



# In Focus

## Dissolution Honours: Peerage Creations 1959–2015

For each of the general elections between 1959 and 2015, dissolution honours lists were published, which in each case contained nominations for new peerages. The timing and nature of these lists has varied, with some being issued prior to elections taking place and some general elections resulting in multiple lists. In total, 309 peers have been created in this manner (301 life peers and 8 new hereditary peerages). However, some of these lists may also have included peers nominated as a result of an outgoing prime minister’s resignation honours. These are not always easy to disaggregate, unless explicitly highlighted in the announcements.

The table below shows the number of peerages created at each general election since 1959, alongside dates of the announcements and details of the prime ministers before and after each election.

Election Date	Prime Minister and Governing Party Before Election	Prime Minister and Governing Party Following Election	Dates of Announcements	Number of Peerages Created
8 October 1959	Harold Macmillan (Conservative)	Harold Macmillan (Conservative)	19 September 1959	4 (including 2 new hereditary peerages)
15 October 1964	Sir Alec Douglas-Home (Conservative)	Harold Wilson (Labour)	1 and 4 December 1964	24 (including 6 new hereditary peerages)
31 March 1966	Harold Wilson (Labour)	Harold Wilson (Labour)	13 and 19 May 1966	12
18 June 1970	Harold Wilson (Labour)	Edward Heath (Conservative)	2 June and 7 August 1970	17 (9 before election and 8 after)
28 February 1974	Edward Heath (Conservative)	Harold Wilson (Labour)	5 and 11 April and 2 May 1974	27
10 October 1974	Harold Wilson (Labour)	Harold Wilson (Labour)	6 December 1974	17
3 May 1979	James Callaghan (Labour)	Margaret Thatcher (Conservative)	15 June 1979	11
9 June 1983	Margaret Thatcher (Conservative)	Margaret Thatcher (Conservative)	21 and 22 July 1983	17
11 June 1987	Margaret Thatcher (Conservative)	Margaret Thatcher (Conservative)	31 July 1987	19

Election Date	Prime Minister and Governing Party Before Election	Prime Minister and Governing Party Following Election	Dates of Announcements	Number of Peerages Created
9 April 1992	John Major (Conservative)	John Major (Conservative)	6 June 1992	21
1 May 1997	John Major (Conservative)	Tony Blair (Labour)	18 April 1997	21
7 June 2001	Tony Blair (Labour)	Tony Blair (Labour)	1 June 2001	24
5 May 2005	Tony Blair (Labour)	Tony Blair (Labour)	13 May 2005	27
6 May 2010	Gordon Brown (Labour)	David Cameron (Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition)	28 May 2010	23
7 May 2015	David Cameron (Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition)	David Cameron (Conservative)	27 August 2015	45

(Source: House of Lords Library)

Further information on different peerage creations over time can be found in the following briefings:

- House of Lords Library, [Peerages Awarded to Former Prime Ministers 1902–2016](#), 15 September 2016
- House of Lords Library, [Life Peerages Created Since 1958](#), 5 August 2016
- House of Lords Library, [Resignation Honours: Peerage Creations since 1958](#), 12 July 2016

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