



Library Note

House of Lords: Statistical Profile of Membership

This House of Lords Library briefing presents a range of information about the membership of the House of Lords as at 27 January 2017. All information presented is accurate as at this date unless otherwise stated. Key findings include:

- The total membership of the House was 839. Of this total, 805 Members were eligible to attend.
- The majority of Members—84.1 percent—sat by virtue of a life peerage conferred under the Life Peerages Act 1958. Excepted hereditary peers accounted for 10.8 percent of the membership.
- Of the eligible membership: Conservatives comprised the largest party or group, with 253 Members (31.4 percent). Labour Members comprised the second largest party or group, with 203 Members (25.2 percent).
- Men made up 74.3 percent and women made up 25.7 percent of the House. This compares with 74.4 percent and 25.6 percent respectively as at 11 March 2016.
- The mean average age was 69; the median average age was 70; and the modal average age was 74. This is unchanged from 11 March 2016.
- Most Members in each party or group, except the Bishops, fell into the 70–79 age band.
- 40 Members were aged under 50 and 13 Members were aged 90 or over. This compares with 34 Members aged under 50 and 16 Members aged 90 or over as at 11 March 2016.

Section one includes tables which detail the composition of the House. Table 1.1 details the composition of the House by party/group affiliation and membership type; Table 1.2 by party/group affiliation and gender; and Table 1.3 by type of peerage and gender. Section two provides information about the age profile of the House. Section 2.1 provides information on average ages. Table 2.2 provides a snapshot of the membership of the whole House by age bands. Table 2.3 breaks this information down by party/group affiliation. Table 2.4 lists those Members aged under 50; and Table 2.5 lists those Members aged 90 and over. Table 2.6 lists those Members who were aged under 40 when they received a life peerage. Section three includes tables which list various categories of current Members by length of membership of the House. Table 3.1 lists the 50 longest continuously serving Members of the House who were eligible to participate in the proceedings. Table 3.2 lists life peers who had served as Members of the House for 30 years or more; and Table 3.3 lists all female peers who have served as Members of the House for 20 years or more. Section four directs interested readers to the House of Lords Library briefing [Membership of the House of Lords: Ethnicity, Religion and Disability](#) (12 June 2014).

This briefing updates the House of Lords Library Note [House of Lords: Statistical Profile of Membership](#) (23 March 2016), which provided information on the membership of the House as at 11 March 2016.

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I. Composition of the House of Lords

As at 27 January 2017, the total membership of the House of Lords was 839. Of this total, 805 Members were eligible to attend proceedings. Of the remainder, 26 were on leave of absence and 8 were disqualified as senior members of the judiciary.

I.1 Composition by Party/Group and Type of Membership

The figures in the table below exclude Members on leave of absence or subject to a disqualification. The percentage figures have been rounded to one decimal place.

Party/Group	Life Peers	Excepted Hereditary Peers	Bishops	Total	Percentage of Eligible Membership
Conservative	205	48	—	253	31.4
Labour	199	4	—	203	25.2
Lib. Democrat	98	4	—	102	12.7
Crossbench	146	32	—	178	22.1
Other Parties	13	1	—	14	1.7
Non-Affiliated	28	1	—	29	3.6
Bishops	—	—	26	26	3.2
Total	689	90	26	805	—

I.2 Composition by Party/Group and Gender

The figures in the table below exclude Members on leave of absence or subject to a disqualification. The percentage figures have been rounded to one decimal place.

Party/Group	Gender	Total	Percentage
Conservative	Men	191	75.5
	Women	62	24.5
Labour	Men	138	68.0
	Women	65	32.0
Liberal Democrat	Men	68	66.7
	Women	34	33.3
Crossbench	Men	138	77.5
	Women	40	22.5
Other Parties	Men	13	92.9
	Women	1	7.1
Non-Affiliated	Men	26	89.7
	Women	3	10.3
Bishops	Men	24	92.3
	Women	2	7.7
Total	Men	598	74.3
	Women	207	25.7

1.3 Composition by Type of Peerage and Gender

The figures in the table below include Members on leave of absence or subject to a disqualification. The percentage figures have been rounded to one decimal place.

Peerage Type	Men	Women	Total	Percentage of Total Membership
Life Peers	492	214	706	84.1
Life Peers (Judicial)	15	1	16	1.9
Excepted Hereditary Peers	90	1	91	10.8
Bishops	24	2	26	3.1
Total	621	218	839	—

Note: 'Life Peers' means life peers created under the Life Peerages Act 1958; 'Life Peers (Judicial)' means life peers created under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876; and 'Excepted Hereditary Peers' means hereditary peers who sit as Members of the House under the provisions of the House of Lords Act 1999.

2. Age Range of Current Members

2.1 Average Ages

Of the 839 Members of the House of Lords, the youngest (Baroness Bertin) was aged 38 and the oldest (Lord Carrington) was aged 97. The mean average age of Members of the House of Lords was 69; the median average age was 70; and the modal average age was 74.

2.2 Age Profile of the House

The percentage values in the table below have been rounded to one decimal place. The figures in the 'Eligible to Participate' section of the table exclude Members on leave of absence or subject to a disqualification. Figures from 11 March 2016 are provided for comparison.

Age Band	Total Membership (11 March 2016)		Total Membership (27 January 2017)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<39	2	0.2	2	0.2
40–49	32	3.8	38	4.5
50–59	112	13.1	104	12.4
60–69	266	31.2	254	30.3
70–79	298	34.9	306	36.5
80–89	127	14.9	122	14.5
90>	16	1.9	13	1.5
Total	853	—	839	—

Age Band	Total Membership Eligible to Participate (11 March 2016)		Total Membership Eligible to Participate (27 January 2017)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<39	2	0.3	2	0.2
40–49	32	3.9	37	4.6
50–59	107	13.1	101	12.6
60–69	256	31.4	244	30.3
70–79	290	35.6	296	36.8
80–89	116	14.2	114	14.2
90>	12	1.5	11	1.4
Total	815	—	805	—

2.3 Age Profile of the House by Party/Group

The figures in the table below exclude Members on leave of absence or subject to a disqualification. The percentage values have been rounded to one decimal place.

Age Band	Conservative		Labour		Liberal Democrat		Crossbench	
	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage
<39	2	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
40–49	22	8.7	6	3.0	5	4.9	3	1.7
50–59	35	13.8	16	7.9	17	16.7	19	10.7
60–69	69	27.3	58	28.6	35	34.3	54	30.3
70–79	86	34.0	86	42.4	36	35.3	67	37.6
80–89	34	13.4	34	16.7	9	8.8	33	18.5
90>	5	2.0	3	1.5	—	—	2	1.1
Total	253	—	203	—	102	—	178	—

Age Band	Other Parties		Non-Affiliated		Bishops	
	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage
<39	—	—	—	—	—	—
40–49	—	—	1	3.4	—	—
50–59	1	7.1	4	13.8	9	34.6
60–69	5	35.7	6	20.7	17	65.4
70–79	6	42.9	15	51.7	n/a	—
80–89	1	7.1	3	10.3	n/a	—
90>	1	7.1	—	—	n/a	—
Total	14	—	29	—	26	—

2.4 Members Aged Under 50

	Title	Party/Group Affiliation	Age
1	Bertin, B	Conservative	38
2	Sugg, B	Conservative	39
3	Wei, L	Conservative	40
4	McInnes of Kilwinning, L	Conservative	40
5	O'Shaughnessy, L	Conservative	40
6	Evans of Bowes Park, B	Conservative	41
7	Livermore, L	Labour	41
8	Purvis of Tweed, L	Liberal Democrat	43
9	Lane-Fox of Soho, B	Crossbench	43
10	Berridge, B	Conservative	44
11	Holmes of Richmond, L	Conservative	45
12	Mone, B	Conservative	45
13	Worthington, B	Labour	45
14	Shinkwin, L	Conservative	45
15	Warsi, B	Conservative	45
16	Freyberg, L	Crossbench	46
17	Bridges of Headley, L	Conservative	46
18	Gadhia, L	Conservative	46
19	Oates, L	Liberal Democrat	47
20	Grey-Thompson, B	Crossbench	47
21	Chakrabarti, B	Labour	47
22	Smith of Newnham, B	Liberal Democrat	47
23	Brady, B	Conservative	47
24	Kennedy of Cradley, B	Labour	47
25	Vere of Norbiton, B	Conservative	47
26	Rock, B	Conservative	48
27	Suttie, B	Liberal Democrat	48
28	Cavendish of Little Venice, B	Non-Affiliated	48
29	Finn, B	Conservative	48
30	Helic, B	Conservative	48
31	Ahmad of Wimbledon, L	Conservative	48
32	Wood of Anfield, L	Labour	48
33	Harding of Winscombe, B	Conservative	49

	Title	Party/Group Affiliation	Age
34	Wolfson of Aspley Guise, L	Conservative	49
35	King of Bow, B	Labour	49
36	Fall, B	Conservative	49
37	Redesdale, L	Liberal Democrat	49
38	Stowell of Beeston, B	Conservative	49
39	Williams of Trafford, B	Conservative	49
40	Morgan of Ely, B	Labour	49

2.5 Members Aged 90 and Over

	Title	Party/Group Affiliation	Age
1	Carrington, L	Conservative	97
2	Quirk, L	Crossbench	96
3	Trumpington, B	Conservative	94
4	Sharples, B	Conservative	93
5	Nicol, B	Leave of Absence	93
6	Lockwood, B	Leave of Absence	93
7	Howie of Troon, L	Labour	92
8	Graham of Edmonton, L	Labour	91
9	Plumb, L	Conservative	91
10	Christopher, L	Labour	91
11	Northbourne, L	Crossbench	90
12	Stoddart of Swindon, L	Independent Labour	90
13	Feldman, L	Conservative	90

2.6 Current Members Who Received Life Peerage at Youngest Age

	Title	Party/Group Affiliation	Age at Creation of Life Peerage (Year: Month)
1	Redesdale, L	Liberal Democrat	32:9
2	Wei, L	Conservative	33:4
3	Alli, L	Labour	33:8
4	Masham of Ilton, B	Crossbench	34:9
5	Warsi, B	Conservative	36:6
6	Tanlaw, L	Conservative	37:1
7	Bertin, B	Conservative	38:5

	Title	Party/Group Affiliation	Age at Creation of Life Peerage (Year: Month)
8	Barker, B	Liberal Democrat	38:6
9	Evans of Bowes Park, B	Conservative	38:9
10	Berridge, B	Conservative	38:9
11	Adebowale, L	Crossbench	38:11
12	Uddin, B	Non-Affiliated	39:0
13	Rennard, L	Liberal Democrat	39:0
14	Sugg, B	Conservative	39:3
15	Worthington, B	Labour	39:4
16	O'Shaughnessy, L	Conservative	39:6
17	Purvis of Tweed, L	Liberal Democrat	39:7
18	McInnes of Kilwinning, L	Conservative	39:9

3. Length of Membership

3.1 Longest Continuous Membership of the House

Members who were on leave of absence on this date are not numbered in sequence for the purpose of ranking the 50 Members with the longest length of membership of the House who were eligible to participate in proceedings.

	Title	Peerage Type	Party/Group Affiliation	Membership Start Date	Length of Membership (Year:Month)
1	Carrington, L	Hereditary given Life Peerage ¹	Conservative	04/04/1941	75:9
2	Denham, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	09/12/1949	67:1
3	Trefgarne, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	29/06/1962	54:6
4	Selsdon, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	30/07/1963	53:5
5	Colwyn, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	02/01/1967	50:0
6	Brougham and Vaux, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	24/01/1968	49:0
7	Hylton, L	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	06/06/1968	48:7
8	Liverpool, E	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	23/10/1969	47:3
9	Caithness, E	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	02/12/1969	47:1
10	Masham of Ilton, B	Life Peer	Crossbench	12/02/1970	46:11
11	Slim, V	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	01/04/1971	45:9
12	Tanlaw, L	Life Peer	Conservative	21/05/1971	45:8

¹ Sits by virtue of a life peerage conferred on 11 November 1999 (Lord Carington of Upton).

	Title	Peerage Type	Party/Group Affiliation	Membership Start Date	Length of Membership (Year:Month)
13	Selborne, E	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	23/12/1971	45:1
14	Elton, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	13/05/1973	43:8
15	Peel, E	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	15/05/1973	43:8
16	Sharples, B	Life Peer	Conservative	18/06/1973	43:7
17	Astor, V	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	04/07/1973	43:6
18	Skelmersdale, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	08/07/1974	42:6
19	Falkender, B	Life Peer	Labour	11/07/1974	42:6
20	Craigavon, V	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	26/07/1974	42:6
—	Crawford and Balcarres, E	Life Peer ²	Leave of Absence	24/01/1975	42:0
21	Geddes, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	20/03/1975	41:10
22	Kirkhill, L	Life Peer	Labour	17/07/1975	41:6
23	Mar, C	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	11/09/1975	41:4
24	Greenway, L	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	08/10/1975	41:3
25	Brabazon of Tara, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	24/09/1976	40:4
26	McCluskey, L	Life Peer	Crossbench	29/09/1976	40:3
27	Swinfen, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	13/05/1977	39:8
28	Crathorne, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	25/05/1977	39:8
29	Glenarthur, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	21/06/1977	39:7
30	Baldwin of Bewdley, E	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	15/11/1977	39:2
—	Lockwood, B	Life Peer	Leave of Absence	27/02/1978	38:11
31	Henley, L	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	28/02/1978	38:10
32	Howie of Troon, L	Life Peer	Labour	21/04/1978	38:9
33	St John of Bletso, L	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	08/06/1978	38:7
34	Erroll, E	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	30/06/1978	38:6
35	Mackay of Clashfern, L	Life Peer	Conservative	06/07/1979	37:6
36	Courtown, E	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	24/07/1979	37:6
37	Rosslyn, E	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	17/12/1979	37:1
38	Trumpington, B	Life Peer	Conservative	04/02/1980	36:11
39	Shrewsbury, E	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	16/02/1981	35:11
40	Elystan-Morgan, L	Life Peer	Crossbench	27/05/1981	35:8
41	Thomas of Swynnerton, L	Life Peer	Crossbench	16/06/1981	35:7

² Sits by virtue of a life peerage conferred on 24 January 1975 (Lord Balniel). He inherited the title Earl of Crawford and Balcarres later that year.

	Title	Peerage Type	Party/Group Affiliation	Membership Start Date	Length of Membership (Year:Month)
42	Gardner of Parkes, B	Life Peer	Conservative	19/06/1981	35:7
43	Rea, L	Elected Hereditary	Labour	21/04/1982	34:9
44	Northbourne, L	Elected Hereditary	Crossbench	05/11/1982	34:2
45	Nicol, B	Life Peer	Leave of Absence	20/01/1983	34:0
46	Bridgeman, V	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	20/01/1983	34:0
47	Cox, B	Life Peer	Crossbench	24/01/1983	34:0
48	Arran, E	Elected Hereditary	Conservative	25/04/1983	33:9
49	Graham of Edmonton, L	Life Peer	Labour	12/09/1983	33:4
50	Stoddart of Swindon, L	Life Peer	Independent Labour	14/09/1983	33:4

3.2 Life Peers with Membership Longer than 30 Years

	Title	Party/Group Affiliation	Membership Start Date	Length of Membership (Year: Month)
1	Carrington, L ³	Conservative	04/04/1941	75:9
2	Masham of Ilton, B	Crossbench	12/02/1970	46:11
3	Tanlaw, L	Conservative	21/05/1971	45:8
4	Sharples, B	Conservative	18/06/1973	43:7
5	Falkender, B	Labour	11/07/1974	42:6
6	Crawford and Balcarres, E ⁴	Leave of Absence	24/01/1975	42:0
7	Kirkhill, L	Labour	17/07/1975	41:6
8	McCluskey, L	Crossbench	29/09/1976	40:3
9	Lockwood, B	Leave of Absence	27/02/1978	38:11
10	Howie of Troon, L	Labour	21/04/1978	38:9
11	Mackay of Clashfern, L	Conservative	06/07/1979	37:6
12	Trumpington, B	Conservative	04/02/1980	36:11
13	Elystan-Morgan, L	Crossbench	27/05/1981	35:8
14	Thomas of Swynnerton, L	Crossbench	16/06/1981	35:7
15	Gardner of Parkes, B	Conservative	19/06/1981	35:7
16	Nicol, B	Leave of Absence	20/01/1983	34:0

³ Sat by virtue of a hereditary peerage before sitting by virtue of a life peerage conferred on 11 November 1999 (Lord Carington of Upton).

⁴ Sits by virtue of a life peerage conferred on 24 January 1975 (Lord Balniel). He inherited the title Earl of Crawford and Balcarres later that year.

	Title	Party/Group Affiliation	Membership Start Date	Length of Membership (Year: Month)
17	Cox, B	Crossbench	24/01/1983	34:0
18	Graham of Edmonton, L	Labour	12/09/1983	33:4
19	Stoddart of Swindon, L	Independent Labour	14/09/1983	33:4
20	Young of Graffham, L	Conservative	10/10/1984	32:3
21	Vinson, L	Conservative	07/02/1985	31:11
22	Donoughue, L	Labour	21/05/1985	31:8
23	Williams of Elvel, L	Labour	22/05/1985	31:8
24	Turner of Camden, B	Labour	29/05/1985	31:7
25	Sanderson of Bowden, L	Conservative	05/06/1985	31:7
26	Hooper, B	Conservative	10/06/1985	31:7

3.3 Female Members with Membership Longer than 20 Years

	Title	Party/Group Affiliation	Membership Start Date	Length of Membership (Year: Month)
1	Masham of Ilton, B	Crossbench	12/02/1970	46:11
2	Sharples, B	Conservative	18/06/1973	43:7
3	Falkender, B	Labour	1/07/1974	42:6
4	Mar, C	Crossbench	11/09/1975	41:4
5	Lockwood, B	Leave of Absence	27/02/1978	38:11
6	Trumpington, B	Conservative	04/02/1980	36:11
7	Gardner of Parkes, B	Conservative	19/06/1981	35:7
8	Nicol, B	Leave of Absence	20/01/1983	34:0
9	Cox, B	Crossbench	24/01/1983	34:0
10	Turner of Camden, B	Labour	29/05/1985	31:7
11	Hooper, B	Conservative	10/06/1985	31:7
12	Blackstone, B	Labour	18/03/1987	29:10
13	Oppenheim-Barnes, B	Conservative	09/02/1989	27:11
14	Eccles of Moulton, B	Conservative	10/05/1990	26:8
15	Cumberlege, B	Conservative	18/05/1990	26:8
16	Hollis of Heigham, B	Labour	01/06/1990	26:7
17	Flather, B	Crossbench	11/06/1990	26:7
18	Seccombe, B	Conservative	14/02/1991	25:11
19	Hamwee, B	Liberal Democrat	06/06/1991	25:7
20	Hilton of Eggardon, B	Labour	14/06/1991	25:7

	Title	Party/Group Affiliation	Membership Start Date	Length of Membership (Year: Month)
21	Mallalieu, B	Labour	19/06/1991	25:7
22	O'Cathain, B	Conservative	21/06/1991	25:7
23	Chalker of Wallasey, B	Conservative	24/04/1992	24:9
24	Jay of Paddington, B	Labour	29/07/1992	24:5
25	Gould of Potternewton, B	Labour	26/10/1993	23:3
26	Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, B	Labour	12/10/1993	23:3
27	Farrington of Ribbleton, B	Labour	29/09/1994	22:3
28	Rawlings, B	Conservative	05/10/1994	22:3
29	Hogg, B	Crossbench	03/02/1995	21:11
30	Smith of Gilmorehill, B	Labour	17/02/1995	21:11
31	Hayman, B	Crossbench	02/01/1996	21:0
32	Wilcox, B	Conservative	16/01/1996	21:0
33	Symons of Vernham Dean, B	Labour	07/10/1996	20:3
34	Ramsay of Cartvale, B	Labour	11/10/1996	20:3
35	Anelay of St Johns, B	Conservative	14/10/1996	20:3
36	Byford, B	Conservative	15/10/1996	20:3

4. Ethnicity, Religion and Disability

Members of the House of Lords are not required to provide information relating to their ethnicity; any religious beliefs they may hold; or any disability or disabilities they may have. Consequently, there are challenges in collecting, detailing and interpreting information in this subject area.

The following House of Lords Library briefing provides further information, including a summary of existing research on the representation of minority ethnic groups, religions and disability in the House of Lords; a discussion on some of the challenges in collecting and interpreting information in this area; key developments in appointments to the House; and consideration of the meaning of representation and how this applies to the House of Lords:

- House of Lords Library, [Membership of the House of Lords: Ethnicity, Religion and Disability](#), 12 June 2014

5. Further Reading

The following Library briefings provide further information on the membership of the House:

- House of Lords Library, [Statistics on the Size and Composition of the House of Lords](#), 28 November 2016
- House of Lords Library, [Hereditary By-elections: Results](#), 23 August 2016
- House of Lords Library, [Life Peerages Created Since 1958](#), 5 August 2016
- House of Lords Library, [Regional Representation in the House of Lords](#), 14 July 2016
- House of Lords Library, [House of Lords: Public Offices and Positions Held by Members](#), 29 March 2016
- House of Lords Library, [House of Lords: Statistical Profile of Membership](#), 23 March 2016
- House of Lords Library, [Peerage Creations: Appointments to the House of Lords since 1997](#), 3 February 2016
- House of Lords Library, [Size of the House of Lords](#), 29 January 2016
- House of Lords Library, [Statistics on Composition of the House of Lords and Changes to the Size of the Membership](#), 9 September 2015
- House of Lords Library, [Peerage Creations since 1997](#), 4 September 2015
- House of Lords Library, [House of Lords: Party and Group Strengths and Voting](#), 23 July 2015
- House of Lords Library, [Women in the House of Lords](#), 30 June 2015
- House of Lords Library, [House of Lords: Profile of Membership](#), 2 June 2015
- House of Lords Library, [Retirement from the House of Lords](#), 13 February 2015

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