



BRIEFING PAPER

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MPs who have withdrawn from the Commons Chamber or who have been suspended

Compiled by
Sarah Priddy

This note lists MPs who have left the Chamber voluntarily, been asked to withdraw, or who have been suspended. There are two main avenues which may lead to the suspension of a Member. The first is for misbehaviour in the chamber. The second is where a Member has been found to have broken the [Code of Conduct for Members](#) or committed a contempt of Parliament.

The Speaker is responsible for keeping order in the Chamber and in Committees and if Members disregard the authority of the Chair, he can ask the Member to voluntarily leave the Chamber for the remainder of the day's sitting. This request is not governed by [Standing Orders](#) and the MP can stay on the parliamentary estate and take part in Divisions. Should the Member refuse to comply with this request the Speaker can invoke [SO No. 43](#):

43. The Speaker, or the chair, shall order any Member or Members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's sitting; and the Serjeant at Arms shall act on such orders as he may receive from the chair in pursuance of this order. But if on any occasion the Speaker, or the chair, deems that his powers under the previous provisions of this order are inadequate, he may name such Member or Members, in which event the same procedure shall be followed as is prescribed by Standing Order No. 44 (Order in debate).

This requires the Member to leave parliamentary estate for the remainder of that day's sitting. If this order is disregarded then the MP can be named under [SO No. 44](#):

44.—(1) Whenever a Member shall have been named by the Speaker, or by the chair, immediately after the commission of the offence of disregarding the authority of the chair, or of persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the House by abusing the rules of the House or otherwise, then if the offence has been committed by such Member in the House, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question, on a motion being made, 'That such Member be suspended from the service of the House.'

Where a Member is found to have broken the Code of Conduct or committed a contempt, the Standards Committee (previously the Standards and Privileges Committee) may recommend a period of suspension, which leads to a motion in the House. The Commons Library briefings, [Disciplinary and Penal Powers of the House of Commons](#), and [Recall of MPs](#) contain more information

Table 1: Members who withdrew for the remainder of the day's sitting since 1992

Date	Hansard ref	Member	Party	Reason	Sanction	Standing Order
02.07.1992	Vol 210 c956-7	Dennis Skinner	Lab	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: This little squirt of a Minister	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.42 (Disorderly conduct)
03.03.1994	Vol 238 c1077-8	Dale Campbell-Savours	Lab	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: 'Ripped off' of MP's house purchase	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.42 (Disorderly conduct)
09.05.1995	Vol 259 c574	Dennis Skinner	Lab	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: Crooked deal	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.42 (Disorderly conduct)
03.03.1998	Vol 307 c915	Ronnie Campbell	Lab	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: Hypocrites	Withdrew voluntarily from the Commons Chamber for the remainder of that day's sitting	No SO
16.12.2004	Vol 428 c1808	Annabelle Ewing	SNP	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: Back stabbing coward	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.43 (Disorderly conduct)
17.03.2005	Vol 432 c411	Adam Price	PC	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: The Prime Minister misled the House	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No. 43 (Disorderly conduct)
24.03.2005	Vol 432 988	Laurence Roberston	Con	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: The Minister's answer not only inadequate it was dishonest. She misled the House	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.43 (Disorderly conduct)
08.12.2005	Vol 440 c988	Dennis Skinner	Lab	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: The only thing growing then were the lines of coke in front of boy George and the rest of them	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.43 (Disorderly conduct)
26.02.2008	Vol 472 c925	Edward Davey	Lib Dem	Disorderly conduct following a decision by the Speaker not to select a Liberal Democrat motion during the debate on the European Union (Amendment) Bill	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.43 (Disorderly conduct)
10.07.2013	Vol 566 c392-3	Nigel Dodds	DUP	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: Deliberately deceptive	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.43 (Disorderly conduct)
11.04.2016	Vol 608 c35	Dennis Skinner	Lab	Refusal to withdraw unparliamentary remark: Dodgy Dave	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.43 (Disorderly conduct)
13-Jun-18	Vol 642 c889-9	Ian Blackford	SNP	Refusal to to sit down when ordered to by the Speaker	Ordered to leave the parliamentary estate for remainder of that day's sitting	SO No.43 (Disorderly conduct)

Table 2: Members suspended from the House of Commons since 1949

Date	Hansard ref	Member		Reason for suspension	Period
18.07.1949	467 c1089-91	Ellis Smith	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
27.11.1951	494 c1305-1311	Sydney Silverman	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
26.03.1952	498 c720-32	Bessie Braddock	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
23.05.1968	765 c893-5	Dame Irene Ward	Con	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
13.03.1972	883 c168-177	Charles Loughlin	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
12.02.1981	998 c969-70	Rev. Ian Paisley	DUP	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
08.04.1981	12 c950-1	Ron Brown	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
15.07.1981	8 c1159	Ron Brown	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	20 sitting days
16.11.1981	13 c24-5	John McQuade	DUP	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
16.11.1981	13 c24-5	Peter Robinson	DUP	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
16.11.1981	13 c24-5	Rev. Ian Paisley	DUP	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
26.05.1982	Vol 14 c928-931	Andrew Faulds	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
02.05.1984	Vol 59 c345-9	Tam Dalyell	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
17.07.1984	Vol 64 c181-5	Dennis Skinner	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
31.07.1984	Vol 65 c218-21	Martin Flannery	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
11.11.1985	Vol 86 c313-6	Brian Sedgemore	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
20.01.1986	Vol 90 c153-5	Dafydd Wigley	PC	SO No.25 relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
12.11.1987	Vol 122 c565-70	Tam Dalyell	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
24.11.1987	Vol 123 c232	Dafydd Wigley	PC	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
11.01.1988	Vol 125 c1-3	John Hughes	Lab	SO No.43 relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
25.01.1988	Vol 126 c31-3	Ken Livingstone	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
18.02.1988	Vol 127 c1245-9	Harry Cohen	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
15.03.1988	Vol 129 c1008-11	Alex Salmond	SNP	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
13.04.1988	Vol 131 c181-7	Davel Nellist	Lab	SO No.43 relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
20.04.1988	Vol 131 c934-960	Ron Brown	Lab	Damaging the mace	20 sitting days
25.07.1988	Vol 138 c17-20	Tam Dalyell	Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	20 sitting days
14.03.1989	Vol 149 c289-90, 92	Jim Sillars	SNP	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
24.07.1989	Vol 157 c730-2	Tam Dalyell	Lab	SO No.43 relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
07.03.1990	Vol 168 c889-976	John Browne	Con	Non-disclosure of pecuniary interests (Members Interests Committee recommendation)	20 sitting days
23.07.1990	Vol 177 c21-3	Dick Douglas	Ind Lab	SOs relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
29.11.1993	Vol 233 c790-794	Rev. Ian Paisley	DUP	SO No.42 relating to disorderly conduct	5 sitting days
20.04.1995	Vol 258 c350-82	David Tredinnick	Con	Privilege Committee report [HC 351, 1994-95] Payments for tabling PQs	20 sitting days
20.04.1995	Vol 258 c350-82	Graham Riddick	Con	Privilege Committee report [HC 351, 1994-95] Payments for tabling PQs	10 sitting days
29.07.1997	Vol 299 c1051-2	Robert Wareing	Lab	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 182, 1997-98] Non-disclosure of directorship	1 week
12.07.1999	Vol 335 c26-60	Ernie Ross	Lab	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 607, 1998-99] Disclosure of draft select committee report	10 sitting days
21.10.1999	Vol 336 c600-5	Don Touhig	Lab	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 747, 1998-99] Receiving leaked select committee report	3 sitting days
21.10.1999	Vol 336 c600-5	Kali Mountford	Lab	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 747, 1998-99] Disclosure of select committee report	5 sitting days
01.03.2000	Vol 345 c428-59	Teresa Gorman	Con	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 260, 1999-00] Non-disclosure of property interests	1 month

Date	Hansard ref	Member		Reason for suspension	Period
31.10.2001	Vol 373 c884-906	Geoffrey Robinson	Lab	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 465, 2000-01] Non-disclosure of contract	-
				Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 297, 2001-02] Supplemental	3 weeks
13.02.2002	Vol 380 c213-23	Keith Vaz	Lab	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 605, 2001-02] Breaches of the code of conduct & contempt of the House	1 month
27.02.2003	Vol 400 c424-9	Michael Trend	Con	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 435, 2002-03] Misuse of additional costs allowance	2 weeks
11.09.2003	Vol 410 c488-90	Clive Betts	Lab	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 947, 2002-03] Misuse of parliamentary pass	7 sitting days
08.02.2005	Vol 430 c1463-72	Jonathan Sayeed	Con	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 233 & HC 473, 2004-05] Misuse of access to the House	2 weeks
23.07.2007	Vol 463 c627	George Galloway	Respect	Named by the Speaker for wilfully disregarding the authority of the Chair (SO No. 44)	5 sitting days
23.07.2007	Vol 463 c610-638	George Galloway	Respect	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 909, 2005-06] Conduct of Mr George Galloway	18 sitting days
31.01.2008	Vol 471 c481-490	Derek Conway	Con	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 280, 2007-08] Conduct of Mr Derek Conway	10 sitting days
15.01.2009	Vol 486 c367	John McDonnell	Lab	Named by the Deputy Speaker for conducting himself in a grossly disorderly manner: Waving the mace (SO No. 43) and suspended from the House (SO No. 44)	5 sitting days
16.05.2011	Vol 528 cc45-54	David Laws	Lib Dem	Standards & Privileges Committee report [HC 1023-I, 2010-12] Mr David Laws	7 sitting days
18.09.2012	Vol 550 c792	Paul Flynn	Lab	Named by the Speaker for disregarding the authority of the Chair (SO No. 43) and suspending from the House (SO No. 44)	5 sitting days
10.10.2016	Vol 615 cc74-75	Justin Tomlinson	Con	Privileges Committee report [HC 672 2016-17] unauthorised disclosure of a draft committee report	2 sitting days
24.07.2018	Vol 645 c925-928	Ian Paisley	DUP	Committee on Standards Report [HC 1397 2017-19] Ian Paisley	30 sitting days ^{1,a}

Notes:

1. Salary: Since the passing of Standing Order 45A in 1998, the withholding of a Member's salary has been an automatic consequence of suspension. Prior to that, those Members listed here who were suspended for order offences did not lose their salary while those suspended for other reasons (7 March 1990, 20 April 1995, 30 October 1997) did so. In the case of 20 April 1988, the Member was suspended and "...held responsible for the damage that was sustained by the mace."

1.a Salary: Motion provided for Mr Paisley's salary to be withdrawn for 30 days rather than 30 sitting days.

2. Two research assistants were suspended following unauthorised disclosure of a select committee paper. See HC Deb 8 June 2009 c529-

3. The numbering of Standing Orders have changed over time as new SOs have been introduced.

4. The House agreed new Standing Orders on 12 March 2012 splitting the Standards and Privilege into two; The Committee on Standards was established on 7 January 2013.

Sources:

Hansard; Commons Journal; Standing Orders of the House of Commons; Select Committee reports; Twentieth century British Political Facts

Key:

Con	Conservative
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
Lab	Labour
Lib Dem	Liberal Democrats
PC	Plaid Cymru
SNP	Scottish National Party

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