



## PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION LIST

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# Total Number of MPs, Peers and Staff

Compiled by Jennifer Brown

This Parliamentary information List gives information on the numbers of MPs, Lords and staff in Parliament. This is included in the following tables:

**Table 1:** Number of MPs after each general election since 1900

**Table 2:** Number of MPs and House of Commons staff at the year end of each financial year since 1997

**Table 3:** Composition of the House of Lords at the year end of each financial year since 1997

**Table 4:** Historic totals of total number of House of Lords members since 1900

**Table 5:** Number of registered Peers' staff since 1997 and the Number of House of Lords staff since 2014

### Further information regarding numbers of MPs

The number of Members of the House of Commons is determined by Boundary Reviews conducted by the Boundary Commissions for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. To find out more about Boundary reviews please see the Library Briefing [Constituency boundary reviews and the number of MPs](#). The 2018 Boundary Review for England and Wales published their initial proposals this year. The House of Commons Library has published briefing papers on both these proposals.

[2018 Boundary Review: initial proposals for England](#)

[2018 Boundary Review: initial proposals for Wales](#)

For a breakdown of the Party composition of the House of Commons see the parliamentary website page [current state of the parties](#).

### Further information regarding numbers of Lords

The number of Members of the House of Lords has been subject to reform. The Library's latest briefing on House of Lords Reform is [The House of Lords Reform Act](#). Further reading can be found in this note.

The House of Lords Library has also published relevant material. There is a Lords Library Note on the [History of the House of Lords: A Brief Introduction](#) and the [Size of the House of Lords](#).

## 2 Total Number of MPs, Peers and Staff

For a breakdown of the current composition of the House of Lords, including by party, see the Parliamentary website page [Lords by party, type of peerage and gender](#).

### **Feedback**

Please send any comments or corrections to: [Parliamentary Information Lists Editor](#), Parliament & Constitution Centre, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Suggestions for new lists welcomed.

# House of Commons

## Numbers of MPs

### Box 1: Boundary Reviews

Responsibility for reviewing and determining the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies and therefore the number of MPs is held by the Boundary Commissions for [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#). The Library has produced a briefing on this process and contemporary reviews entitled [Constituency boundary reviews and the number of MPs](#).

**Table 1. Number of MPs after each general election since 1900**

General Election	Number of MPs
1900	670
1906	670
1910 (Feb)	670
1910 (Dec)	670
1918	707
1922	615
1923	615
1924	615
1929	615
1931	615
1935	615
1945	640
1950	625
1951	625
1955	630
1959	630
1964	630
1966	630
1970	630
1974 (Feb)	635
1974 (Oct)	635
1979	635
1983	650
1987	650
1992	651
1997	659
2001	659
2005	646
2010	650
2015	650

### Sources:

British political facts 1900-2000, British political facts (tenth edition) and The politicos guide to the new House of Commons 2015

**Table 2. Number of Commons and PICT/PDS staff and Members' staff**

Year	Commons and PICT/PDS staff	MPs' Staff
1997	n/a	*
1998	n/a	1,846
1999	n/a	1,849
2000	n/a	1,867 <sup>1</sup>
2001	1377	1,850
2002	1430	2,179
2003	1477	2,280
2004	1517	2,446
2005	1554	2,584
2006	1553	2,577
2007	1606	2,493
2008	1696	2,694
2009	1741	2,875
2010	1839	2,915
2011	1868	2,500 <sup>2</sup>
2012	2003	2,750
2013	1861 <sup>3</sup>	3,050
2014	2011	3,150
2015	2038	3,150

**Notes:**

1. Full Time Equivalent average number of staff over year. Figures prior 2000-2001 not available in a consistent format

2. Responsibility for collating staffing figures for Members' staff transferred to IPSA in 2010. IPSA publishes the total number of MPs and their staff on payroll. This reflects the headcount of payrolled staff for the financial year. The number of Members staff is therefore calculated by subtracting the 650 Members from the total payrolled staff to give the figure for just Members staff from 2011 onward.

3. House of Commons and PICT/PDS Staffing figures for 2012/13 are not directly comparable to previous years as a result of moving to the new HAIS Human Resources system.

**Sources:**

Apart from Members' staffing figure post 2010 all data is from House of Commons Commission Annual Reports

Members staffing figures post 2010 are collated using the IPSA Annual Reports

# House of Lords

## Box 2: House of Lords Reform

The number of members of the House of Lords has been a key part of the House of Lords reforming agenda since 1997. [The House of Lords Act 1999](#) abolished the right of all but 92 hereditary peers to sit in the Lords by virtue of their peerage. The Library has consistently produced briefings which details the developments of House of Lords reform. Details of the 1999 Act can be found in the Library briefing [House of Lords reform: Developments since 1997](#). Recent briefings include the [House of Lords Reform - developments in the 2010 Parliament](#) and [The House of Lords Reform Act](#).

## Number of Peers

**Table 3. Composition of the House of Lords**

Year	Archbishops and Bishops	Life Peers under the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876	Life peers under the Life Peerages Act 1958	Peers under the House of Lords Act 1999	Total
1997	26	25	388	n/a	1204 <sup>1</sup>
1998	26	26	462	n/a	1273 <sup>2</sup>
1999	26	27	478	n/a	1290 <sup>3</sup>
2000	26	27	524	92	669
2001	26	28	537	92	683
2002	26	28	562	92	708
2003	26	27	546	92	691
2004	26	29	529	91	675
2005	25	28	561	91	705
2006	26	25	581	92	724
2007	26	26	606	92	750
2008	26	23	606	91	746
2009	26	22	601	92	741
2010	26	22	596	91	736
2011	25	23	692	91	831
2012	26	23	680	92	821
2013	25	23	673	92	813
2014	26	23	693	91	833
2015	26	21	699	92	838

### Source:

[All information is collated on the 31st March for the relevant year from the House of Lords Annual Reports.](#)

### Notes:

1. This figure includes Peers by Succession of which there were 755
2. This figure includes Peers by Succession of which there were 750
3. This figure includes Peers by Succession of which there were 751

**Table 4. Historic totals of House of Lords Members**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total members of the House of Lords</b>
1901	591
1910	662
1920	716
1930	753
1939	785
1950	847
1960	908
1970	1057
1980	1171
1990	1186

**Source:**

British political facts 1900-2000

**Table 5. House of Lords Staff**

Year	House staff	Lords staff
1997	- 1	-
1998	331	-
1999	344	-
2000	345	-
2001	377	-
2002	413	-
2003	426	-
2004	454 2	-
2005	478	-
2006	454	-
2007	452	-
2008	490	-
2009	- 3	-
2010	-	-
2011	441 4	-
2012	445	-
2013	- 5	-
2014	412	560 6
2015	417 7	560

**Notes:**

1. Figure for 1997 unavalible
2. Prior to 2004 the House of Lords Annual Reports listed staffing figures as numbers of posts'. After 2004 this is listed as number of
3. Staffing figures between 2009-2011 are not avaliable
4. The staffing figure for 2011 is sourced from the 2011-2012 Annual Report
5. Staffing figure for 2013 is not avalible
6. Post 2015 staffing figures are recorded as numbers of Full Time Staff
7. The House of Lords begins recording 'registered members staff' in 2014

**Sources:**

All information is obtained from the House of Lords Annual Reports