



Parliamentary Information List

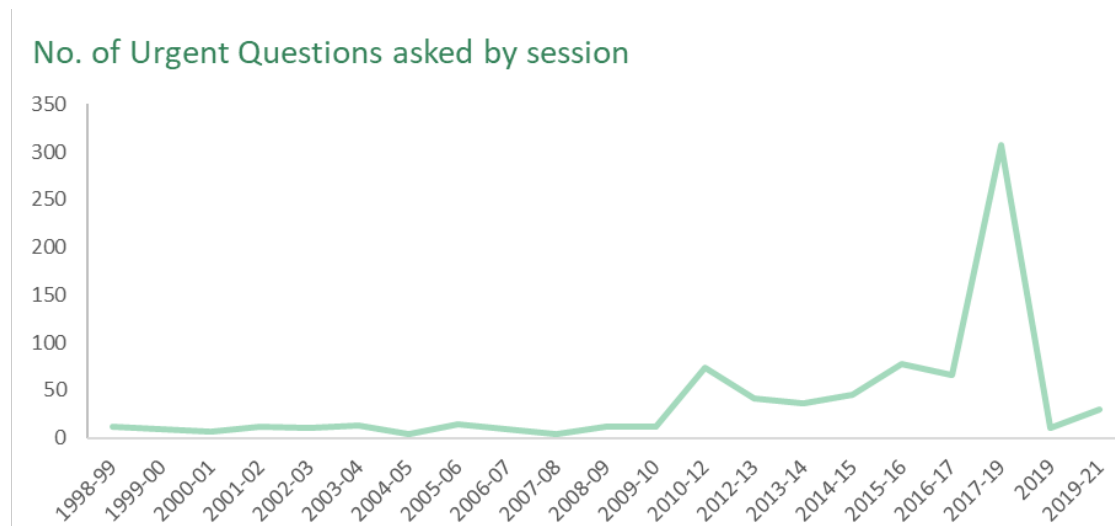
CBP 08344, 29 May 2020

Number of Urgent Questions in the House of Commons since 1997

Compiled by:
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What are urgent questions?

Urgent questions are a category of oral questions that allow all MPs not in the Government to put a question to a minister without the usual notice required for oral question time and without the need to be drawn in a ballot.



The urgent question procedure, governed by [Standing Order 21\(2\)](#), allows Members to apply to the Speaker to request that a minister come to the House to make a statement (and take questions) on an important issue at short notice. Notice of an application for an urgent question must be given to the Speaker's Office in advance of that day's sitting. The Speaker gives permission if in his opinion the question is:

“of an urgent character and relates to matters of public importance.”

The Speaker's Office contacts the Member to let them know whether or not their application has been successful but does not provide feedback on unsuccessful requests. The text of the urgent question, ministerial response and supplementary questions can be found by following the links in the document and spreadsheet.

Note:

- Until 2002, urgent questions were known as private notice questions
- Extended parliamentary sessions: 2010-12 and 2017-19; Short session 2019

Urgent Questions in the House of Lords

Urgent questions in the House of Lords are still known as private notice questions. Peers can apply to the Lord Speaker to ask a private notice question. If granted the relevant government department is informed immediately, and the question is asked at the end of Question Time.

Background to parliamentary questions

See the [Commons Library briefing on Parliamentary Questions: recent issues](#) for more information on parliamentary questions.

Number of Urgent Questions granted by the Speaker since 1997

1997 Parliament

Session	Private Notice Questions	
1997-98	29	1997-98 Parliamentary Search (Intranet) results #
1998-99	12	1998-99 Parliamentary Search (Intranet) results
1999-2000 ¹	9	1999-2000 Parliamentary Search (Intranet) results
2000-01	7	2000-01 Parliamentary Search results
Total	57	

2001 Parliament

Session	Urgent Questions	
2001-02	12	2001-02 Parliamentary Search results
2002-03 ²	11	2002-03 Parliamentary Search results
2003-04	13	2003-04 Parliamentary Search results
2004-05	4	2004-05 Parliamentary Search results
Total	40	

2005 Parliament

Session	Urgent Questions	
2005-06	14	2005-06 Parliamentary Search results
2006-07	9	2006-07 Parliamentary Search results
2007-08	4	2007-08 Parliamentary Search results
2008-09 ³	12	2008-09 Parliamentary Search results
2009-10	12	2009-10 Parliamentary Search results
Total	51	

2010 Parliament

Session	Urgent Questions	
2010-12 ⁴	74	2010-12 Parliamentary Search results
2012-13	41	2012-13 Parliamentary Search results
2013-14	36	2013-14 Parliamentary Search results
2014-15	45	2014-15 Parliamentary Search results
Total	196	

2015 Parliament

Session	Urgent Questions	
2015-16	77	2015-16 Parliamentary Search results
2016-17	74	2016-17 Parliamentary Search results
Total	151	

2017 Parliament

Session	Urgent Questions	
2017-19 ⁴	307	2017-19 Parliamentary Search results
2019 ⁵	10	2019 Parliamentary Search results
2019-21	30	2019 Parliamentary Search results

Notes:

1. Michael Martin elected Speaker 23 October 2000
2. Private Notice Questions (PNQs) became known as Urgent Questions (UQs)
3. John Bercow elected Speaker 22 June 2009
4. Extended parliamentary sessions
5. Short session; Lindsay Hoyle elected Speaker 4 November 2019

Notes on Parliamentary Search

Parliamentary Search results available on Parliament website from 2000-01

One PNQ missing from Search results as categorised as a Business Question rather than a PNQ

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