

Parliamentary Election Timetables

Research Paper 96/94

15 October 1996



This Paper sets out the model timetables for Parliamentary general elections and by-elections. The next general election must be held on or before 22 May 1997, so the Paper gives an electoral timetable for each Thursday until that date. The formal dissolution is made by Royal Proclamation following a request from the Prime Minister.

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CONTENTS

	Page
I Background	4
A. General Elections	4
B. By-Elections	8
II Model Timetables	9
III Possible general election timetables	11

I Background

A. General elections

Under the *Septennial Act 1715*, as amended by Section 7 of the *Parliament Act 1911* five years is set as the maximum duration for a Parliament.¹ In theory, once five years has passed a Parliament expires but in practice the Prime Minister normally requests a dissolution from the monarch before that date. The five years run from the first meeting of Parliament following the general election. The timetable for the next general election is then set in motion, unless dissolution has been requested earlier. The current Parliament was summoned to meet on Monday 27 April 1992, so ceases to exist at midnight on Saturday 26 April 1997.

Dissolution may occur at any time; Parliament does not need to be sitting, nor to be recalled, for the purpose of dissolution. It is normally carried by a Royal Proclamation with the Great Seal affixed, and announces not only the dissolution but that orders have been given for writs to be issued for the summoning of the new Parliament. The date on which the new Parliament will meet is also given but not the date of the General Election. The writs are dispatched by post from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery² and are delivered on the following day to the Returning Office for each constituency. In modern times the Royal Proclamation has been issued only after either a session has been prorogued or the sittings of both Houses have been adjourned.³ The date of the election is therefore announced some days before prorogation or adjournment and subsequent dissolution thus allowing a few days to finish Parliamentary business: in 1992, for example there was a televised announcement by the Prime Minister outside 10 Downing Street on March 11; Parliament was dissolved on March 16, and the election took place on 9 April.⁴ In September 1974 Parliament was dissolved while already adjourned for the long recess. On 28 March 1979, immediately following the carrying of a vote of no-confidence the Prime Minister, Jim Callaghan, announced that he would on the following day request a dissolution from the Queen⁵ and the dissolution was on April 7.

The election timetable runs from the day of dissolution and issue of new writs, and is set out in the Parliamentary Elections Rules in Schedule 1 of the *Representation of the People Act 1983*. The timetable runs from Day 0 to Day 17, but certain days are disregarded, namely Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Maundy Thursday, a bank holiday and a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning. If the death of the sovereign occurs

¹ During the First and Second World Wars the duration was extended through statute

² Head of the permanent staff of the Crown Office

³ For further details see *The Meeting of Parliament* (1990) by Robert Blackburn and Erskin May pp.62-63 and p.222

⁴ Table 14.02 General Election Timetable 1918-1987 in *British Electoral Facts 1832-1987* by FWS Craig gives further details for earlier Parliaments

⁵ HC Deb. vol 965 c.589

Research Paper 96/94

between the proclamation summoning a new Parliament and polling day, the election is 'frozen' and polling day is postponed for 14 days to take account of a period of mourning.⁶ Bank holidays for 1996/97 are as follows:-

England and Wales: New Years Day, Easter Monday, May 5 and 26, August 25, and 26 December.

Scotland: New Years Day, 2 January, Good Friday, May 5 and August 4, and Christmas Day.

Northern Ireland: New Years Day, 17 March, Easter Monday, 5 and 26 May, 14 July, August 25 and 26 December.⁷

For general election purposes, a bank holiday in any part of the United Kingdom must be disregarded.

There is no statutory requirement for elections to be held on Thursdays, but it appears to have now become an election convention. Until the 1918 *Representation of the People Act* fixed a single day for polling, polling would stretch over a number of weeks. Since 1935 every election has been held on a Thursday.⁸ The month for the election varies but 1918 was the last time that an election has been held in December, and there have been no polling periods in January since 1910.

The new electoral register comes into force on 16 February 1997 and is valid for an election held at any time in the following twelve months. There is no period of time which must elapse after the entry into force of the register before an election is held and the election timetable is unaffected if dissolution occurs just before 16 February. In these circumstances the new register is used, provided that it comes into force on or after polling day. In February 1974 the date of the election was announced on 7 February and Parliament was dissolved on the following day but polling day was 28 February, 2 weeks after the register became valid. The position is slightly more complicated when new Parliamentary boundaries come into force as will happen at the next election but, with new technology new registers for the new constituencies can easily be assembled and in most cases E.R.O.s are known to have already prepared draft registers based on the new boundaries.

If the general election is held on 1 May 1997 there will be a 'combined election' for those local authority areas which are due to hold elections on that date.⁹ The last such combined

⁶ S.20 *Representation of the People Act 1985*

⁷ 25 December is a common law public holiday in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Schedule 1 of the 1971 *Banking and Financial Dealings Act* sets out the bank holidays, but additional days are created by Royal Proclamation

⁸ 1918 Saturday 1922, 1924 Wednesday, 1923, 1929 Thursday, 1931 Tuesday

⁹ Polling day for local elections is fixed as the first Thursday in May S.37 1983 *Representation of the People Act* unless subsequently altered

election was May 3 1979. Returning Officers have to deal with two overlapping timetables for local and general elections. The following councils will have elections on 1 May:

English county councils (whole council elections)

Bedfordshire	Leicestershire
Buckinghamshire	Lincolnshire
Cambridgeshire	Norfolk
Cheshire	Northamptonshire
Cornwall	Northumberland
Cumbria	North Yorkshire
Derbyshire	Nottinghamshire
Devon	Oxfordshire
Dorset	Shropshire
Durham	Somerset
East Sussex	Staffordshire
Essex	Suffolk
Gloucestershire	Surrey
Hampshire	Warwickshire
Hertfordshire	West Sussex
Kent	Wiltshire
Lancashire	Worcestershire

Unitary councils (whole council elections for shadow councils)

Blackburn	Reading
Blackpool	Slough
Bracknell Forest	Southend-on-Sea
Halton	The Wrekin
Herefordshire	Thurrock
Medway Towns	Torbay
Newbury	Warrington
Nottingham	Windsor and Maidenhead
Peterborough	Wokingham
Plymouth	

Unitary councils (third of council)

Bristol	Kingston upon Hull
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District councils (whole council)

Malvern Hills

B. By-elections

The writ for a by-election is usually issued on the same day as or the day following a motion in the Commons for the Speaker to make out the warrant for the issue of a writ. By parliamentary convention the Chief Whip of the party to which the previous MP belonged will usually arrange for the motion to be moved. There is a convention that the writ should be moved within about three months of the seat's becoming vacant, but this is not a statutory or parliamentary requirement.¹⁰

The writ is issued by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and sent to the Returning Officer or acting Returning Officer for the constituency. The by-election timetable is set in motion following the issue of the writ, but is more flexible than the general election timetable as the acting Returning Officer has some discretion in fixing the last day for the delivery of nomination papers and the subsequent polling day. In practice the motion is normally timed to ensure that the warrant is made with a particular polling day generally - Thursday - in mind, but the actual decision is for the acting Returning Officer, and there is no procedure for an appeal against the day chosen. Thursday has become a convention but there have been post war by-elections where polling day has been on another day.¹¹

Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, bank holidays and any day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning are disregarded in the timetable. A bank holiday for a by-election is only disregarded if it is a bank holiday in that part of the United Kingdom in which the constituency is situated.

¹⁰ The Speakers Conference of 1973 [Cmnd 5500] recommended that the three month rule be embodied in a resolution of the House. This has not been implemented, but the rule has generally been adhered to. *The Recess Elections Act 1975* provides for the Speaker to issue a warrant for election to a vacant seat where this arises during a Parliamentary recess following certain specified procedures

¹¹ The most recent example was the byelection at Hamilton on 31 May 1978 which was a Wednesday; apparently this was chosen because the acting Returning Officer wished to avoid a clash with a World Cup match on TV. Earlier examples are given in Appendix 22 of *Chronology of British by-elections 1833-1987*, FWS Craig (1987)

II Model Timetables

TIMETABLE : PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION¹²

Proclamation summoning new Parliament/ dissolution of old Parliament/ issue of writ	Day 0
Receipt of writ	Day 1
Last day for publication of notice of election (4 pm)	Day 3
Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)	Day 4
Last day for delivery of nomination papers/withdrawals of candidature/ appointment of election agents (4 pm)	Day 6
Statement of persons nominated published at close of time for making objections to nomination papers (5 pm on Day 6) or as soon afterwards as any objections are disposed of	
Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)	Day 11
Last day for appointment of polling and counting agents	Day 15
Polling day (7 am - 10 pm)	Day 17

Note: - in computing any period of time for the purposes of the timetable, the following days are disregarded: Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, bank holidays and any day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

¹² Taken from *Guidance for Acting Returning Officers* Home Office

Research Paper 96/94

TIMETABLE : PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION

Issue of writ	Day 0
Receipt of writ	Day 1
Last day for publication of notice of election (4 pm)	Day 3
Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)	13th Day before polling day
Last day for delivery of nomination papers/withdrawals of candidature/ appointment of election agents (4 pm)	To be fixed by the acting returning officer: not earlier than Day 6; not later than Day 8
Statement of persons nominated published at close of time for making objections to nomination papers (5 pm on Day 6, 7 or 8 as the case may be) or as soon afterwards as any objections are disposed of	
Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)	6th Day before polling day
Last day for appointment of polling and counting agents	2nd Day before polling day
Polling day (7 am - 10 pm)	To be fixed by the acting returning officer: between days 15 to 17, 16 to 18 or 17 to 19, depending on the day fixed as the last for the delivery of nomination papers

Note: in computing any period of time for the purposes of the timetable, the following days are disregarded: Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, bank holidays and any day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

III Possible General Election Timetables

Thursday 22 May 1997

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
28 April	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
29 April	1	Receipt of writs
30 April	2	
1 May		Notice of election published
2 May	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)

5 May	[Bank holiday]	
6 May	5	
7 May	6	Last day for nominations
8 May	7	
9 May	8	

12 May	9	
13 May	10	
14 May	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
15 May	12	
16 May	13	

19 May	14	
20 May	15	
21 May	16	
22 May	17	Polling day

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 15 May

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
21 April	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
22 April	1	Receipt of writs
23 April	2	
24 April	3	Notice of election published
25 April	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
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28 April	5	
29 April	6	Last day for nominations
30 April	7	
1 May	8	
2 May	9	
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5 May	[Bank holiday]	
6 May	10	
7 May	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
8 May	12	
9 May	13	
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12 May	14	
13 May	15	
14 May	16	
15 May	17	Polling day
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Thursday 8 May

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
14 April	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
15 April	1	Receipt of writs
16 April	2	
17 April	3	Notice of election published
18 April	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
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21 April	5	
22 April	6	Last day for nominations
23 April	7	
24 April	8	
25 April	9	
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28 April	10	
29 April	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
30 April	12	
1 May	13	
2 May	14	
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5 May	[Bank holiday]	
6 May	15	
7 May	16	
8 May	17	Polling day
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Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 1 May

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
8 April	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
9 April	1	Receipt of writs
10 April	2	
11 April	3	Notice of election published
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14 April	4	Earliest day for nominations Latest day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
15 April	5	
16 April	6	Last day for nominations
17 April	7	
18 April	8	
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21 April	9	
22 April	10	
23 April	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
24 April	12	
25 April	13	
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28 April	14	
29 April	15	
30 April	16	
1 May	17	Polling day
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Thursday 24 April

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
1 April	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
2 April	1	Receipt of writs
3 April	2	
4 April	3	Notice of election published
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7 April	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
8 April	5	
9 April	6	Last day for nominations
10 April	7	
11 April	8	
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14 April	9	
15 April	10	
16 April	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
17 April	12	
18 April	13	
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21 April	14	
22 April	15	
23 April	16	
24 April	17	Polling day
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Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 17 April

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
20 March	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
21 March	1	Receipt of writs
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24 March	2	
25 March	3	Notice of election published
26 March	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
27 March	[Maundy Thursday]	
28 March	[Good Friday]	
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31 March	[Bank holiday]	
1 April	5	
2 April	6	Last day for nominations
3 April	7	
4 April	8	
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7 April	9	
8 April	10	
9 April	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
10 April	12	
11 April	13	
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14 April	14	
15 April	15	
16 April	16	
17 April	17	Polling day
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Thursday 10 April

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
12 March	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
13 March	1	Receipt of writs
14 March	2	
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17 March	[Bank holiday N.Ireland]	
18 March	3	Notice of election published
19 March	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
20 March	5	
21 March	6	Last day for nominations
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24 March	7	
25 March	8	
26 March	9	
27 March	[Maundy Thursday]	
28 March	[Good Friday]	
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31 March	[Bank holiday]	
1 April	10	
2 April	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
3 April	12	
4 April	13	
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7 April	14	
8 April	15	
9 April	16	
10 April	17	Polling day
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Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 3 April

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
5 March	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
6 March	1	Receipt of writs
7 March	2	
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10 March	3	Notice of election published
11 March	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
12 March	5	
13 March	6	Last day for nominations
14 March	7	
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17 March	[Bank holiday N.Ireland]	
18 March	8	
19 March	9	
19 March	10	
21 March	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
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24 March	12	
24 March	13	
26 March	14	
27 March	[Maundy Thursday]	
28 March	[Good Friday]	
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31 March	[Bank holiday]	
1 April	15	
2 April	16	
3 April	17	Polling day

Thursday 27 March is Maundy Thursday

Thursday 20 March

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
24 February	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
25 February	1	Receipt of writs
26 February	2	
27 February	3	Notice of election published
28 February	4	Earliest day for nominations Latest day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
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3 March	5	
4 March	6	Last day for nominations
5 March	7	
6 March	8	
7 March	9	
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10 March	10	
11 March	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
12 March	12	
13 March	13	
14 March	14	
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17 March	[Bank holiday N. Ireland]	
18 March	15	
19 March	16	
20 March	17	Polling day

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 13 March

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of election timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
18 February	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
19 February	1	Receipt of writs
20 February	2	
21 February	3	Notice of election published
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24 February	4	Earliest day for nominations Latest day for receipt of late absent voting applications (noon)
25 February	5	
26 February	6	Last day for nominations
27 February	7	
28 February	8	
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3 March	9	
4 March	10	
5 March	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
6 March	12	
7 March	13	
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10 March	14	
11 March	15	
12 March	16	
13 March	17	Polling day
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Thursday 6 March

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
11 February	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
12 February	1	Receipt of writs
13 February	2	
14 February	3	Notice of election published
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17 February	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
18 February	5	
19 February	6	Last day for nominations
20 February	7	
21 February	8	
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24 February	9	
25 February	10	
26 February	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
27 February	12	
28 February	13	
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3 March	14	
4 March	15	
5 March	16	
6 March	17	Polling day

N.B New electoral register comes into force on 16 February

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 27 February

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
4 February	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
5 February	1	Receipt of writs
6 February	2	
7 February	3	Notice of election published
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10 February	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
11 February	5	
12 February	6	Last day for nominations
13 February	7	
14 February	8	
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17 February	9	
18 February	10	
19 February	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
20 February	12	
21 February	13	
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24 February	14	
25 February	15	
26 February	16	
27 February	17	Polling day

N.B. New electoral register comes into force on 16 February

Thursday 20 February

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
28 January	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
29 January	1	Receipt of writs
30 January	2	
31 January	3	Notice of election published

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3 February	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
4 February	5	
5 February	6	Last day for nominations
6 February	7	
7 February	8	

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10 February	9	
11 February	10	
12 February	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
13 February	12	
14 February	13	

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17 February	14	
18 February	15	
19 February	16	
20 February	17	Polling day

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 13 February

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
21 January	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
22 January	1	Receipt of writs
23 January	2	
24 January	3	Notice of election published

27 January	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
28 January	5	
29 January	6	Last day for nominations
30 January	7	
31 January	8	

3 February	9	
4 February	10	
5 February	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
6 February	12	
7 February	13	

10 February	14	
11 February	15	
12 February	16	
13 February	17	Polling day

Thursday 6 February

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
14 January	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
15 January	1	Receipt of writs
16 January	2	
17 January	3	Notice of election published

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20 January	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
21 January	5	
22 January	6	Last day for nominations
23 January	7	
24 January	8	

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27 January	9	
28 January	10	
29 January	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
30 January	12	
31 January	13	

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3 February	14	
4 February	15	
5 February	16	
6 February	17	Polling day

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 30 January

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
7 January	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
8 January	1	Receipt of writs
9 January	2	
10 January	3	Notice of election published
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13 January	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
14 January	5	
15 January	6	Last day for nominations
16 January	7	
17 January	8	
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20 January	9	
21 January	10	
22 January	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
23 January	12	
24 January	13	
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27 January	14	
28 January	15	
29 January	16	
30 January	17	Polling day

Thursday 23 January

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
27 December	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
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30 December	1	Receipt of writs
31 December	2	
1 January	[Bank holiday]	
2 January	[Bank holiday in Scotland]	
3 January	3	Notice of election published
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6 January	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
7 January	5	
8 January	6	Last day for nominations
9 January	7	
10 January	8	
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13 January	9	
14 January	10	
15 January	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
16 January	12	
17 January	13	
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20 January	14	
21 January	15	
22 January	16	
23 January	17	Polling day

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 16 January

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
17 December	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
18 December	1	Receipt of writs
19 December	2	
20 December	3	Notice of election published

23 December 4 Earliest day for nominations
Last day for receipt of absent
voting applications (noon)

24 December [Christmas Eve]
25 December [Christmas Day]
26 December [Bank holiday]
27 December 5

30 December 6 Last day for nominations
31 December 7
1 January [Bank holiday]
2 January [Bank holiday in Scotland]
3 January 8

6 January 9
7 January 10
8 January 11 Last day for receipt of late
absent voting applications
on health grounds (noon)

9 January 12
10 January 13

cont.

Thursday 16 January cont.

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
13 January	14	
14 January	15	
15 January	16	
17 January	17	Polling day

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 9 January

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
10 December	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
11 December	1	Receipt of writs
12 December	2	
13 December	3	Notice of election published

16 December	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
17 December	5	
18 December	6	Last day for nominations
19 December	7	
20 December	8	

23 December	9	
24 December	[Christmas Eve]	
25 December	[Christmas Day]	
26 December	[Bank holiday]	
27 December	10	

30 December	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
31 December	12	
1 January	[Bank holiday]	
2 January	[Bank holiday in Scotland]	
3 January	13	

cont.

Thursday 9 January cont.

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
6 January	14	
7 January	15	
8 January	16	
9 January	17	Polling day

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 19 December

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
26 November	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
27 November	1	Receipt of writs
28 November	2	
29 November	3	Notice of election published

2 December	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
3 December	5	
4 December	6	Last day for nominations
5 December	7	
6 December	8	

9 December	9	
10 December	10	
11 December	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
12 December	12	
13 December	13	

16 December	14	
17 December	15	
18 December	16	
19 December	17	Polling day

Thursday 26 December is Boxing Day, Thursday 2 January is a Bank Holiday in Scotland

Thursday 12 December

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
19 November	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
20 November	1	Receipt of writs
21 November	2	
22 November	3	Notice of election published
<hr/>		
-		
25 November	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
26 November	5	
27 November	6	Last day for nominations
28 November	7	
29 November	8	
<hr/>		
-		
2 December	9	
3 December	10	
4 December	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
5 December	12	
6 December	13	
<hr/>		
-		
9 December	14	
10 December	15	
11 December	16	
12 December	17	Polling day
<hr/>		

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 5 December

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
12 November	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
13 November	1	Receipt of writs
14 November	2	
15 November	3	Notice of election published
<hr/>		
–		
18 November	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
19 November	5	
20 November	6	Last day for nominations
21 November	7	
22 November	8	
<hr/>		
–		
25 November	9	
26 November	10	
27 November	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
28 November	12	
29 November	13	
<hr/>		
–		
2 December	14	
3 December	15	
4 December	16	
5 December	17	Polling day
<hr/>		

Thursday 28 November 1996

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
5 November	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
6 November	1	Receipt of writs
7 November	2	
8 November	3	Notice of election published
<hr/>		
-		
11 November	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
12 November	5	
13 November	6	Last day for nominations
14 November	7	
15 November	8	
<hr/>		
-		
18 November	9	
19 November	10	
20 November	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
21 November	12	
22 November	13	
<hr/>		
25 November	14	
26 November	15	
27 November	16	
28 November	17	Polling day
<hr/>		

Research Paper 96/94

Thursday 21 November 1996

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
29 October	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
30 October	1	Receipt of writs
31 October	2	
1 November	3	Notice of election published
<hr/>		
-		
4 November	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
5 November	5	
6 November	6	Last day for nominations
7 November	7	
8 November	8	
<hr/>		
-		
11 November	9	
12 November	10	
13 November	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
14 November	12	
15 November	13	
<hr/>		
-		
18 November	14	
19 November	15	
20 November	16	
21 November	17	Polling day
<hr/>		

Thursday 14 November 1996

<u>Calendar date</u>	<u>Day of electoral timetable</u>	<u>Stage of electoral timetable</u>
22 October	0	Proclamation and issue of writs
23 October	1	Receipt of writs
24 October	2	
25 October	3	Notice of election published
<hr/>		
28 October	4	Earliest day for nominations Last day for receipt of absent voting applications (noon)
29 October	5	
30 October	6	Last day for nominations
31 October	7	
1 November	8	
<hr/>		
4 November	9	
5 November	10	
6 November	11	Last day for receipt of late absent voting applications on health grounds (noon)
7 November	12	
8 November	13	
<hr/>		
11 November	14	
12 November	15	
13 November	16	
14 November	17	Polling day

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Research Paper 96/94

Sub

Title: Parliamentary Election Timetables

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| | Too long | The right length | Too short |
| 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Clear | Not always clear | Rather unclear |
| 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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