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Recall of Parliament



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Summary

On Saturday 12 April 2025, both Houses of Parliament were recalled to debate and pass a bill “to make provision about powers to secure the continued and safe use of assets of a steel undertaking” ([House of Commons Hansard](#); [House of Lords Hansard](#)). This was the 35th recall during a recess since 1948. It was the first recall of Parliament on a Saturday since 1982.

Under standing orders, the Speaker of the House of Commons determines whether the House is to be recalled on the basis of representations made by ministers.

Under the Labour Government (1997-2010), MPs argued that they, rather than the government, should be able to make representations to the Speaker to recall Parliament. The Labour Government announced proposals to allow MPs as well as the government to request that the Speaker recall Parliament but the proposals were never implemented.

In a Hansard Society Lecture in October 2017, Speaker Bercow noted the current rules that allow only the government to request a recall of the House of Commons. He said that the government should have this power but he went on to ask whether another mechanism could be devised to allow other MPs to request a recall.

The costs incurred by MPs in attending the House when it is recalled are met by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in accordance with rules in [The Scheme of MPs’ Business Costs and Expenses](#).

The standing orders of the House of Lords and of the devolved legislatures in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast provide for early recall if the circumstances require it.

The House of Lords has generally been recalled when the House of Commons was recalled. As noted above, the House of Lords was recalled on 12 April 2025 to debate the steel industry and the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill.

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, neither House was recalled under the procedures in their standing orders. The Succession to the Crown Act 1707 requires Parliament to meet if it is adjourned or prorogued. Both Houses were scheduled to sit on 9 September but scheduled business was not taken, rather tributes were paid to Her late Majesty.

1 Recent recalls of the House of Commons

1.1 2024 Parliament

Steel Industry

At 2.48pm on 11 April 2025, the Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament announced that both Houses would be [recalled on Saturday 12 April 2025](#) to “to consider legislative proposals ... to ensure the continued operation of British Steel blast furnaces is safeguarded”.

The House of Commons sat from 11am and the House of Lords, from midday.

A business of the House motion in the Commons provided a timetable for the consideration of all stages of the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill. It also provided that the Speaker should not adjourn the House until he had notified the House that the Royal Assent had been granted to the bill. It also provided for the House to adjourn to 22 April, the formerly planned next sitting day, when it rose on 12 April.¹

Following the passing of the bill by the Commons, at 2.04pm, the House was suspended until 6pm, when a message was received from the Lords that it too had agreed to the bill. The Speaker then notified the House that His Majesty has signified his Royal Assent to the ... Steel Industry (Special Measures) Act 2025.²

Saturday sittings

It is very unusual for the House of Commons to sit on a Saturday. A list of Saturday sittings since World War II is provided in Appendix 2.

¹ [HC Deb 12 April 2025 cc835-838](#)

² [HC Deb 12 April 2025 c888](#)

1.2

2019 Parliament

Afghanistan

On 15 August 2021 it was announced that the House of Commons would be recalled from its summer recess to debate the situation in Afghanistan, on Wednesday [18 August 2021](#).³

The House met at 9.30am and the government proposed that the sitting should last until 2.30pm. However, it accepted a manuscript amendment from David Davis that the House should sit until 5pm.⁴

This was the first sitting of the House following the expiry of temporary orders that allowed for hybrid proceedings during the pandemic. The Speaker confirmed that “All contributions to proceedings will once again be made from within this Chamber.”⁵

Death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

The House of Commons was recalled on 12 April 2021. His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh died on 9 April. On the same day, it was announced that the House would be recalled to pay tribute to His Royal Highness.⁶ The House debated a Motion for an Address in the following terms:

That an Humble Address be presented to Her Majesty expressing the deepest sympathies of this House on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and the heartfelt thanks of this House and this nation for his unfailing dedication to this Country and the Commonwealth exemplified in his distinguished service in the Royal Navy in the Second World War; his commitment to young people in setting up the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, a scheme which has touched the lives of millions across the globe; his early, passionate commitment to the environment; and his unstinting support to Your Majesty throughout his life.⁷

Tributes were paid to HRH The Prince Philip in the House of Commons, the House of Lords, the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Parliament/Senedd Cymru and the Northern Ireland Assembly on 12 April 2021.

The House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Parliament were recalled.

Both the House of Lords and the Northern Ireland Assembly were scheduled to sit on 12 April.

³ House of Commons, [House of Commons recalled on Wednesday 18 August](#), 15 August 2021

⁴ [HC Deb 18 August 2021 c1252](#)

⁵ [HC Deb 18 August 2021 c1251](#)

⁶ House of Commons, [House of Commons tributes to HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh](#), 9 April 2021 (updated 12 April 2021)

⁷ [HC Deb 12 April 2021 cc2-118](#)

Statements on Covid-19; and to agree to regulations relating to public health

The House of Commons was recalled on 6 January 2021. On 4 January 2021, it was announced that the House of Commons would be recalled and that “The Prime Minister will make a statement providing a Covid-19 update, and MPs will consider related public health regulations”.⁸

Additionally, the Secretary of State for Education made a statement.⁹

European Union (Future Relationship) Bill 2019-21; statements on Covid-19; and to agree to regulations relating to public health

The House of Commons was recalled on 30 December 2020, following an announcement on 24 December 2020. It listed the business that would be taken:

- Motion to provide for virtual participation in debate;
- Business of the House motion governing proceedings on the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill;
- Debate on Second Reading of the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill, followed by all remaining proceedings on and relating to that Bill (until 2:30pm);
- Statement by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, providing an update on COVID-19;
- Statement by the Secretary of State for Education, on education return in England;
- Debate on a series of Public Health regulations (for three hours).

The House will then be suspended to await conclusion of Lords proceedings on the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill, to be followed (if necessary) by consideration of Lords Amendments and then by notification of Royal Assent, after which the House will rise.¹⁰

Proceedings during the pandemic

In a letter published on 28 May 2020, the Speaker wrote to Members informing them that the government had requested that the House be recalled for an earlier sitting on Tuesday 2 June 2020, to sit from 11.30am. The Speaker set out the reason for the recall:

The main purpose of the Government’s proposed recall is to bring forward a motion so that the House can take a decision on the form divisions should take

⁸ House of Commons news, [House of Commons recalled on 6 January 2021 at 11.30am](#), 4 January 2021
⁹ [HC Deb 6 January 2021 cc733-876](#)

¹⁰ House of Commons news, [House of Commons recalled on 30 December](#), 24 December 2020; [HC Deb 30 December 2020 cc503-732](#)

- now that the temporary Standing Orders on hybrid proceedings have lapsed.¹¹

The House had been scheduled to meet at 2.30pm on 2 June. The early return allowed the government to set down particular business that had not been set down before the House rose at its previous sitting.¹² A business of the House motion provided for debate on a government motion on proceedings during the pandemic and then on the second reading of the Parliamentary Constituencies Bill 2019-21, which had previously been scheduled for 2 June.

1.3

2015-17 Parliament

Death of Jo Cox

On 17 June 2016, it was announced that the House of Commons would be recalled on Monday 20 June to pay tribute to Jo Cox who was murdered on 16 June. The House met at 2.30pm on 20 June.¹³ At the end of the session, the Speaker invited all Members to join him in processing to St Margaret's Church for a service of prayer and remembrance for Jo Cox.¹⁴

1.4

2010-15 Parliament

ISIL and Iraq

On 24 September 2014, it was announced that the House of Commons would be recalled on Friday 26 September to debate a motion on ISIL and Iraq. The House met at 10.30am on 26 September. The government motion which, included support for “the use of UK air strikes to support Iraqi, including Kurdish, security forces’ efforts against ISIL in Iraq”, was agreed to on a division by 524 votes to 43.¹⁵

Syria

On 27 August 2013 it was announced that the House of Commons would be recalled on 29 August to debate a motion on Syria.¹⁶ The House met at 2.30pm on 29 August. An opposition amendment to the government's motion was defeated with 220 voting for the amendment and 332 against. The

¹¹ House of Commons, [Government requests recall of Parliament](#), 28 May 2020

¹² See the comments of the Clerk of the House – Procedure Committee, [Procedure under Coronavirus Restrictions, Oral Evidence 1 June 2020](#), HC 300 2019-21, Q6

¹³ [HC Deb 20 June 2016 cc1883-1900](#)

¹⁴ [HC Deb 20 June 2016 c1900](#)

¹⁵ House of Commons, [Votes and Proceedings](#), 24 September 2014

¹⁶ See the Parliamentary website, [Recall of the House](#)

government's motion was also defeated, with 272 voting in favour of the motion and 285 against.¹⁷

Death of Baroness Thatcher

On 10 April 2013, the House was recalled to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher, who died on 8 April 2013.¹⁸

Public disorder

On 11 August 2011, the House was recalled to discuss "Public Disorder". The House also heard a statement on the "Global Economy". The Prime Minister made a statement on public disorder from 11.35am to 2.20pm.¹⁹ After that the Chancellor of the Exchequer made his statement on the global economy.²⁰ This statement was followed by a sittings of the House motion;²¹ and then by a general debate on public disorder, which was opened by the Home Secretary.²² As the House was sitting on a Thursday, the moment of interruption was at 6pm. However, the Order Paper included a 6pm Business of the House motion to allow debate to continue until 7pm.²³ But during the debate, Sir George Young, the Leader of the House of Commons, indicated that he intended "to move an alternative motion to enable us to continue until 8 o'clock".²⁴ At 6pm the House agreed to sit until 8pm, and that Standing Order No 41A (Deferred divisions) would not apply.²⁵

Public confidence in the Media and Police

Earlier in the same summer, on 20 July 2011, having risen for the Summer Recess the previous day, the House was recalled to discuss "Public Confidence in the Media and Police". The Prime Minister made a statement, which lasted from 11.35am to 1.54pm;²⁶ the statement was followed by a sittings of the House motion;²⁷ and then by a general debate, opened by the Prime Minister.²⁸

¹⁷ See House of Commons, [Votes and Proceedings](#), 29 August 2013

¹⁸ [HC Deb 10 April 2013 cc1613-1720](#)

¹⁹ [HC Deb 11 August 2011 cc1051-1105](#)

²⁰ [HC Deb 11 August 2011 cc1106-1129](#)

²¹ To confirm that the Recess would continue until the House returned on the previously notified date of 5 September 2011 [[HC Deb 11 August 2011 c1130](#)]

²² [HC Deb 11 August 2011 cc1131-1205](#)

²³ House of Commons, [Order of Business](#), 11 August 2011

²⁴ [HC Deb 11 August 2011 c1152](#)

²⁵ [HC Deb 11 August 2011 c1170](#)

²⁶ [HC Deb 20 July 2011 cc918-962](#)

²⁷ To confirm that the Recess would continue until the House returned on the previously notified date of 5 September 2011 [[HC Deb 20 July 2011 c964](#)]

²⁸ [HC Deb 20 July 2011 c965-1050](#)

The House of Lords has its own procedures for recall and need not necessarily be recalled at the same time as the House of Commons. In practice, usually both Houses have been recalled at the same time, see section 5, below.

There were no recalls of the House of Commons in either the 2005 Parliament, or the 2017 Parliament.

2 List of recalls

The House of Commons has been recalled on 34 occasions since 1948, as follows:

27-29 September 1949	Devaluation
12-19 September 1950	Korean War
4 October 1951	Prorogation – followed by dissolution
12-14 September 1956	Suez Crisis; Cyprus
18 September 1959	Prorogation – followed by dissolution
17-23 October 1961	Berlin Crisis
16 January 1968	Government expenditure cuts
26-27 August 1968	Czechoslovakia; Nigeria
26-29 May 1970	Prorogation – followed by dissolution
22-23 September 1971	Northern Ireland
9-10 January 1974	Fuel
3-4 June 1974	Northern Ireland
3 April 1982 (Saturday)	Falkland Islands
14 April 1982	Falkland Islands
6-7 September 1990	Kuwait invasion
24-25 September 1992	Government economic policy; UN operations in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Somalia
31 May 1995	Bosnia
2-3 September 1998	Omagh Bomb: Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill
14 Sept, 4 and 10 Oct 2001 ²⁹	International terrorism and attacks in the USA

²⁹ Three separate recalls

3 April 2002	Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
24 September 2002	Iraq and Weapons of Mass Destruction
20 July 2011	Public confidence in the Media and Police
11 August 2011	Public disorder (additional statement on global economy)
10 April 2013	Death of Baroness Thatcher
29 August 2013	Syria
26 September 2014	ISIL and Iraq
20 June 2016	Death of Jo Cox
2 June 2020	To reconsider the resolution on Proceedings during the pandemic agreed to by the House on 21 April 2020
30 December 2020	To consider the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill 2019-21; to hear statements on Covid-19; and to agree to regulations relating to public health.
6 January 2021	To hear statements on Covid-19; and to agree to regulations relating to public health.
12 April 2021	Death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.
18 August 2021	Afghanistan.
12 April 2025	To debate and pass the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill 2024–25. ³⁰

2.1 Calls for recalls

There are often calls by Members for the House of Commons to be recalled during a recess. Often the government does not accede to these calls.

³⁰ This list is derived from House of Commons Information Office Factsheet P4, [Sittings of the House](#), June 2010

On 30 March 2016, Jeremy Corbyn, the Leader of the Opposition, initiated an e-petition calling for “David Cameron to act to protect our steel industry & recall Parliament”.³¹

On 18 August 2019, it was reported that “more than 100 MPs” had written to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, urging him “to recall Parliament over [the] ‘national emergency’ of Brexit”. MPs requested that Parliament be recalled “now in August and sit permanently until October 31”.³²

An e-petition calling for the recall of Parliament “immediately to urgently debate no-deal Brexit” was launched on 14 August 2019. It had received over 10,000 signatures on 19 August (the government has undertaken to respond to e-petitions that secure 10,000 signatures).³³

On 19 August 2019, the Prime Minister’s spokeswoman said that there were no plans to recall Parliament.³⁴

In the summer of 2020, there were calls to recall the House of Commons to debate exam results. The Hansard Society noted this call and restated its argument for changes to the way in which a recall of the House of Commons is triggered³⁵ (see sections 3.2 and 3.3).

Before the recall on 30 December 2020 was announced, there had been calls to bring the House back to debate coronavirus.³⁶

On 28 September 2022, BBC News reported, following the mini-budget on Friday 23 September, “All the main opposition parties - including Labour, Liberal Democrats, Green Party and Plaid Cymru - have now called for Parliament to be recalled early”.³⁷ Sky News reported “Sir Keir Starmer has called for a recall of parliament to discuss the financial market turmoil following Friday’s mini-budget”. It also noted that other parties had already requested a recall of Parliament.³⁸

On 11 January 2024, the RAF took part in air strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen. The BBC reported that the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish National

³¹ UK Government and Parliament, [Call on David Cameron to act to protect our steel industry & recall Parliament](#)

³² Alain Tolhurst, “[More than 100 MPs urge Boris Johnson to recall Parliament over ‘national emergency’ of Brexit](#)”, PoliticsHome, 18 August 2019

³³ UK Government and Parliament, [Recall Parliament immediately to urgently debate no-deal Brexit](#)

³⁴ Rajeev Syal, “[No 10 rejects demands for parliament to be recalled over Brexit](#)”, Guardian, 19 August 2019

³⁵ Hansard Society Blog, [Demands to recall the House of Commons over this summer’s exams fiasco reinforce the case for taking the process out of government hands](#), 18 August 2020

³⁶ For example, BBC News, [Covid: case for recalling MPs over emergency, says Sir Keir Starmer](#), 21 December 2020

³⁷ BBC News, [Keir Starmer: Recall Parliament and abandon budget](#), 28 September 2022

³⁸ Sky News, [Keir Starmer calls for recall of Parliament over economic crisis](#), 28 September 2022

Party (SNP) and Plaid Cymru called for the House of Commons to be recalled to hold a vote on the military action.³⁹

In the summer of 2024, following violent protests across the country, calls for Parliament to be recalled were rejected by the Prime Minister.⁴⁰

³⁹ BBC News, [Rishi Sunak faces call for MP vote on Houthi air strike](#), 12 January 2024.

On 15 January 2024, the Prime Minister made a statement to the House of Commons in which he updated MPs on “the action that we took on Thursday night against Houthi military targets in Yemen”. [[HC Deb 15 January 2024 c577](#)]

When he questioned the Prime Minister on his statement, Stephen Flynn, the SNP leader at Westminster said “it is clear that the House should have been recalled” [[HC Deb 15 January 2024 c582](#)]

⁴⁰ BBC News, [PM rejects calls for recall of Parliament](#), 5 August 2024

3

The procedure and calls for it to be changed

3.1

The procedure – the government’s instigation

Under standing orders, the Speaker decides whether the House of Commons should be recalled, but only once ministers have made representations to him that the public interest requires this. The Speaker then considers whether the public interest does require this, and if he is satisfied that it does, appoints a time for the House to meet. This is set out in Standing Order No. 13, which dates from 1947:

(1) Whenever the House stands adjourned and it is represented to the Speaker by Her Majesty’s Ministers that the public interest requires that the House should meet at a time earlier than that to which the House stands adjourned, the Speaker, if he is satisfied that the public interest does so require, may give notice that, being so satisfied, he appoints a time for the House to meet, and the House shall accordingly meet at the time stated in such notice.

(2) The government business to be transacted on the day on which the House shall so meet shall, subject to the publication of notice thereof in the order paper to be circulated on the day on which the House shall so meet, be such as the government may appoint, but subject as aforesaid the House shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to the day on which it shall so meet, and any government order of the day and government notices of motions that may stand on the order book for any day shall be appointed for the day on which the House shall so meet.

(3) In the event of the Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Chairman of Ways and Means, or either Deputy Chairman, shall act in his stead for the purposes of this order.⁴¹

The notice issued by the Speaker announcing the recall of Parliament is reported in the Journal or the Votes and Proceedings before the relevant day’s sitting. The following table reports when notice of the ten most recent recalls was given. It shows that the amount of notice given varies.

⁴¹ House of Commons, [Standing Orders – Public Business, 2019](#), November 2019, HC 314 2019, Standing Order No 13; [HC Deb 4 November 1947 cc1784-1790](#)

Date recalled	Date notice issued by Speaker
10 April 2013	8 April 2013
29 August 2013	27 August 2013
26 September 2014	24 September 2014
20 June 2016	17 June 2016
2 June 2020	27 May 2020
30 December 2020	24 December 2020
6 January 2021	4 January 2021
12 April 2021	9 April 2021
18 August 2021	15 August 2021
12 April 2025	11 April 2025

Source: House of Commons Journals or Votes and Proceedings – the text of the notice issued by the Speaker is recorded before the relevant day’s sitting

By way of example, the notice of the recall on 30 December 2020 read:

Notice given by the Speaker pursuant to Standing Order No. 13 (earlier meeting of the House in certain circumstances)

Whereas Her Majesty’s Government have represented to me, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons, that the public interest requires the House to meet at an earlier time than 2.30 pm on the 5th day of January 2021 and I am satisfied that the public interest does so require:

Now, therefore, I hereby give notice pursuant to the Standing Order (earlier meeting of the House in certain circumstances) that the House shall meet on the 30th day of December 2020 at 9.30 am.

Given under my hand this 24th day of December 2020.⁴²

3.2 Not in the House’s power

The House of Commons rose for the Conference Recess on 19 September 2023.

On 20 September 2023, the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, made a speech in which he set out “his new approach to Net Zero”.⁴³

In response to the Prime Minister’s speech, the Office of the Speaker issued a press release saying that the Prime Minister should have made his

⁴² House of Commons, [Votes and Proceedings](#), 30 December 2020

⁴³ Prime Minister’s Office, [PM speech on Net Zero](#), 20 September 2023

announcement in the House of Commons and that if the Speaker had the power to recall the House, he would have done so:

In response to news that the PM is to lead a Press conference on delays to green targets later, a spokeswoman for the Speaker's Office said:

'If he had the power, the Speaker would recall the House immediately – and he is writing to the Prime Minister today, to express that view in the strongest of terms.

'This is a major policy shift, and it should have been announced when the House was sitting. Members with very different views on this issue have expressed their disquiet on the way this has been handled, especially as the Commons rose early last night, so there was plenty of time for this statement to be made.

'Instead, the unelected House of Lords will have the opportunity to scrutinise this change in direction this afternoon, when it hears the Government's response to a private notice question on this issue.

'This is not the way to do business. Ministers are answerable to MPs – we do not have a presidential system here.

'The House of Commons is where laws are made, national debates are had – and where statements should be made.'⁴⁴

3.3 Possible alternatives

In their January 2021 report, *Taking Back Control: why the House of Commons should govern its own time*, Meg Russell and Daniel Gover, from the Constitution Unit, University College London, reviewed ways in which the House of Commons, rather than the government could instigate a recall. Their review drew on some of the ideas reported in the following sections.

They suggested three alternative approaches:

- recall powers “vested entirely in the Speaker, possibly with an inbuilt requirement to consult ministers first”
- the Speaker be empowered to recall the Commons “only on the request of MPs”
- “a specific group of MPs to be empowered to trigger recall directly”.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ The spokeswoman's statement was reproduced in the Independent: “[Speaker lambasts Sunak for announcing net zero changes during Commons recess](#)”, Independent, 20 September 2023

⁴⁵ Meg Russell and Daniel Gover, [Taking Back Control: why the House of Commons should govern its own time](#) (PDF). January 2021, pp53-54

They also said that under any of these proposals, "a further important consideration would be how to determine the Commons agenda during a recall".

They concluded that of the three options, "a system allowing the Speaker to approve recall based on a request from MPs is probably the most desirable".⁴⁶

In their review of the options available they also reported how recalls are instigated in a small selection of other countries.

3.4

Speaker Bercow's proposal (2017)

In a Hansard Society Lecture on 11 October 2017, Speaker Bercow noted that "As matters stand, only the Government can seek a recall of Parliament". He considered that the government should have this power and could not "conceive of circumstances in which that request would be denied".

However, he asked whether only the government should have the right or whether the right could be extended:

The question is whether only the Government can even seek to petition for a recall or whether some other mechanism should be devised to allow Members as a whole to do so.

He acknowledged that there would be difficulties in doing so but made some suggestions on how Members could request a recall:

If such a reform were to be introduced, it would have to be thought through carefully. I can see many difficulties, for example, with a procedure that allowed, for instance, 100 or 200 MPs to seek the Speaker's agreement to a recall as this could be exploited for partisan purposes rather than responding to a genuine urgent situation. Indeed, this could put the Speaker of the day in an extremely awkward position. It is not beyond the wit of man and woman to devise some sensible safeguards. To offer one model, a petition for a recall could be launched if it involved a relatively high number of our 650 MPs, perhaps a quarter of them, provided that at least a quarter of that quarter were drawn from those who support the Government and at least a quarter from the Opposition. This would ensure both a degree of balance and a testing threshold for a recall bid to cross.

He also explained why he thought the change should be made:

Why, I sense some of you asking, bother with an innovation that might be very rarely used? To me there is both a practical and a philosophical argument for thinking about it. The practical thesis is just as the revival of the UQ has led to ministers volunteering statements they might otherwise have sought to avoid because of the inconvenience, so the knowledge that a cross party set of MPs

⁴⁶ Meg Russell and Daniel Gover, [Taking Back Control: why the House of Commons should govern its own time](#) (PDF). January 2021, p55

had a right to seek a recall might convince the Government of the day to jump before it was pushed and bring the House back even in the depths of August with all the aggravation that this may entail. The philosophical aspect is this, “Whose House is it anyway?” Government and Parliament obviously overlap but they are not two different ways of being or saying the same thing. The House at the end of the day belongs to all of its members and not the minority of it who occupy ministerial office. I think the case for at least a debate in this space is overdue and I hope that it will happen shortly.⁴⁷

At Business Questions on 12 October 2017, Andrea Leadsom, the Leader of the House of Commons, said that she was sure that “we will hear more about that interesting idea [that back-bench MPs could recall Parliament] and I will certainly be listening”.⁴⁸

3.5 Calls for change – the Speaker’s instigation (2005 Parliament)

The operation of Standing Order No. 13 means that the initial trigger for the consideration of a recall lies with the executive rather than the legislature. This point was noted by the Hansard Society Commission on Parliamentary Scrutiny in its 2001 report which recommended that the Speaker should be able to recall Parliament at times of emergency:

7.43 As the petrol crisis of autumn 2000 showed, Parliament is hamstrung at times of crisis by the fact that only the Government can recall Parliament. The Commission believes that Parliament as an institution must be able to respond to issues as they arise. If Parliament is to be an effective forum at times of crisis, and retain its significance to political debate, there must be an alternative mechanism for the recall of Parliament.

7.44 **The Commission believes that the Speaker of the Commons should have the ability to recall Parliament at times of emergency.** The recall would have to be instigated by a Member of Parliament and the Speaker would adjudicate claims for recall, along similar lines to those for the choice of Private Notice Questions. The Speaker would therefore consult with the leaders of the political parties before taking the decision. It is envisaged that a recall would occur only when an urgent development affecting the national interest had to be discussed by Parliament.⁴⁹

Before the 2010 general election, a motion to amend Standing Order No. 13 was tabled and appeared in the “Remaining Orders and Notices” section of the Order Paper. The motion called for paragraph 1 of Standing Order No. 13 to be replaced by the following text:

⁴⁷ John Bercow, “[Opening up the Usual Channels: next steps for reform of the House of Commons](#)”, Hansard Society Lecture, 11 October 2017

⁴⁸ [HC Deb 12 October 2017 c465](#)

⁴⁹ Hansard Society Commission on Parliamentary Scrutiny, *The Challenge for Parliament Making Government Accountable*, 2001, p 86

(1) If the Speaker is of the opinion that the public interest requires that the House should meet at a time earlier than that to which it stands adjourned, the House shall meet at such time as the Speaker shall appoint.⁵⁰

3.6

Government proposals for change (2007)

In its 2007 Green Paper, *The Governance of Britain*, the government (the Labour Government of Gordon Brown) described the procedure for recalling the House of Commons, and noted that Members of Parliament could “request a recall only through the Government. If the Government refuses such a request, MPs have no other course of action”. The government noted recent recalls but then indicated that it wished to change the mechanism whereby the House of Commons was recalled:

... But the Government believes that where a majority of members of Parliament request a recall, the Speaker should consider the request, including in cases where the Government itself has not sought a recall. It would remain at the Speaker’s discretion to decide whether or not the House of Commons should be recalled based on his or her judgement or whether the public interest requires it, and to determine the date of the recall.

39. The Government will therefore suggest to the House of Commons that the Standing Orders of the House be amended to allow this to happen and will consult with the House of Commons Modernisation Committee on precisely what amendment should be made.⁵¹

The Modernisation Committee announced an inquiry into Dissolution and Recall in October 2007.⁵² The committee never completed its inquiry (it last met in July 2008 and was not re-established in the 2010 Parliament). Although no oral evidence sessions were held, the committee published some of the written evidence it received in connection with the inquiry on its website.⁵³

⁵⁰ For example, see “Remaining Orders and Notices”, tabled for 10 October 2005; “Remaining Orders and Notices”, tabled for 16 July 2007; and “Remaining Orders and Notices”, tabled for 13 July 2009

⁵¹ Ministry of Justice, [The Governance of Britain](#), July 2007, Cm 7170, paras 37-39

⁵² Modernisation Committee press notice, *New Inquiries*, Press Notice No 10 2006-07, 24 October 2007

⁵³ Modernisation Committee, [Memoranda – Contents: Recall and Dissolution](#)

4 Members' expenses associated with the recall of Parliament

An allowance was introduced, by the House of Commons in 1994, to cover the necessary expenses of MPs returning to Westminster in the event of a recall of Parliament during a recess. Under the scheme, MPs were able to reclaim any “extra costs” they may have incurred due to a parliamentary recall. The resolution was debated and agreed to without a division.⁵⁴

Now, following the expenses scandal in 2009, the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) is responsible for determining an MPs' Expenses Scheme and paying any expenses. Following the two recalls of Parliament during the 2011 summer recess, IPSA made explicit provision for recall expenses in the 2012/13 Scheme. Provision is made in the 2024/25 Scheme:

In the event of a recall of Parliament during recess, IPSA will pay claims for any reasonable travel by MPs and their spouses, partners or dependants to Westminster or their London Area residence. This includes international travel back to the UK and, if necessary, return travel to the foreign location, from which they were recalled. MPs will be expected to claim for standard class or equivalent fares unless they have no alternative, or there is a more cost-effective option available.⁵⁵

In the summer of 2011, before provision was made in the Scheme, IPSA confirmed that Members would be able to claim for the cost of “necessary travel to enable them to return to Parliament” as a result of the recall of Parliament.⁵⁶

In 2012/13 and until 2013/14 there was a budgetary limit of £3,750 per Member but this was removed in the 2014/15 edition of the Scheme, following the November 2013 consultation.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ HC Deb 13 Jul 1994 Vol 246 cc1105-14. Tony Newton, the then Leader of the House, offered an explanation for the introduction of the allowance at c1110

⁵⁵ Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA), [The Scheme of MPs' Staffing and Business Costs 2025-26](#) (PDF), 13 March 2025, HC 738 2024-25, para 10.13

⁵⁶ IPSA, “Recall of Parliament”, [MP Bulletin 46](#), 9 August 2011

⁵⁷ IPSA, [Annual Review of the MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses](#), 12 March 2014, HC 1122 2013-14, “Report on the Consultation of 2013-14”, paras 65-72

5

Procedure in the House of Lords

Following changes made by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and the creation of a new position of Lord Speaker, the Lord Speaker can recall the House of Lords, after consultation with the government in certain circumstances:

The Lord Speaker, or, in their absence, the Senior Deputy Speaker, may, after consultation with the Government, recall the House whenever it stands adjourned, if satisfied that the public interest requires it or in pursuance of section 28(3) of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.⁵⁸

Previously, the Lord Chancellor decided on these questions without the need for representations from another minister. This reflected his multiple roles as Speaker of the Lords, member of the Cabinet and head of the judiciary, which as Donald Shell remarked, breaks “all the most sacrosanct rules regarding the separation of powers”.⁵⁹

The provisions covering recalls of the Lords are contained in Standing Order 16.⁶⁰

In practice, the Lords has usually been recalled at the same times as the Commons.⁶¹

In 2011, the House of Lords was not recalled on 20 July as it was already scheduled to sit that day, and rise for the summer recess at the end of the day’s sitting. The Prime Minister’s statement on “Public Confidence in the Police and Media” was repeated in the House of Lords by Lord Strathclyde, Leader of the House of Lords.⁶²

The House of Lords was recalled on 11 August 2011 and the two statements on public disorder and the global economy, made in the House of Commons, were repeated by Lord Strathclyde and Lord Sassoon, respectively.⁶³ Notice of

⁵⁸ House of Lords, [Companion to the Standing Orders and Guide to the Proceedings of the House of Lords](#) (PDF), 2022, para 2.21

⁵⁹ Donald Shell, *The House of Lords*, 1992, p 112

⁶⁰ The previous arrangements are set out in the Standing Orders dated 17 May 2005 (HL 3 2005-06); amendments were made on 3 May 2006, and are set out in HL 173 2005-06. House of Lords, [Standing Orders of the House of Lords – Public Business, 2021](#) (PDF), HL 232 2019-21, Standing Order 16

⁶¹ There have been additional recalls for the Address on the death of President Kennedy on 25 November 1963 and for the Address on the death of Sir Winston Churchill on 25 January 1965, when the Commons was still sitting. There was also a judicial recall on 1 February 1980. Source: House of Lords Information Office (Following the establishment of the Supreme Court from 1 October 2009, judicial matters are no longer an issue for the House of Lords.)

⁶² HL Deb 20 July 2011 cc1397-1410

⁶³ HL Deb 11 August 2011 cc1502-1552

the recall of the House of Lords was given on 10 August, one day later than the Commons. Initially, it was reported that the government did not intend to recall the House of Lords.⁶⁴

The House of Lords was recalled on 10 April 2013 to pay tribute to Baroness Thatcher.⁶⁵

The House of Lords was recalled on 29 August 2013 (Syria).⁶⁶

The House of Lords was recalled on 26 September 2014 (ISIL and Iraq).⁶⁷

The House of Lords was recalled on 20 June 2016 to pay tribute to Jo Cox.⁶⁸

In 2020, the House of Lords was not recalled on 2 June 2020. The House of Commons was recalled to deal with a procedural matter that did not affect the House of Lords.

The House of Lords was recalled on 30 December 2020 to pass the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill 2019–21 and to consider new coronavirus regulations.⁶⁹

The House of Lords was not recalled on 6 January 2021. The Lords had already resumed sitting following the Christmas Recess.

The House of Lords was not recalled on 12 April 2021. The Lords returned from the Easter Recess that day. However, its business was changed and peers paid tribute to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The House of Lords was recalled on 18 August 2021 in relation to events in Afghanistan.⁷⁰ The House of Lords met in a hybrid proceeding.

The House of Lords was recalled on 12 April 2025 to debate the steel industry and to consider the Steel industry (Special Measures) Bill 2024–25.⁷¹

⁶⁴ Lord Norton of Louth, “[Debating the riots](#)”, The Norton View [blog], 9 August 2011; Lord Norton of Louth, “[House of Lords is now being recalled ...](#)”, The Norton View [blog], 10 August 2011

⁶⁵ [HL Deb 10 April 2013 cc1128-1206](#)

⁶⁶ Parliament website, [Recall of House of Lords](#)

⁶⁷ [HL Deb 26 September 2014 cc1675-1746](#)

⁶⁸ [HL Deb 20 June 2016 cc1333-1348](#)

⁶⁹ [HL Deb 30 December 2020 cc1771-1932](#)

⁷⁰ [HL Deb 18 August 2021 cc469-592](#)

⁷¹ [HL Deb 12 April 2025 cc489-538](#)

6 Procedure in the Devolved Legislatures

6.1 Scottish Parliament

In the Scottish Parliament, a recall does not require representations by ministers, but is purely a matter for the Presiding Officer (the Speaker's equivalent):

The Presiding Officer may convene the Parliament on other dates or at other times in an emergency.⁷²

Parliamentary business in the Scottish Parliament is organised by the Parliamentary Bureau. This is a group of representatives of the various political parties and groupings in the Parliament, chaired by the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer would almost certainly discuss recall with the Bureau, so presumably it would be open to individual MSPs who wanted to urge a recall to apply pressure via their party business manager in the Bureau.

The Scottish Parliament has been recalled on seven occasions since it was established in 1999. It was recalled most recently on Monday 12 September 2022. The King and Queen Consort attended the recalled Scottish Parliament to hear a Motion of Condolence to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The King replied to the Motion of Condolence.⁷³

Details of previous recalls are given in Appendix 1(a).

Arrangements for sittings during the coronavirus pandemic

During the coronavirus pandemic, the Scottish Parliament met informally for party leaders' virtual question time on 9 and 16 April 2020; and on 17, 23, 24 and 30 April for Members' virtual question time.

On 3 June 2020, the Scottish Parliament agreed arrangements that would allow it to sit during the summer recess, using both hybrid and online sessions:

That the Parliament agrees, further to motion S5M-17943 and under Rule 2.3.1, that the parliamentary recess dates of 27 June to 30 August 2020 (inclusive) be

⁷² Rule 2.2.10, [Standing Orders of the Scottish Parliament](#), 6th Edition (10th Revision), July 2024

⁷³ [SPOR 12 September 2022](#); Scottish Parliament news, [The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#), 20 September 2022

replaced with 27 June to 9 August 2020 (inclusive) with the exception of 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 July and 6 August 2020, on which dates business may be programmed by the Bureau.⁷⁴

In 2021, the Presiding Officer decided to recall Parliament for virtual meetings on 13 July and 3 August, during the parliamentary recess, to hear Covid announcements.⁷⁵

On 22 December 2021, arrangements were made by the Scottish Parliament to allow the Bureau to programme business on two days that would otherwise have fallen in the Christmas Recess. The Parliament agreed:

... that the parliamentary recess dates of 24 December 2021 to 9 January 2022 (inclusive) be replaced with 24 December 2021 to 9 January 2022 (inclusive) with the exception of 29 December 2021 and 5 January 2022, on which dates business may be programmed by the Bureau.⁷⁶

6.2

Northern Ireland Assembly

The procedure for recalls of the Northern Ireland Assembly is contained in Standing Order 11(1), which provides that:

Whenever notice is given to the Speaker by the First Minister and deputy First Minister or by not less than 30 members that the Assembly should meet at an earlier date than that to which it stands adjourned for the purpose of discussing a specific matter of urgent public importance, or several such matters, the Speaker shall, as soon as may be, summon the Assembly to meet.

Standing Order 11 also provides that those making the request for a recall have to sign a statement that specifies the matter or matters to be discussed. When the business has been completed the Assembly “shall either stand adjourned to the date to which it originally stood adjourned or determine differently on a motion from a Member when it shall next meet”.⁷⁷

The Northern Ireland Assembly has been recalled on 21 occasions, under the Standing Order 11 procedures. It was recalled most recently on 8 August 2024, for the following business:

Private Members’ Business: Motion – Opposition to Racism⁷⁸

Details of previous recalls are given in Appendix 1(b).

The Northern Ireland Assembly paid tribute to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on 12 April 2021. The Assembly was not recalled, it

⁷⁴ SPOR, [3 June 2020](#), c88; see also cc83-84

⁷⁵ Louise Wilson, “[Parliament to be recalled during recess for COVID statements](#)”, Holyrood, 23 June 2021; see SPOR, [13 July 2021](#); SPOR [3 August 2021](#)

⁷⁶ Scottish Parliament, [Minutes of Proceedings](#) (98 KB, PDF), 22 December 2021, Item 10

⁷⁷ Northern Ireland Assembly, [Standing Orders](#), 26 November 2024, SO 11

⁷⁸ Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [17 January 2024](#)

was scheduled to sit on 12 April. The business originally scheduled was deferred.⁷⁹

Whilst the Assembly was suspended in August 2022, MLAs were invited to gather on 2 August to pay tribute to Lord Trimble, a former First Minister, who had died on 25 July 2022. The gathering was not a recall of the Assembly.⁸⁰

Again, whilst the Assembly was suspended, MLAs were invited to gather on 12 September, to pay tribute to Her Majesty The Queen, who died on 8 September 2022. The gathering was not a recall of the Assembly.⁸¹

6.3 Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament

The procedure for a recall of Senedd Cymru/the Welsh Parliament is contained in Standing Order 12.3 and 12.3A:

12.3 If no plenary meeting is timetabled for a particular date or time, the Presiding Officer may, at the request of the First Minister, summon the Senedd to consider a matter of urgent public importance.

12.3A If no plenary meeting is timetabled for a particular date or time, the Presiding Officer may, having consulted the First Minister and the Business Committee, summon the Senedd to consider a matter of urgent public importance.⁸²

Standing Order 12.3A had its origins in temporary standing orders that were made because of the potential impact of Covid-19 on the business of the Senedd. On 24 March 2020, a temporary standing order was agreed. It allowed for recall in particular circumstances (see Box 1). The temporary standing order would expire “on the dissolution of this Assembly or when the Assembly so resolves, whichever is sooner”.⁸³ In March 2021, the expiry date was extended to 1 August 2022.⁸⁴

On 24 March 2021 the Senedd agreed to create a new Standing Order 12.3A which gave permanence to the temporary provision under Standing Order 34.9 and widened its use beyond public health matters, whilst adding an additional requirement for the Presiding Officer to also consult with the First

⁷⁹ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Monday 12 April 2021](#)

⁸⁰ Northern Ireland Assembly Media Operational Notice, [Condolences and Tributes to The Former First Minister, Lord Trimble](#), 1 August 2022

⁸¹ Northern Ireland Assembly Speaker’s Report, [Monday 12 September 2022](#)

⁸² Welsh Parliament, [Standing Orders of the Welsh Parliament](#) (PDF), January 2025

⁸³ Welsh Parliament, [Plenary](#), 24 March 2020, Item 18; see also Business Committee, [Amending Standing Orders: Assembly Business and Emergency Procedures](#), March 2020

⁸⁴ Business Committee, [Amending Standing Orders: Standing Order 34 and remote participation in Senedd proceedings](#) (PDF), July 2022, para 1

Minister. This new permanent provision was used for the recall on 22 December 2021.⁸⁵

Box 1: Extracts from Standing Order 34 – Emergency Procedures

34.1 Standing Order 34 makes temporary provisions to facilitate the continuation of Senedd business during the COVID-19 outbreak. Standing Order 34 will cease to have effect on the dissolution of the Senedd, or when the Senedd so resolves, whichever is sooner. Where provisions contained in Standing Order 34 are in conflict with other Standing Order provisions, those in Standing Order 34 must have precedence.

[...]

Recall of the Senedd by the Presiding Officer

34.9 The Presiding Officer may, with the agreement of the Business Committee, summon the Senedd to consider a matter of urgent public importance related to public health matters.⁸⁶

The Senedd has been recalled on 11 occasions. It was recalled most recently on 6 August 2024, when it approved the nomination of the Eluned Morgan as First Minister under Standing Order 8.⁸⁷

Details of previous recalls are given in Appendix 1(c).

(Until May 2020, Senedd Cymru/the Welsh Parliament was known as the National Assembly for Wales.)

⁸⁵ Business Committee, [Amending Standing Orders: Standing Order 34 and remote participation in Senedd proceedings](#) (PDF), July 2022, para 27

⁸⁶ Welsh Parliament, [Standing Orders of the Welsh Parliament](#), May 2020, Standing Order 34(1) and 34(9)

⁸⁷ Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament, [Plenary](#), 6 August 2024

7 Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

7.1 UK Parliament

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, neither House was recalled under the procedures in their standing orders. Upon a Demise of the Crown, the Succession to the Crown Act 1707 requires Parliament to meet if it is adjourned or prorogued.⁸⁸ Both Houses were scheduled to sit on 9 September but scheduled business was not taken, rather tributes were paid to Her late Majesty.⁸⁹

As well as meeting to pay tribute, both Houses also agreed Addresses and members of both Houses were able to take the oath. All other parliamentary business was postponed, including scheduled meetings of select committees, until after the State Funeral.⁹⁰

7.2 Devolved legislatures

The Scottish Parliament and the Senedd were recalled, using procedures in standing orders.

The Senedd's agenda for Sunday 11 September 2022 stated:

This meeting is a recall of the Senedd under Standing Order 12.3A.⁹¹

Special arrangements were made in the Scottish Parliament. On Monday 12 September 2022, the King and Queen Consort attended the recalled Scottish Parliament to hear a Motion of Condolence to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The King replied to the Motion of Condolence.⁹²

⁸⁸ Succession to the Crown Act 1707 (chapter 41), [section 4](#)

⁸⁹ [HC Deb 9 September 2022 cc491-652](#); [HL Deb 9 September 2022 cc367-456](#)

⁹⁰ All Select Committee proceedings were suspended until two days after the State Funeral. This included planned evidence sessions, committee visits and publication of material. All parliamentary business at the Scottish Parliament was also suspended as a mark of respect

⁹¹ Senedd Cymru, [Agenda for Plenary on Sunday 11 September 2022](#)

⁹² [SPOR 12 September 2022](#); Scottish Parliament news, [The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#), 20 September 2022

The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended, it could not be recalled. The Speaker made arrangements for MLAs to gather to pay tribute to Her Majesty The Queen.⁹³ MLAs paid tribute on 12 September.⁹⁴

⁹³ Northern Ireland Assembly Pres Release, [Statement from The Speaker on the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#), 8 September 2022

⁹⁴ Northern Ireland Assembly Speaker's Report, [Monday 12 September 2022](#)

Appendix 1: Recalls of the Devolved Legislatures

This Appendix lists the occasions on which the UK's devolved legislatures have been recalled.

Details of the procedures for recalling the legislatures are outlined above.

(a) Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament has been recalled on seven occasions since it was established in 1999:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 13 Oct 2000 | To mark the death of its First Minister, Donald Dewar. ⁹⁵ |
| 3 April 2002 | To mark the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother with a Motion of Condolence. ⁹⁶ |
| 24 Aug 2009 | Ministerial statement on the decision to release Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds. ⁹⁷ |
| 30 Dec 2020 | To consider a legislative consent memorandum on the trade and co-operation agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union; and for a ministerial statement, from the First Minister, on Covid. ⁹⁸ |
| 4 Jan 2021 | Ministerial statement, from the First Minister, on Covid-19. ⁹⁹ |
| 12 Apr 2021 | To mark the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh with a Motion of Condolence. ¹⁰⁰ |

⁹⁵ SPOR, [13 October 2000 cc1073-1083](#)

⁹⁶ SPOR, [3 April 2002 cc10843-10852](#)

⁹⁷ SPOR, [24 August 2009 cc18991-19016](#)

⁹⁸ SPOR, [30 December 2020 cc1-72](#)

⁹⁹ SPOR, [4 January 2021 cc1-36](#)

¹⁰⁰ SPOR, [12 April 2021 cc1-10](#). Under normal circumstances, the Scottish Parliament would have been expected to dissolve on 25 March 2021 (in accordance with the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) Order 2015, SI 2015/425, Article 84). However, in order to ensure that the Scottish Parliamentary election can take place fairly and safely, [section 6](#) of the Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Act 2021 provides for the dissolution of Session 5 of the Parliament on 5 May 2021

12 Sept 2022 Motion of Condolence to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The King replied to the Motion of Condolence.¹⁰¹

(b) Northern Ireland Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly has been recalled on 21 occasions, under the Standing Order 11 procedures:

- 8 July 2013 **Private Members' Business**
Call for an Inquiry into Allegations of Wrongful Political Interference in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Potential Breaches of the Ministerial Code of Conduct and Misleading the Assembly and the Committee for Social Development.¹⁰²
- 16 July 2013 **Private Members' Business**
Determination issued by the Parades Commission on 9 July 2013.¹⁰³
- 28 Feb 2014 **Private Members' Business**
Judgement in the Case of R v Downey.¹⁰⁴
- 19 Dec 2016 **Executive Committee Business**
Ministerial Statement: The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme
- Assembly Business**
Motion: Exclusion of Minister from Office under Section 30 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.¹⁰⁵
- 21 Oct 2019 Election of Speaker and Deputy Speakers, filling of Ministerial Offices and debate on the Legislative Position on Abortion in Northern Ireland
[The sitting was adjourned after no nominations for Speaker or Deputy Speaker were made.]¹⁰⁶

¹⁰¹ [SPOR 12 September 2022](#); Scottish Parliament news, [The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#), 20 September 2022

¹⁰² Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [Monday 8 July 2013](#), OP 151/11-15; Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Monday 8 July 2013](#); see also BBC News, [Northern Ireland Housing Association Executive motion blocked](#), 8 July 2013

¹⁰³ Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [Tuesday 16 July 2013](#); Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Tuesday 16 July 2013](#)

¹⁰⁴ Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [Friday 28 February 2014](#), OP 195/11-15; Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Friday 28 February 2014](#)

¹⁰⁵ Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [Monday 19 December 2016](#); Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Monday 19 December 2016](#)

¹⁰⁶ Northern Ireland Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings](#), 21 October 2019

18 Aug 2020	Private Members' Business AS-level and A-level grading crisis. ¹⁰⁷
14 Oct 2020	Ministerial statement: Executive's Decisions Relating to Measures to be Taken in Response to the Increased Incidence of the Transmission of COVID-19. ¹⁰⁸
30 Dec 2020	Executive Committee Business To debate a motion on the trade and cooperation agreement with the EU. ¹⁰⁹
31 Dec 2021	Private Members' Business The impact of COVID-19 on school opening. ¹¹⁰
1 Apr 2021	Private Members' Business Ministerial Breaches of the Executive's Covid-19 Messaging. ¹¹¹
8 Apr 2021	Private Members' Business Support for the Rule of Law: to debate a motion expressing concern about violence on the streets. ¹¹²
20 Jul 2021	Private Members' Business British Government Proposal for Troubles Amnesty. ¹¹³
9 Sept 2021	Private Members' Business COVID-19: Guidance for Schools. ¹¹⁴
10 Jan 2022	Private Members' Business Keeping Schools Open and Safe. ¹¹⁵
30 May 2022	Election of Speaker and Deputies [The sitting was adjourned after two nominations for Speaker failed to satisfy either cross-community vote thresholds. ¹¹⁶] ¹¹⁷

¹⁰⁷ Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [Tuesday 18 August 2020](#); Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Tuesday 18 August 2020](#)

¹⁰⁸ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Wednesday 14 October 2020](#)

¹⁰⁹ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Wednesday 30 December 2020](#)

¹¹⁰ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Thursday 31 December 2020](#)

¹¹¹ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Thursday 1 April 2021](#)

¹¹² Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Thursday 8 April 2021](#)

¹¹³ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Tuesday 20 July 2021](#)

¹¹⁴ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Thursday 9 September 2021](#)

¹¹⁵ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Monday 10 January 2022](#)

¹¹⁶ Cross-community support is required for the election of a Speaker (Standing Order 4). [Section 4\(5\) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998](#) states that cross-community support means:

- (i) the support of a majority of the members voting, a majority of the designated Nationalists voting and a majority of the designated Unionists voting; or.
- (ii) the support of 60 per cent of the members voting, 40 per cent of the designated Nationalists voting and 40 per cent of the designated Unionists voting

¹¹⁷ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Monday 30 May 2022](#)

- 3 Aug 2022¹¹⁸ Election of Speaker and Deputies
Private Members' Business: Cost of Living Crisis
[The sitting was adjourned after two nominations for Speaker failed to satisfy either cross-community vote thresholds.]¹¹⁹
- 27 Oct 2022 Election of Speaker and Deputies
Appointment of First Minister and deputy First Minister
Filling of the Office of Minister of Justice
Appointment of Ministers
Private Members' Business: Appointment of Executive
[The sitting was adjourned after two nominations for Speaker failed to satisfy either cross-community vote thresholds.]¹²⁰
- 7 Dec 2022 Election of Speaker and Deputies
Private Members' Business: £600 Energy Payment
[The sitting was adjourned after two nominations for Speaker failed to satisfy either cross-community vote thresholds.]¹²¹
- 14 Feb 2023 Election of Speaker and Deputies
Private Members' Business: Motion – Commencement of section 1 of the Organ and Tissue (Deemed Consent) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022
[The sitting was adjourned after two nominations for Speaker failed to satisfy either cross-community vote thresholds.]¹²²
- 17 Jan 2024 Election of Speaker and Deputy Speakers
The appointment of First Minister and deputy First Minister
Filling of the Office of Minister of Justice
Appointment of Ministers
Private Members' Business: Motion – Public Sector Pay Settlements
[The sitting was adjourned after two nominations for Speaker failed to satisfy either cross-community vote thresholds.]¹²³
- 8 Aug 2024 Private Members' Business: Motion – Opposition to Racism¹²⁴

¹¹⁸ The Assembly was originally summoned to meet on 26 July 2022 but that meeting was postponed to 3 August to make arrangements for tributes to Lord Trimble

¹¹⁹ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Wednesday 3 August 2022](#)

¹²⁰ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Thursday 27 October 2022](#); Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [27 October 2022](#)

¹²¹ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Wednesday 7 December 2022](#); Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [7 December 2022](#)

¹²² Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Tuesday 14 February 2023](#); Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [14 February 2023](#)

¹²³ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Wednesday 17 January 2024](#); Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [17 January 2024](#)

¹²⁴ Northern Ireland Assembly Official Report, [Thursday 8 August 2024](#); Northern Ireland Assembly Order Paper, [17 January 2024](#)

(c) Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament

The Senedd has been recalled on 11 occasions:

- 19 July 2000 To consider the Spending Review.¹²⁵
- 4 April 2002 Tributes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.¹²⁶
- 19 Dec 2012 To consider the council tax regulations.¹²⁷
- 4 April 2016 To consider the ongoing situation in the Welsh steel industry.¹²⁸
- 5 Sept 2019 To consider Brexit and the prorogation of the UK Parliament.¹²⁹
- 5 Aug 2020 (under Standing Order 34.9) to hear a statement on coronavirus, to appoint members to committees and to approve a number of coronavirus-related regulations.¹³⁰
- 26 Aug 2020 (under Standing Order 34.9) to hear a statement on coronavirus and to approve a number of coronavirus-related regulations.¹³¹
- 30 Dec 2020 (under Standing Order 12.3) to debate the end of the European Union transition period and for the Minister for Health and Social Services to make a statement on the latest information on coronavirus.¹³²
- 12 Apr 2021 Tributes to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.¹³³
- 11 Sep 2022 Motion of Condolence and tributes to Her Majesty the Queen.¹³⁴

¹²⁵ National Assembly for Wales, [Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday 19 July 2000](#)

¹²⁶ National Assembly for Wales, [The Record of Proceedings](#), 4 April 2002. The [Agenda](#) for the previous sitting (21 March 2002) noted that the Assembly would next sit on 16 April 2002, as did the [Agenda](#) for 4 April 2002

¹²⁷ National Assembly for Wales, [The Record of Proceedings](#), 19 December 2012

¹²⁸ National Assembly for Wales, [The Record of Proceedings](#), 4 April 2016. Notice of the recall on 4 April 2016 was given on 30 March 2016 [National Assembly for Wales News, [National Assembly recalled to consider Welsh steel industry](#), 30 March 2016]. The NAW had risen on 16 March 2016 ahead of elections on 5 May 2016. However, the Assembly was not dissolved (under section 3 of the Government of Wales Act 2006) until 6 April 2016

¹²⁹ National Assembly for Wales, [The Record of Proceedings](#), 5 September 2019

¹³⁰ Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament, [Plenary](#), 5 August 2020

¹³¹ Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament, [Plenary](#), 26 August 2020

¹³² Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament, [Plenary](#), 30 December 2020

¹³³ Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament, [Plenary](#), 12 April 2021. The Senedd began its pre-dissolution period on 7 April 2021 but will not be dissolved until 29 April 2021, in accordance with [section 3](#) of the Welsh Elections (Coronavirus) Act 2021. In normal circumstances, the Senedd would have been dissolved on 7 April 2021 [Welsh Parliament Senedd Research, [Welsh Elections \(Coronavirus\) Bill: Bill Summary](#), January 2021, pp12-13]

¹³⁴ Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament, [Plenary](#), 11 September 2022

6 Aug 2024 Nomination of the First Minister under Standing Order 8¹³⁵

(Until May 2020, Senedd Cymru/the Welsh Parliament was known as the National Assembly for Wales.)

¹³⁵ Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament, [Plenary](#), 6 August 2024

Appendix 2: Saturday sittings of the House of Commons since 1945

Standing Order Nos 11 and 12 provide that the usual practice of the House is not to sit on Saturdays or Sundays. The House automatically adjourns after a Friday sitting, or on a Thursday before a non-sitting Friday, until the following Monday. However, the House can agree to sit on a Saturday (notice would need to be given on a Thursday ahead of a sitting Friday).¹³⁶

The House of Commons may also be recalled to sit on a Saturday, under Standing Order No 13.

Dates of Saturday sittings¹³⁷

[Saturday 30 July 1949](#) (by resolution of 29 July 1949¹³⁸) for a series of adjournment debates

[Saturday 3 November 1956](#) (by resolution of 2 November 1956¹³⁹) for statements on the Suez Canal and Hungary, and a debate on the Suez Canal

Saturday 3 April 1982 (House recalled) to debate the Falkland Islands

[Saturday 19 October 2019](#) (by order of 17 October 2019¹⁴⁰) to debate European Union Withdrawal

[Saturday 10 September 2022](#) (by order of 9 September 2022¹⁴¹) to pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen

Saturday 12 April 2025 (House recalled) to debate the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill

¹³⁶ [HC Deb 7 March 2003 cc1053-1054](#)

¹³⁷ UK Parliament, House of Commons FAQs, [Frequently Asked Questions: Business](#)

¹³⁸ [HC Deb 29 July 1949 c2825](#)

¹³⁹ [HC Deb 2 November 1956 cc1848-1856](#)

¹⁴⁰ [HC Deb 17 October 2019 cc489-504](#)

¹⁴¹ [HC Deb 9 September 2022 c652](#)

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