



In Focus

Queen's Speech: Movers and Seconders

On the first meeting of Parliament after State Opening, two Members of the House of Lords move that a humble address be presented to the Queen as an expression of thanks for the “Most Gracious Speech” that had been addressed to both Houses of Parliament.¹ The two Members are chosen by the Leader of the House and each delivers a speech which by custom is uncontroversial.² Convention has it that the first speech is delivered by a long-standing Member (known as the “mover”) and it is seconded by a newer Member (known as the “seconder”).³ Both Members are Government backbenchers.⁴ When these speeches have concluded, the House debates the legislative programme that was presented in the Queen’s Speech.⁵ The debates on the Queen’s Speech are the first main item of business of each new parliamentary session. The table below provides a list of the mover and seconder following each Queen’s Speech for the past 20 years, along with each Member’s party affiliation at the time.

Table 1: Mover and Seconder following Queen’s Speech, 1996–2015

Date	Mover	Party	Seconder	Party
HL Hansard, 27 May 2015, cols 8–14	Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone	Conservative	Lord Finkelstein	Conservative
HL Hansard, 4 June 2014, cols 5–11	Lord Fowler	Conservative	Baroness Scott of Needham Market	Liberal Democrat
HL Hansard, 8 May 2013, cols 4–10	Lord Lang of Monkton	Conservative	Lord German	Liberal Democrat
HL Hansard, 9 May 2012, cols 4–10	Lord Cope of Berkeley	Conservative	Baroness Jolly	Liberal Democrat
HL Hansard, 25 May 2010, cols 8–14	Earl Ferrers	Conservative	Baroness Falkner of Margravine	Liberal Democrat
HL Hansard, 18 November 2009, cols 4–10	Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean	Labour	Lord Patel of Bradford	Labour
HL Hansard, 3 December 2008, cols 4–9	Lord Falconer of Thoroton	Labour	Baroness Ford	Labour
HL Hansard, 6 November 2007, cols 4–9	Baroness Corston	Labour	Lord Hart of Chilton	Labour

Date	Mover	Party	Seconder	Party
HL Hansard, 15 November 2006, cols 4–8	Lord Giddens	Labour	Baroness Morgan of Drefelin	Labour
HL Hansard, 17 May 2005, cols 9–15	Lord Dubs	Labour	Baroness Massey of Darwen	Labour
HL Hansard, 23 November 2004, cols 5–11	Baroness Lockwood	Labour	Baroness Billingham	Labour
HL Hansard, 26 November 2003, cols 5–11	Lord Ashley of Stoke	Labour	Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall	Labour
HL Hansard, 13 November 2002, cols 5–10	Baroness Turner of Camden	Labour	Lord Alli	Labour
HL Hansard, 20 June 2001, cols 8–14	Lord Archer of Sandwell	Labour	Baroness Crawley	Labour
HL Hansard, 6 December 2000, cols 4–11	Lord Graham of Edmonton	Labour	Baroness Ashton of Upholland	Labour
HL Hansard, 17 November 1999, cols 7–12	Baroness Pitkeathley	Labour	Lord Bragg	Labour
HL Hansard, 24 November 1998, cols 6–13	Lord Clinton-Davis	Labour	Baroness Scotland of Asthal	Labour
HL Hansard, 14 May 1997, cols 9–14	Lord Merlyn-Rees	Labour	Baroness Mallalieu	Labour
HL Hansard, 23 October 1996, cols 5–12	Lord Gray of Contin	Conservative	Lord Colwyn	Conservative

¹ This takes place only after prayers have been read, Members have taken the oath, the Select Vestries Bill has been read a first time and the Lord Speaker has informed the House that the Queen delivered the Speech earlier in the day to both Houses of Parliament. For the full wording of the Humble Address and further details, see House of Lords, [Companion to the Standing Orders and Guide to the Proceedings of the House of Lords: 2015](#), p 35.

² *ibid*, pp 35–6.

³ See for example [HL Hansard, 27 May 2015, col 8](#).

⁴ House of Lords, [Companion to the Standing Orders and Guide to the Proceedings of the House of Lords: 2015](#), pp 35–6.

⁵ For further information about addresses to the Sovereign and the Queen's Speech, see House of Lords Library, [The Sovereign and Parliament](#), 4 March 2016, pp 5–7 and pp 16–17.

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