013/14	757,097.32
2014/15	777,538.48
2015/16	789,979.10
2016/17	789,146.00

Source: House of Commons, Corporate Services

Appendix 3: Cranborne Money allocations, 1997/98-2014/15

	Official Opposition		Second largest opposition party		Cross Bench £	Total £
	Party	£	Party	£		
1997/98	Lab/Con	102,600	Lib Dem	30,780		133,380
to 30 April 1997	Lab	8,433	Lib Dem	2,530		10,963
from 1 May 1997	Con	94,167	Lib Dem	28,250		122,417
1998/99	Con	106,191	Lib Dem	31,857		138,048
1999/2000	Con	216,842	Lib Dem	65,052	10,000	291,894
2000/01	Con	222,480	Lib Dem	66,743	20,520	309,743
2001/02	Con	227,597	Lib Dem	68,278	20,992	316,867
2002/03	Con	390,555	Lib Dem	195,000	35,000	620,555
2003/04	Con	402,662	Lib Dem	201,045	36,085	639,792
2004/05	Con	413,131	Lib Dem	206,272	37,023	656,426
2005/06	Con	426,351	Lib Dem	212,873	38,208	677,432
2006/07	Con	436,584	Lib Dem	217,982	39,125	693,691
2007/08	Con	457,540	Lib Dem	228,445	41,003	726,988
2008/09	Con	474,927	Lib Dem	237,126	61,003	773,056
2009/10 (1)	Con	474,927	Lib Dem	237,126	61,003	773,056
2010/11	Con/Lab	495,824	Lib Dem/-	27,808	63,687	587,319
to 11 May 2010	Con	55,695	Lib Dem	27,808	7,154	90,657
from 12 May 2010 (2)	Lab	440,129	-	-	56,533	496,662
2011/12	Lab	522,102	-	-	67,063	589,165
2012/13	Lab	540,898	-	-	69,477	610,375
2013/14	Lab	558,748	-	-	71,770	630,518
2014/15	Lab	572,717	-	-	73,565	646,282
2015/16	Lab	577,871	Lib Dem(3)	259,357	87,761	924,989
2016/17	Lab	587,117	Lib Dem	293,142	89,165	969,424

(1) These amounts are unchanged from 2008/09 because the Retail Price Index, to March 2009, had fallen compared with twelve months earlier

(2) On 24 June 2010, the House of Lords removed references to the second largest opposition party in the resolution of 30 July 2002

(3) Payable 8 May 2012, derived from a full financial year entitlement of £288,525

Source: House of Lords Finance Department

Appendix 4: Short Money resolution

(a) Resolution of the House of Commons of 26 May 1999

Opposition Parties (Financial Assistance),—Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, the provisions of this Resolution should have effect in relation to the giving of financial assistance to opposition parties in this House:

1.—(1) Financial assistance to assist an opposition party in carrying out its Parliamentary Business shall be available under this paragraph at any time on or after 1st April 1999 if at that time one of the following conditions is satisfied with respect to the party, that is to say

(a) there are at that time at least two Members of this House who are members of the party and who were elected at the previous General Election after contesting it as candidates for the party; or

(b) there is at that time one such Member who was so elected and the aggregate of the votes cast in favour of all the party's candidates at that Election was at least 150,000.

(2) The amount of financial assistance which may be given under this paragraph to any party in respect of the expenses incurred by it in any period shall be the aggregate of

(a) the first relevant amount for that period multiplied by the number of seats won by its candidates at the Election; and

(b) the second relevant amount for that period multiplied by one two-hundredth of the number of votes cast for its candidates at that Election (rounded down to the nearest whole number).

(3) For the period of one year beginning with 1st April 1999

(a) the first relevant amount shall be £10,732.69; and

(b) the second relevant amount shall be £21.44.

(4) For any subsequent period of one year beginning with 1st April

(a) the first relevant amount shall be that amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage for the subsequent period; and

(b) the second relevant amount shall be that amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage for the subsequent period.

(5) The appropriate percentage for any period is the percentage by which the retail prices index for the month of March immediately preceding that period has increased compared with the retail prices index for the previous March.⁸⁰

(6) The references in sub-paragraph (5) above to the retail prices index is a reference to the general index of retail prices (for all items) published by the

⁸⁰ Changing to uprating according to the RPI in December, from March, was agreed by the Members Estimate Committee on 15 March 2004. The MEC made other changes to bring the Resolution up to date. They are not reported here, see: House of Commons Members Estimate Committee, [*List of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons Members, as modified by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee*](#), June 2006, 2nd edition, paras 8.1-8.18,

Office for National Statistics, and if that index is not published for a month which is relevant for the purposes of this paragraph those references in that sub-paragraph shall be construed as references to any substituted index or index figure published by that Office.

(7) In consequence of this paragraph, the Resolution of 4th November 1993 shall not have effect with respect to any time after 31st March 1999.

(8) Financial assistance provided under the terms of this paragraph shall be paid in arrears, at intervals of not less than one month.

2.—(1) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 1 above, financial assistance towards travelling and associated expenses necessarily incurred by an opposition party's spokesmen in relation to the party's parliamentary business shall be available under this paragraph if at any time on or after 1st April 1999 one of the conditions specified in sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 1 above is satisfied with respect to the party.

(2) The maximum amount of financial assistance which may be given under this paragraph to any party in respect of the expenses incurred in any period shall be such of the available amount for that period as may be allocated to the party in accordance with any apportionment under sub-paragraph (3) below.

(3) The available amount for any period shall be apportioned between each of the opposition parties in the same proportion as the amount of financial assistance which may be given to each of them under paragraph 1 above for that period or for any period forming part of that period.

(4) Any reference in this paragraph to the available amount for a period is a reference

(a) in the case of the period of one year beginning with 1st April 1999, to the sum of £117,896.00; and

(b) in the case of each subsequent period of one year beginning with 1st April, to the available amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage for the subsequent period.

(5) Sub-paragraphs (5) and (6) of paragraph 1 above shall apply for the purposes of this paragraph as they apply for the purposes of that paragraph.

3.—(1) Financial assistance shall be available for the costs necessarily incurred in the running of the Leader of the Opposition's Office.

(2) For the period of one year beginning with 1st April 1999, the amount of financial assistance which may be given under this paragraph in respect of expenses incurred in that period shall be £500,000.

(3) For any subsequent period of one year beginning with 1st April the relevant amount shall be that amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage in accordance with paragraph 1(5).

(4) Sub-paragraphs (5) and (6) of paragraph 1 above shall apply for the purposes of this paragraph as they apply for the purposes of that paragraph.

(5) Financial assistance provided under the terms of this paragraph shall be paid in arrears, at intervals of not less than one month.

4. Any claims for financial assistance towards travelling expenses under paragraph 2 are to be made to the Accounting Officer of the House; and a party claiming such assistance shall

(a) furnish that Officer with a statement of the facts on which the claim is based;

(b) certify to that Officer that the expenses which are claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business in accordance with this resolution.

5.—(1) As soon as practicable, but no later than nine months after 31st March each year, a party claiming financial assistance under this resolution, shall furnish the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the Accounting Officer, to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the party received financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business under this resolution.

(2) If an audit certificate under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph has not been furnished within the time specified no further financial assistance under this resolution shall be paid until such a certificate is so furnished.

6.—(1) In the case of any year in which there is a General Election

(a) the period ending immediately before the date of the Election and

(b) the period beginning with that date shall be treated for the purposes of paragraph 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3 above as separate periods.

(2) In relation to any such separate period

(a) the first relevant amount and the second relevant amount for the period ending immediately before the date of the General Election shall be apportioned according to the number of days in that period as a proportion of the total number of days in the year in question; and

(b) the available amount for the period beginning with the date of the General Election shall be a proportionate part of the available amount for the year in question.

(3) In relation to any such separate period ending immediately before the date of the Election, paragraph 5(1) above shall have effect as if the 31st March referred to were a reference to the day immediately before the date of the Election.

(4) In this paragraph "year" means a year beginning with 1st April.

(5) The cost of providing financial assistance shall be borne on the House of Commons: Members' salaries etc. Vote.

Source: *Votes and Proceedings*, 26 May 1999

(b) Resolution of the House of Commons of 23 March 2016

This section contains the part of the resolution of 23 March 2016 that amended the resolution of 26 May 1999 as codified and modified by the Members Estimate Committee

The Resolution of 26 May 1999 relating to financial assistance for opposition parties, as codified and modified by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee pursuant to Standing Order No. 152D(3) (as set out in section 2 of Annex 2 of that Committee's report to the House of March 2015 (HC 1132)), is amended as follows with effect from the beginning of 1 April 2016—

(1) In paragraph 2.2, after sub-paragraph (b) insert—

“This is subject to paragraphs 2.5A to 2.5C in the case of parties with no more than five Members of the House.”

(2) In paragraph 2.3—

(a) for “£16,956” substitute “£16,938”, and

(b) for “£33.86” substitute “£33.83”.

(3) In paragraph 2.4, for “the Retail Prices Index” (in both places) substitute “the Consumer Prices Index”.

(4) In paragraph 2.5, for “this provision” substitute “the provision set out at paragraph 2.1 above”.

(5) After paragraph 2.5 insert—

“2.5A Paragraphs 2.5B and 2.5C apply in the case of an opposition party where there are no more than five Members of the House who—

(a) are members of the party, and

(b) were elected at the previous General Election after contesting it as candidates for the party.

2.5B If the amount found under paragraph 2.2 above exceeds the amount corresponding to 150% of the relevant IPSA staffing budget for the period (“the maximum amount”), the amount of financial assistance given to the party under paragraph 2.1 in relation to that period must not exceed the maximum amount.

2.5C If the amount found under paragraph 2.2 above is less than the amount corresponding to 50% of the relevant IPSA staffing budget for the period (“the minimum amount”), the amount of financial assistance which may be given to the party under paragraph 2.1 above in respect of the expenses incurred by the party in that period shall instead be the minimum amount.

2.5D For the purposes of paragraphs 2.5B and 2.5C, “the relevant IPSA staffing budget” for a period is the standard annual staffing expenditure budget provided in relation to the period for a non-London area Member by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.”

(6) In paragraph 2.9—

(a) for “2015” substitute “2016”, and

(b) for “£186,269” substitute “£186,073”.

(7) In paragraph 2.10—

(a) for “2015” substitute “2016”, and

(b) for “£789,979” substitute “£789,146”.

(8) In paragraph 2.11, for “paragraph 2.1” substitute “paragraph 2.10”.

(9) For paragraph 2.13 and 2.14 substitute—

“2.13 As soon as practicable, but no later than two months after 31 March each year, a party claiming financial assistance under the provisions set out at paragraphs 2.1 to 2.11 above shall—

(a) furnish the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the Accounting Officer, to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the party received financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred exclusively in relation to the party’s parliamentary business, and

(b) publish accounts in relation to all such expenses, audited by an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee and in accordance with any requirements imposed by that Committee.

2.13A The requirements that may be imposed under paragraph 2.13(b) are such requirements as the Committee considers necessary or expedient for the purpose of enabling proper scrutiny of expenses in respect of which the party has received financial assistance under paragraph 2.1, 2.6 or 2.10 above, which may in particular include requirements for the audited accounts—

(a) to contain details of such expenses during the period to which the report relates (“the reporting period”),

(b) in the case of the Official Opposition—

(i) to state the total remuneration (including benefits in kind) paid in respect of persons employed, or otherwise engaged, to assist the party (“relevant persons”) during the reporting period,(ii) to state each relevant person’s pay band, by reference to the pay bands specified by the Committee,(iii) if a relevant person is appointed to assist a particular Member, to identify that Member, and(iv) to identify each relevant person whose remuneration exceeds an amount specified by the Committee and to state the amount of that remuneration, and

(c) in the case of any other opposition party, to identify the number of persons employed, or otherwise engaged, to assist the party during the reporting period who are within each of the pay bands specified by the Committee.

2.14 If the requirements imposed by paragraph 2.13 above have not been complied with within the time specified, no further financial assistance under the provisions set out at paragraphs 2.1 to 2.11 above shall be paid until those requirements have been complied with.”⁸¹

⁸¹ [HC Deb 23 March 2016 cc1714-1716](#)

(c) Resolution of the House of Commons of 26 May 1999, as codified and modified by the Members Estimate Committee and amended by the Resolution of 23 March 2016

The Members Estimate Committee is required to codify and modify resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the House of Commons: Members Estimate (i.e. the budget from which Short Money is paid). It has made the following changes to the Resolution on Financial Assistance to Opposition Parties (Short Money), which was agreed on 26 May 1999.

- On 15 March 2004, the MEC agreed to change the basis for uprating Short Money from the RPI in the previous March to the RPI in the previous December.⁸² The MEC made other changes to bring the Resolution up to date.⁸³
- On 21 January 2013, the MEC agreed to implement an end-of-May deadline for submission of audit certificates for Short Money (see para 2.13, in the Resolution below) and representative money.⁸⁴

Changes made by the Resolution of 23 March 2016 are shown in red.

2.1 Financial assistance to assist an opposition party in carrying out its parliamentary business shall be available if—

(a) There are at that time at least two Members of the House who are members of the party and who were elected at the previous General Election after contesting it as candidates for the party, or

(b) There is at that time one such Member who was so elected and the aggregate of the votes cast in favour of all the party's candidates at that election was at least 150,000.

2.2 The amount of financial assistance which may be given under the provision set out at paragraph 2.1 above to any party in respect of the expenses incurred by it in any period shall be the aggregate of—

(a) The first relevant amount for that period multiplied by the number of seats won by its candidates at the Election; and

(b) The second relevant amount for that period multiplied by one two-hundredth of the number of votes cast for its candidates at that Election (rounded down to the nearest whole number).

This paragraph is subject to paragraphs 2.5A to 2.5C in the case of parties with no more than five Members of the House.

2.3 The first relevant amount shall be **£16,938** and for any subsequent period of one year beginning with 1 April the first relevant amount shall be that amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage for the subsequent period; and the second relevant amount shall be **£33.83**, and for any subsequent period of one year beginning with 1 April the second

⁸² Members Estimate Committee, *Decisions*, 15 March 2004

⁸³ These changes were shown in Members Estimate Committee, *Concordance of Resolutions List of Provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members, as modified by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee*, 6 May 2005, HC 240-II 2004-05

⁸⁴ House of Commons Commission, *Decisions 21 January 2013*, Item 2; Members Estimate Committee, *Consolidated list of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members as at 1 April 2013*, 26 March 2013, HC 918 2012-13, Annex 2

relevant amount shall be that amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage for the subsequent period.

2.4 The appropriate percentage for any period is the percentage by which the Consumer Prices Index for the month of December immediately preceding that period has increased compared with the Consumer Prices Index for the previous December.

2.5 Financial assistance provided under the terms of the provision set out at paragraph 2.1 above shall be paid in arrears, at intervals of not less than one month.

2.5A Paragraphs 2.5B and 2.5C apply in the case of an opposition party where there are no more than five Members of the House who—

(a) are members of the party, and

(b) were elected at the previous General Election after contesting it as candidates for the party.

2.5B If the amount found under paragraph 2.2 above exceeds the amount corresponding to 150% of the relevant IPSA staffing budget for the period (“the maximum amount”), the amount of financial assistance given to the party under paragraph 2.1 in relation to that period must not exceed the maximum amount.

2.5C If the amount found under paragraph 2.2 above is less than the amount corresponding to 50% of the relevant IPSA staffing budget for the period (“the minimum amount”), the amount of financial assistance which may be given to the party under paragraph 2.1 above in respect of the expenses incurred by the party in that period shall instead be the minimum amount.

2.5D For the purposes of paragraphs 2.5B and 2.5C, “the relevant IPSA staffing budget” for a period is the standard annual staffing expenditure budget provided in relation to the period for a non-London area Member by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

2.6 Without prejudice to the generality of the provision set out at paragraph 2.1 above, financial assistance towards travelling and associated expenses necessarily incurred by an opposition party's spokesman in relation to the party's parliamentary business shall be available if one of the conditions specified at paragraph 2.1 above is satisfied with respect to the party.

2.7 The maximum amount of financial assistance which may be given under the provision set out at paragraph 2.6 above to any party in respect of the expenses incurred in any period shall be such of the available amount for that period as may be allocated to the party in accordance with any apportionment as set out at paragraph 2.8 below.

2.8 The available amount for any period shall be apportioned between each of the opposition parties in the same proportion as the amount of financial assistance which may be given to each of them under the provisions set out at paragraph 2.1 above for that period or for any period forming part of that period.

2.9 The available amount for the period of a year beginning 1 April 2016 shall be £186,073. The available amount for any subsequent period is the available

amount for the previous period, increased by the appropriate percentage (as specified at paragraph 2.4 above) for the subsequent period.

2.10 Financial assistance shall be available for the costs necessarily incurred in the running of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition. For the period of one year beginning with 1 April 2016, the amount of financial assistance which may be given under this paragraph in respect of expenses incurred in that period shall be £789,146. For any subsequent period of one year beginning with 1 April the relevant amount shall be that amount for the previous period but increased by the appropriate percentage (as specified at paragraph 2.4 above).

2.11 Financial assistance under the provisions set out at paragraph 2.1 above shall be paid in arrears, at intervals of not less than one month.

2.12 Any claims for financial assistance towards travelling expenses incurred by an opposition party spokesman in relation to the party's parliamentary business as set out at paragraph 2.6 above are to be made to the Accounting Officer of the House; and a party claiming such assistance shall—

(a) Furnish that Officer with a statement of the facts on which the claim is based, and

(b) Certify to that Officer that the expenses which are claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business in accordance with the provisions set out at paragraph 2.6 above.

2.13 As soon as practicable, but no later than two months after 31 March each year, a party claiming financial assistance under the provisions set out at paragraphs 2.1 to 2.11 above shall—

(a) furnish the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the Accounting Officer, to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the party received financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred exclusively in relation to the party's parliamentary business, and

(b) publish accounts in relation to all such expenses, audited by an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee and in accordance with any requirements imposed by that Committee.

2.13A The requirements that may be imposed under paragraph 2.13(b) are such requirements as the Committee considers necessary or expedient for the purpose of enabling proper scrutiny of expenses in respect of which the party has received financial assistance under paragraph 2.1, 2.6 or 2.10 above, which may in particular include requirements for the audited accounts—

(a) to contain details of such expenses during the period to which the report relates ("the reporting period"),

(b) in the case of the Official Opposition—

(i) to state the total remuneration (including benefits in kind) paid in respect of persons employed, or otherwise engaged, to assist the party ("relevant persons") during the reporting period,(ii) to state each relevant person's pay band, by reference to the pay bands specified by the Committee,(iii) if a

relevant person is appointed to assist a particular Member, to identify that Member, and(iv) to identify each relevant person whose remuneration exceeds an amount specified by the Committee and to state the amount of that remuneration, and

(c) in the case of any other opposition party, to identify the number of persons employed, or otherwise engaged, to assist the party during the reporting period who are within each of the pay bands specified by the Committee.

2.14 If the requirements imposed by paragraph 2.13 above have not been complied with within the time specified, no further financial assistance under the provisions set out at paragraphs 2.1 to 2.11 above shall be paid until those requirements have been complied with."

2.15 In the case of any year in which there is a General Election—

(a) The period ending immediately before the date of the Election, and

(b) The period beginning with that date shall be treated for the purposes of the provisions set out at paragraphs 2.1 to 2.11 above as separate periods.

2.16 In relation to any such separate periods—

(a) The first relevant amount and the second relevant amount for the period ending immediately before the date of the General Election shall be apportioned according to the number of days in that period as a proportion of the total number of days in the year in question, and

(b) The available amount for the period beginning with the date of the General Election shall be a proportionate part of the available amount for the year in question.

2.17 In relation to any such separate period ending immediately before the date of the election, the provisions set out at paragraph 2.13 above shall have effect as if the 31 March referred to were a reference to the day immediately before the date of the Election.

2.18 The cost of providing financial assistance shall be borne on the House of Commons: Members Estimate. (*26 May 1999; MEC, 15 March 2004; MEC, 21 January 2013*)

Source: Members Estimate Committee, [Consolidated list of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members as at 16 March 2015](#), 24 March 2015, HC 1132 2014-15, Annex 2 and incorporating changes agreed by the House on 23 March 2016 ([HC Deb 23 March 2016 cc1714-1716](#))

(d) Resolution of the House of Commons of 7 July 2016, adding a Schedule on reporting to the Short Money resolution

That, notwithstanding the Resolution of the House of 23 March 2016 relating to Opposition Parties (Financial Assistance), the accounts to be published by each political party claiming financial assistance under paragraph 2.1 of the Resolution of 26 May 1999 relating to financial assistance for opposition parties, as codified and modified by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee in the form set out in section 2 of Annex 2 of that Committee's

report to the House of 16 March 2015 (HC 1132), shall be required to include the matters set out in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

A. Financial Assistance: Official Opposition

(i) The identification of each person at least 50% of whose salary is, or has at any time during the financial year in question been, paid for from funds received under paragraph 2.6 (if they have worked for a named Member, together with the name of that Member) and either (a) the total remuneration earned by that person if in excess of the specified threshold or, if not, (b) the relevant pay band.

(ii) The total claimed under paragraph 2.6, showing a breakdown between (a) the total direct staff costs identified in (i) above met from funds received under paragraph 2.6 and (b) other costs, indicating the principal headings of such expenditure.

B. Financial Assistance: Other parties

(i) The total number of people at least 50% of whose salary is, or has at any time during the financial year in question been, paid for from funds received under paragraph 2.6, if they have worked for a named Member or for the parliamentary party as a whole, and the relevant pay band.

(ii) The total claimed under paragraph 2.6, showing a breakdown between (a) the total direct staff costs identified in (i) above met from funds received under paragraph 2.6 and (b) other costs, indicating the principal headings of such expenditure.

C. Leader of the Opposition

(i) The identification of each person at least 50% of whose salary is, or has at any time during the financial year in question been, paid for from funds received under paragraph 2.10, and either (a) the total remuneration earned by that person if in excess of the specified threshold or, if not (b) the relevant pay band.

(ii) The total claimed under paragraph 2.10, showing a breakdown between (a) the total direct staff costs identified in (i) above met from funds received under paragraph 2.10 and (b) other costs, indicating the principal headings of such expenditure.

D. Travelling expenses

The total claimed under paragraph 2.12.

E. Representative money

(i) The total number of people at least 50% of whose salary is, or has at any time during the financial year in question been, paid for from funds received under paragraph 2.19, if they have worked for a named Member or for the parliamentary party as a whole, and the relevant pay band.

(ii) The total claimed under paragraph 2.19, showing a breakdown between (a) the total direct staff costs identified in (i) above met from the funds received under paragraph 2.19 and (b) other costs, indicating the principal headings of such expenditure.

F. Definitions

The pay bands and threshold amount referred to above shall be those applicable for the year in question to Ministers' special advisers, as determined by the Accounting Officer of the House.⁸⁵

⁸⁵ HC Deb 7 July 2016 cc1146-1147

Appendix 5: House of Lords Resolution of 30 July 2002 on Cranborne money

That, in the opinion of this House, the provisions of this Resolution should have effect—

(a) in place of the Resolution of 27th November 1996 (giving of financial assistance to opposition parties in this House) in relation to the giving of such financial assistance for periods after 31st March 2002, and

(b) in relation to the giving of financial assistance to the Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers for periods after 31st March 2001:

(1) Financial assistance shall be available to assist the Opposition, the second largest opposition party and the Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers in carrying out their Parliamentary business.

(2) The maximum amount of financial assistance which may be given is—

(a) for the year beginning with 1st April 2002—

Opposition	£390,555
second largest opposition party	£195,000
Convenor of the Cross Bench Peers	£35,000

(b) for each subsequent year, the maximum amount for the previous year increased by the percentage (if any) by which the retail prices index for the previous March has increased compared with the index for the March before that, and (if the resulting amount is not a whole number of pounds) rounded to the nearest pound.

(3) The financial assistance available under this Resolution includes assistance in respect of expenses incurred before the passing of this Resolution.

(4) In the case of the Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers, financial assistance shall also be available, to a maximum of £35,000, to assist him in respect of expenses in carrying out his Parliamentary business for the year beginning with 1st April 2001.

(5) Any claim for financial assistance by a party or the Convenor ("the claimant") is to be made to the Accounting Officer of the House; and the claimant must—

(a) provide that Officer with a statement of the facts on which the claim is based;

(b) certify to that Officer that the expenses in respect of which the assistance is claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to the claimant's Parliamentary business; and

(c) as soon as practicable after each 31st March following the passing of this Resolution, furnish that Officer with the certificate of an independent professional auditor to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the claimant claimed financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred as mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) above.

(6) Paragraph (5)(c) does not apply to a claim for assistance under paragraph (4), but when making such a claim the Convenor must provide the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the claim is made were incurred exclusively in relation to the Convenor's Parliamentary business.

(7) In the case of any year in which there is a General Election—

(a) the period ending immediately before the date of the Election and the period beginning with that date are to be treated as separate periods;

(b) the maximum amount which may be given to each claimant for each of those periods is a proportionate part (rounded to the nearest pound) of the maximum amount for the year in question; and

(c) in relation to the first such period, paragraph (5)(c) has effect as if references to the last day of the period were substituted for references to 31st March.

(8) In this Resolution—

(a) the "Opposition" means the party in opposition to Her Majesty's Government having the greatest numerical strength in the House of Commons;

(b) the "second largest opposition party" means the party in opposition to Her Majesty's Government (other than the Opposition) with the greatest number of Members of this House among its members;

(c) the "retail prices index" means the general index of retail prices (for all items) published by the Office for National Statistics (or any index or figures published by that Office in place of that index); and

(d) "year" means a year beginning with 1st April.

Source: [HL Deb 30 July 2002 cc817-818](#) (debate cc817-821)

House of Lords Resolution of 20 March 2008 on Cranborne money

On 20 March 2008, the House of Lords agreed the following change to the resolution of 30 July 2002:

That, in the opinion of this House, the resolution of the House of 30 July 2002 (Financial Assistance to Opposition Parties) shall have effect as if paragraph (2)(a) provided for £61,003 to be the maximum amount of financial assistance which may be given to the Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers for the year beginning with 1 April 2008; and paragraph (2)(b) shall apply in relation to each subsequent year accordingly.⁸⁶

House of Lords Resolution of 24 June 2010 on Cranborne money

On 24 June 2010, the House of Lords agreed the following change to the resolution of 30 July 2002:

That, in the opinion of this House, the resolution of the House of 30 July 2002 (Financial Assistance to Opposition Parties) should have effect, in relation to the giving of financial assistance, with effect from 12 May 2010, as if-

(a) in paragraphs (1) and (2)(a) the references to the second largest opposition party were omitted, and

⁸⁶ [HL Deb 20 March 2008 cc371-372](#)

(b) paragraph (8)(b) were omitted.⁸⁷

House of Lords Resolution of 9 July 2015 on Cranborne money

That, in the opinion of this House—

(a) with effect from 8 May 2015, the resolution of the House of 24 June 2010 (financial assistance to opposition parties) shall cease to have effect; and the resolution of the House of 30 July 2002 (financial assistance to opposition parties) shall have effect from 8 May 2015 as it would have done if the resolution of the House of 24 June 2010 had not been passed, and

(b) with effect from 1 April 2015 the resolution of the House of 30 July 2002 shall have effect as if paragraph (2)(a) provided for £87,761 to be the maximum amount of financial assistance which may be given to the Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers for the year beginning with 1 April 2015; and paragraph (2)(b) of that resolution shall apply in relation to each subsequent year accordingly.⁸⁸

⁸⁷ HL Deb 24 June 2010 cc1429-1435

⁸⁸ [HL Deb 9 July 2015 cc251-254](#)

Appendix 6: Resolution of 8 February 2006 on financial support for representative business

(a) The Resolution

That, in the opinion of the House,—

- (1) Financial assistance should be provided, with effect from 1st November 2005, to any opposition party represented by Members who have chosen not to take their seats and thus do not qualify to participate in the proceedings in Parliament, towards expenses wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred for the employment of staff and related support to Members designated as that party's spokesmen in relation to the party's representative business.
- (2) The amount of financial assistance payable to a party under this Resolution shall be calculated and paid by analogy with sub-paragraphs 1(1) to (6) and (8) and 2(1) to (5) of the Resolution of the House of 26th May 1999.
- (3) As soon as practicable, but no later than nine months after 31st March each year, a party claiming financial assistance under this resolution shall furnish the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the Accounting Officer, to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the party received financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred exclusively in accordance with paragraph (1) of this resolution.
- (4) If an audit certificate under paragraph (3) above has not been furnished within the time specified no further financial assistance under this resolution shall be paid until such a certificate is so furnished.⁸⁹

(b) Amendment to the Resolution, 23 March 2016

2. (1) The Resolution of 8 February 2006 relating to financial support for representative business (as codified and modified by the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee pursuant to Standing Order No. 152D(3) (as set out in section 2 of Annex 2 of that Committee's report to the House of March 2015 (HC 1132))) is amended as follows.

(2) For paragraphs 2.21 and 2.22 [i.e. (3) and (4)] substitute—

"2.21 As soon as practicable, but no later than two months after 31 March each year, a party claiming financial assistance under paragraph 2.19 above shall—

(a) furnish the Accounting Officer of the House with the certificate of an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the Accounting Officer, to the effect that all expenses in respect of which the party received financial assistance during the period ending with that day were incurred exclusively in accordance with paragraph 2.19 above, and

(b) publish accounts in relation to all such expenses, audited by an independent professional auditor, in a form determined by the House of Commons

⁸⁹ HC Deb 8 February 2006 c971; the Resolution as revised by the MEC is available in Members Estimate Committee, [*Consolidated list of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members as at 1 April 2013*](#), 26 March 2013, HC 918 2012-13, Annex 2

Members Estimate Committee and in accordance with any requirements imposed by that Committee.

2.21A The requirements that may be imposed under paragraph 2.21(b) are such requirements as the Committee considers necessary or expedient for the purpose of enabling proper scrutiny of expenses in respect of which the party has received financial assistance, and may in particular include requirements for the audited accounts—

(a) to contain details of such expenses during the period to which the report relates, and

(b) to identify the number of persons employed, or otherwise engaged, to assist the party during that period who are within each of the pay bands specified by the Committee.

2.22 If the requirements imposed by paragraph 2.21 above have not been complied with within the time specified, no further financial assistance under paragraph 2.19 shall be paid until those requirements have been complied with.”⁹⁰

⁹⁰ [HC Deb 23 March 2016 cc1715-1716](#)

(b) Allocations made under the resolution of 8 February 2006

Financial year	Main budget (£)	Travel budget (£)
2005/06*	35,163	868
2006/07	86,245	2,136.07
2007/08	90,036	2,230.05
2008/09	93,639	2,319.26
2009/10	94,482	2,340.13
2010/11** (1 Apr-5 May)	9,277	229.78
(6 May-31 Mar)	87,133	2,493.73
2011/12	101,004	2,890.59
2012/13	105,850	3,029.34
2013/14	109,135	3,123.25
2014/15	112,076	3,207.58
2015/16# (1 Apr-7 May)	11,511	329.45
(8 May-31 Mar)	87,783	1,898.90
2016/17	97,556.00	2,224.32

* from 1 November 2005-31 March 2006

** general election year full year allocations based on 2005 and 2010
general election results would have been:

	Main budget	Travel budget
2005 results	£96,747	£2,396.30
2010 results	£96,374	£2,758.22

general election year full year allocations based on 2010 and 2015
general election results would have been:

	Main budget	Travel budget
2010 results	£113,867	£3,258.90
2015 results	£97,655	£2,112.46

Source: House of Commons, Corporate Services

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