



BRIEFING PAPER

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The Lord Speaker

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Inside:

1. The role of the Lord Speaker
2. The election process
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Summary

The Lord Speaker chairs the debates in the House of Lords and represents the institution outside Parliament. However, his powers in the Chamber are limited compared to speakers or presiding officers in other legislatures. As the House of Lords is a self-regulating body, his role is to assist the House during debate rather than to direct or manage it. Outside of the Chamber, the Lord Speaker undertakes a range of education, outreach, and ambassadorial work.

The Lord Speaker is elected by the Members of the House of Lords every five years and can serve for a maximum of two terms. The current incumbent, Lord Fowler, was elected in June 2016 and assumed office on 1 September 2016.

This briefing paper sets out the role and responsibilities of the Lord Speaker, both inside and outside the Chamber. It sets out the process by which the Lord Speaker is elected and provides details of the elections in 2006, 2011 and 2016.

This briefing paper also reviews the events that led to the creation of the post of Lord Speaker in 2006 and some of the recent proposals for change, including calls for the Lord Speaker to preside over Question Time.

1. The role of the Lord Speaker

Summary

The Lord Speaker chairs the debates in the House of Lords and represents the institution outside Parliament. His powers in the Chamber are limited compared to speakers or presiding officers in other legislatures, as his role is to assist the House during debate rather than to direct or manage it. Outside the Chamber, the Lord Speaker undertakes a range of education, outreach, and ambassadorial work.

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1.1 Rules and responsibilities

The fundamentals of the Lord Speaker's role are set out in the House of Lords Standing Order 18:

It is the duty of the Lord Speaker ordinarily to attend the Lords House of Parliament as Speaker of the House; and in case the Lord Speaker be absent, his place on the Woolsack or in the Chair may be taken either by a Deputy Speaker, authorised under the Great Seal from the Queen to supply that place, or by a Deputy Chairman, appointed by the House; and if neither a Deputy Speaker nor a Deputy Chairman be present, the Lords may then choose their own Speaker during that vacancy.¹

The *Companion to the Standing Orders* sets out the role of the Lord Speaker in some detail:

1.51 The primary role of the Lord Speaker is to preside over proceedings in the Chamber, including Committees of the whole House.¹ She takes the oath first at the opening of a new Parliament; her role in the ceremonies accompanying oath-taking, the State Opening of Parliament, and royal commissions, are described in the appendices. The Lord Speaker seeks the leave of the House for any necessary absence of a full sitting day or more.

1.52 The Lord Speaker has no power to act in the House without the consent of the House. She observes the same formalities as any other member of the House, addressing the House as a whole, and not an individual member, and not intervening when a member is on their feet. The Speaker's function is to assist, and not to rule. The House does not recognise points of order.

1.53 Any advice or assistance given by the Lord Speaker is subject to the view of the House as a whole. The Lord Speaker has specific responsibilities with regard to private notice questions and the application of the sub judice rule; these are described below (paragraphs 6.36 and 4.63).

1.54 Outside the Chamber, the Lord Speaker chairs the House Committee, which oversees the administration of the House (see paragraph 11.66). She is a member of the Procedure Committee; has formal responsibility for the security of the Lords part of the parliamentary estate; is one of the three "keyholders" of Westminster Hall; and has a wide role representing the House at home and overseas.

¹ House of Lords, [The Standing Orders of The House of Lords relating to Public Business](#), 2016, HL 3 2016-17

1.55 The Lord Speaker may, after consultation with the government, recall the House whenever it stands adjourned.

1.56 The Lord Speaker is a salaried office-holder, and is required to lay aside outside financial interests falling into specific categories, including remunerated directorships and other employment. The Lord Speaker is also expected to lay aside any party or group affiliation on appointment, and to refrain from political activity, including voting in the House.²

Other minor functions of the Lord Chancellor were transferred to the Lord Speaker by Schedule 6 to the *Constitutional Reform Act 2005*.³ Recommendations about the attire and interests of the Lord Speaker were set out in a Procedure Committee report in May 2006.⁴

Baroness Hayman, the first Lord Speaker, wrote to all peers on 1 December 2006 to outline her role and responsibilities.⁵ This became an annual occurrence, with the Baroness Hayman writing an annual letter to all peers updating them on her work, events within the House, the outreach programme and other relevant activities.⁶

1.2 Establishment of a Lord Speaker's Committee

At the beginning of business on 20 December 2016, the Lord Speaker, Lord Fowler, made a statement announcing the establishment, membership and remit of a new committee – the Lord Speaker's committee on the size of the House. It was appointed "to examine the possible methods by which the House could be reduced in size".⁷

This was the first time a Lord Speaker had established a committee. The Constitution Unit, University College London, described the establishment of a committee by the Lord Speaker as "a procedural innovation".⁸

1.3 Inside the Chamber

The House of Lords is a self-regulating body and the rules make clear that the role of the Lord Speaker is to guide and assist the House, rather than to control or manage debate, and therefore he has limited powers to intervene compared the Speaker of the House of Commons.

² House of Lords, *Companion to the Standing Orders and Guide to the Proceedings of the House of Lords*, 2015, paragraphs 1.51-1.56

³ Select Committee on the Speakership of the House, *The Speakership of the House of Lords*, 19 December 2005, HL 92, 2005-06, paras 24-36

⁴ House of Lords Procedure Committee, *Speakership of the House*, HL 172, 2005-06. This is the Committee's fourth report: the third report, HL 153, is also called *Speakership of the House*

⁵ See House of Lords deposited paper HDEP 2006/756, available from the House of Lords Library.

⁶ See, for example, [Lord Speaker annual letter, July 2010](#) and [Lord Speaker annual letter, July 2011](#)

⁷ [HL Deb 20 December 2016 c1541; HLWS386](#); Lord Speaker's Committee on the size of the House, *Inquiry launched into the size of the House of Lords*, 25 January 2017

⁸ "House of Lords composition: a time for action?", *Constitution Unit Monitor*, Vol 65, February 2017, p5

The Lord Speaker does have a power under Standing Order 21 to call to order members who are disturbing the sitting by talking to each other during a debate while another member is addressing the House, although this is rarely used:

If any Lord has occasion to speak with another Lord while the House is sitting, they are to retire to the Prince's Chamber, and not converse in the space behind the Woolsack; or else the Lord Speaker is to call them to order, and, if necessary, to stop the business in agitation.⁹

The Lord Speaker is responsible for informing the House of the death of a Member of the House¹⁰ and when a peer ceases to be a Member under the *House of Lords Reform Act 2014*.¹¹ He also has the function, under section 5 of the Act, of issuing a certificate confirming the non-attendance, expulsion or retirement of a Member of the House of Lords.

The decision on whether or not to grant Private Notice Questions (the equivalent of urgent questions in the House of Commons) rests with the Lord Speaker. This involves consultation with the clerks and the usual channels. The Lord Speaker is also responsible for determining whether the *sub judice* rule may be waived.¹² There is no provision in Standing Orders for peers to ask a parliamentary question of the Lord Speaker¹³ or to appeal his decision on a Private Notice Question¹⁴ or *sub judice* matter.

As set out in the *Companion*, the Lord Speaker seeks the leave of the House for any necessary absence of a full sitting day or more. Standing Order 18 provides for a Deputy Speaker or a Deputy Chairman to take the chair if the Lord Speaker is absent. The Lord Speaker holds regular meetings with his team of deputy speakers and works to support and develop them in their role chairing proceedings in the Chamber and Grand Committee.

1.4 Outside the Chamber

House administration

Within the House the Lord Speaker is chair of the House of Lords Commission, which “provides high-level strategic and political direction for the House of Lords Administration on behalf of the House of Lords”.¹⁵

⁹ An example can be found HL Deb 19 Jun 2014 [c918](#)

¹⁰ House of Lords, *Companion to the Standing Orders and Guide to the Proceedings of the House of Lords*, 2015, paras 1.45.

¹¹ House of Lords Procedure Committee, *House of Lords Reform Act 2014: Further Consequential Changes—Questions for Short Debate Queen's and Prince of Wales' Consents*, 15 October 2014, HL 50, 2014–15, para 5.

¹² This rule provides that, in general, Members should not bring up matters in debates, questions and motions which are awaiting adjudication in a court of law. For more information on the *sub judice* rule see House of Commons Library, *The Sub Judice Rule*, 31 July 2007, SN/PC/1141.

¹³ HL Deb 20 Jul 2006 [c1410](#)

¹⁴ HL Deb 4 Dec 2014 [c1495](#)

¹⁵ House of Lords, *House of Lords Commission*

Following the report of the House of Commons Governance Committee (known as the ‘Straw Committee’) in December 2014,¹⁶ the Leader of the House of Lords Baroness Stowell of Beeston announced a review of the governance structures in the Lords,¹⁷ which led to the creation of the House of Lords Commission.

The Leader’s Group on Governance’s report, *Governance of Domestic Committees in the House of Lords*, was published in January 2016,¹⁸ and debated in the Chamber on 9 May 2016.¹⁹ The Committee recommended changes to the structures in the House of Lords under the Lord Speaker (see Box 1).

Following the debate on 9 May 2016, the House Committee set out “the package of reforms required to implement the recommendations of the Leader’s Group”.²⁰ The House of Lords agreed to the House Committee’s report on 21 July 2016. It also agreed to establish the House of Lords Commission with effect from 1 September 2016, and made various other changes to the structure of domestic committees in the House of Lords,²¹ to give effect to the recommendations of the Leader’s Group.

Box 1: Governance of Domestic Committees in the House of Lords: new committee structure

“To give effect to our vision we recommend the following structure:

- A senior committee to set the strategy of the House and the Administration and to monitor the performance of the Administration against agreed targets;
- Two supporting committees, one dealing with all aspects of services for members to be called the ‘Services Committee’; the other a Finance Committee;
- Three new posts: a chair for each of the Services Committee and the Finance Committee, and a new role entitled Senior Deputy Speaker, to replace the Chairman of Committees.”²²

The Lord Speaker would chair the senior committee.

Representing the House

A significant element of the Lord Speaker’s work outside the Chamber is public education about the work of the House of Lords. This includes the ‘Peers in Schools’ outreach programme, launched by Baroness Hayman when she was Lord Speaker and continued by Baroness D’Souza. As part of this programme, schools and sixth-form colleges can apply for a visit by a Member of the House of Lords to talk and answer questions about the work of the House. Since the ‘Peers in

¹⁶ House of Commons Governance Committee, *House of Commons Governance*, 16 December 2014, HC 692, 2014-15.

¹⁷ HL Deb 23 March 2015 [HLWS425](#)

¹⁸ Leader’s Group on Governance, *Governance of Domestic Committees in the House of Lords*, 13 January 2016, HL Paper 81 2015-16

¹⁹ [HL Deb 9 May 2016 cc1573-1625](#)

²⁰ House Committee, *Implementing the Recommendations of the Leader’s Group on Governance*, 6 July 2016, HL Paper 19 2016-17

²¹ [HL Deb 21 July 2016 cc737-746](#)

²² Leader’s Group on Governance, *Governance of Domestic Committees in the House of Lords*, 13 January 2016, HL Paper 81 2015-16, Summary

Schools' programme was launched in September 2007, Members have spoken to around 50,000 pupils.²³

The Lord Speaker also represents the House of Lords in the media. Baroness D'Souza has written in the press extolling the virtues of the work of the Lords but also raising her concerns about the size of the House, the need for reform and encouraging peers to make use of the new ability to retire.²⁴

In an interview with *The House* magazine, Lord Fowler argued for a reduction in the number of peers. In his election address, he said that he "would want to make our work better known to the public".²⁵

During ceremonial and state occasions in Parliament, the Lord Speaker has an important ambassadorial role. The Lord Speaker gave an address in Westminster Hall to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee²⁶ and also to the German Chancellor Angela Merkel during her visit to the UK.²⁷ In November 2014, the Lord Speaker invited the billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates to address the House of Lords on the impact of aid and efforts to eradicate malaria.²⁸

1.5 Salary

On 29 March 2006, the House Committee of the House of Lords published a short report on the Lord Speaker's salary and pension. It reported that the Senior Salaries Review Body had recommended that the salary of the Lord Speaker should initially be set at £101,688, in line with a Cabinet Minister in the House of Lords; and that the Lord Speaker should have a pension in accordance with the normal pension provision for Ministers, MPs and office holders in the House of Lords. The House Committee also considered that the Lord Speaker should be able to claim the same allowances as office-holders in the House of Lords.²⁹

In 2008 the SSRB recommended that the salary of the Lord Speaker "be pegged at its current rate on a 'mark time' basis until the next review of parliamentary pay and expenditure or until reform of the House of Lords."³⁰ The salary was frozen initially at £104,368 in 2008-09 until 2010-11, when it was reduced to £101,038 in line with the ministerial pay reduction and freeze introduced by the incoming coalition

²³ Parliament website, [Peers in Schools programme](#), accessed 20 June 2016

²⁴ Frances D' Souza, 'We're in danger of becoming a place of ridicule', *The Times*, 6 February 2013; Frances D' Souza, 'We have far too many peers. A humane cull is required', *The Times*, 26 July 2014; Frances D' Souza, '[The House of Lords should be one in, one out](#)', *The Daily Telegraph*, 2 March 2015

²⁵ Daniel Bond, "[Lord Fowler: Time to axe more than 200 peers](#)", *PoliticsHome*, 5 September 2016; House of Lords Notice, [Election of the Lord Speaker: list of candidates](#), 23 May 2016

²⁶ Parliament website, [Lord Speaker addresses Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#), 20 March 2012

²⁷ Parliament website, [Lord Speaker addresses German Chancellor](#), 27 February 2014

²⁸ Parliament website, [The Lord Speaker on the fight against malaria](#), 7 November 2014

²⁹ House Committee, [1st Report of Session 2005-06](#), 29 March 2006, HL 152, 2005-06, paras 1-3.

³⁰ SSRB, [Review of parliamentary pay, pensions and allowances 2007](#), January 2008, Cm 7270.

government.³¹ The salary was confirmed at this level by the *Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 (Amendment) Order 2011*; and, in accordance with the Order, increased to £101,664 from 31 March 2015. It increased to £102,101 from 1 April 2016.

³¹ See Prime Minister's Office, [A new politics: cutting Ministerial pay](#), 13 May 2010 and the *Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 (Amendment) Order 2011*.

2. The election process

Standing Order 19 provides for five-yearly elections to the role of Lord Speaker, beginning on 30 June 2006. The Lords Procedure Committee's [report of 30 March 2011](#) proposed re-wording the Standing Order, regarding it as defective. These amendments were made on 3 May 2011.³² As amended, the election must take place by 15 July in the relevant year, and the new Lord Speaker should assume their responsibilities by 1 September in the relevant year, to allow for a handover period.

All peers are eligible to stand in the election unless they have taken leave of absence, not taken the oath, or have served two terms as Lord Speaker. If only one candidate were nominated, a motion of appointment would suffice. Each candidate is allowed an 'election address' of up to 75 words, which is circulated to all peers by the Clerk of the Parliaments, along with a statement of each candidate's parliamentary service and their entry in the Register of Lords' Interests. Candidates are not permitted to circulate any election material themselves, or through agents or supporters.³³

The alternative vote is used for the elections, as proposed in the March 2006 report of the Procedure Committee of the House of Lords.³⁴ However, the electoral system is not mentioned in Standing Orders, which merely state that the election must be carried out "in accordance with arrangements made by the Clerk of the Parliaments".

The successful candidate is formally appointed by the Queen and is elected for five years, with the possibility of one renewal.

A breakdown of the results for the three elections held to date can be found in section 5.

³² House of Lords, [Amendments Made on 3 May 2011 to the Standing Orders Relating to Public Business](#), HL 139.

³³ House of Lords Procedure Committee, [Speakership of the House](#), HL172, 2005-06. This is the Committee's fourth report: the third report, HL153, is also called *Speakership of the House*.

³⁴ House of Lords Procedure Committee, [Speakership of the House of Lords: Introductions](#), 23 March 2006, HL 153, 2005-06.

3. Recent proposals for change

Since the creation of the post of Lord Speaker there have been several proposals for reform, which are detailed comprehensively in the House of Lords Library Note, [Reform of Working Practices, 2000–12](#) (11 October 2012, LLN 2012/033).

3.1 Proposals and their rejection (2011)

In April 2011 the Leader's Group on Working Practices published a report which stated:

The influx of new Members since the 2010 general election, while adding to the range of expertise in the House, has contributed to growing tensions. The House is under strain both physically and procedurally. New Members may find that they have few opportunities to contribute in committees or in the Chamber. Frustration has been evident in recent months and the efficacy of self-regulation challenged.³⁵

The report noted concerns that ministerial question times were showing “an increasingly fractious and at times aggressive atmosphere”³⁶ which discouraged the less political members of the House. There were also concerns that it was inappropriate for the Leader of the House, being a government representative, to resolve any issues over which member should have the right to speak.

The Leader's Group recommended a year-long trial period during which the Lord Speaker would take over the role of adjudicating from which party group the next member should have the right to speak, during ministerial question times and oral statements. These recommendations, and the rest of the report, were debated on 27 June 2011 on a ‘take note’ motion.³⁷

The Procedure Committee of the House of Lords followed up with their own report, which similarly recommended:

That the role currently performed by the Leader of the House or Government front bench during oral questions and oral statements be transferred for a trial period to the Lord Speaker, or, in her absence, the Chairman of Committees or another Deputy Speaker.

That the role thus transferred includes the responsibility to arbitrate between groups within the House, but not any responsibility to arbitrate between individual Members by name.

That the trial begin at the start of the 2012–13 session of Parliament, and continue until the start of the summer recess 2012.

³⁵ Leader's Group on Working Practices, [Report of the Leader's Group on Working Practices](#), HL 136, 2010–12, p5

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p13

³⁷ HL Deb 27 June 2011 [c1551-1628](#)

That following the completion of the trial, the procedure at question time and during oral statements should revert to its current form, pending a review by the Procedure Committee.³⁸

The House voted against the proposed trial by 233 votes to 169, and it was therefore not implemented.³⁹

3.2 Proposals (2017)

In a Question for Short Debate on the role of the Lord Speaker, on 30 March 2017, Lord Grocott suggested that, as proposed in 2011, the Lord Speaker should be given “control of Question Time”. He also proposed that the Lord Speaker “take control of the House when statements are made”.⁴⁰ At present, the Leader of the House or another member of the Government front bench determines who should ask a question if more than one member rises.⁴¹

Lord Grocott called for the changes because more members were attending, which made it hard for “people without loud voices” to be heard at Question Time. He also expressed concern that no one appeared to be in control at Question Time, which reflected badly on the House.⁴²

In the debate there was considerable support for Lord Grocott’s proposal. However, some peers expressed concerns that if the Lord Speaker were given additional responsibilities, it would be the beginning of a “slippery slope” to the Lords being increasingly like the House of Commons.

Speaking for the Liberal Democrats, Lord Newby broadly supported the proposal and suggested that simply transferring existing powers from the Government frontbench to the Lord Speaker would be a “good way of avoiding the slippery slope”. He recommended that the Procedure Committee should be asked to look again at the proposal.⁴³

Baroness Smith of Basildon, the Shadow Leader, expressed her willingness to discuss the matter further.⁴⁴

While Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, the Leader of the House of House of Lords, agreed that Questions “could and should be enhanced by hearing from a broader range of voices”, she felt that individual members should consider their behaviour. She was not convinced that the Lord Speaker presiding would be “the magic bullet”. She said that she did not intend to initiate an official review of the role of the Lord Speaker but reminded all members that they could take proposals to the Procedure Committee.⁴⁵

³⁸ House of Lords Procedure Committee, *Proposals Arising from the Report of the Leader’s Group on Working Practices*, 1 November 2011, HL 213, 2010–12

³⁹ HL Deb 8 November 2011 [c147](#)

⁴⁰ [HL Deb 30 March 2017 cc819-820](#)

⁴¹ House of Lords, *Companion to the Standing Order and Guide to the Proceedings of the House of Lords*, 2015, paras 4.03-4.10

⁴² [HL Deb 30 March 2017 c819](#)

⁴³ [HL Deb 30 March 2017 c834](#)

⁴⁴ [HL Deb 30 March 2017 c836](#)

⁴⁵ [HL Deb 30 March 2017 cc837-840](#)

4. Creation of the Lord Speaker'ship

4.1 Background

In the Government reshuffle of June 2003, the Prime Minister announced proposals to abolish the post of Lord Chancellor. Such a step would have implications for the position of Speaker of the House of Lords, as under House of Lords Standing Orders, the Lord Chancellor acted as Speaker of the House of Lords. Standing Order 18, "Speaker of the House", which dates from 1660, stated:

It is the duty of the Lord Chancellor ordinarily to attend the Lords House of Parliament as Speaker of the House ...

The *Constitutional Reform Bill 2003-04*, which was originally introduced into the House of Lords in February 2004, contained provisions to abolish the Office of the Lord Chancellor. However, as a result of opposition to the proposals in the House of Lords, which took the unusual step of appointing a select committee to consider the Bill, these provisions were amended. The Office of the Lord Chancellor continues in existence. However, the holder of the position no longer needs to be a Member of the House of Lords. Schedule 6 to the *Constitutional Reform Act 2005* makes amendments to a number of Acts so that the functions carried out previously by the Lord Chancellor (as Speaker of the House of Lords) were transferred to the Lord Speaker.⁴⁶

4.2 Debates on the establishment of the Lord Speaker'ship

On 25 June 2003, the Leader of the House of Lords, Lord Williams of Mostyn, announced that a Select Committee on the Speaker'ship would be set up to consider the future arrangements for the Speaker'ship of the House. It would report by the end of the 2002-03 session.⁴⁷ The Committee undertook its work on the assumption that "the office of Lord Chancellor will indeed be abolished",⁴⁸ and reported on 18 November 2003. The Committee noted that the title 'Lord Speaker' already existed,⁴⁹ and recommended that the Speaker of the House of Lords should be known as such.

The House of Lords debated the Select Committee's report on 12 January 2004, on a "take note" motion.⁵⁰ Lord Lloyd of Berwick, who chaired the Committee, introduced the report. He stressed the importance of self-regulation; this theme was echoed throughout the debate. However, he thought that the House did need a Speaker "to replace the Lord Chancellor on ceremonial occasions ... but that is only

⁴⁶ *Constitutional Reform Act 2005* (chapter 4), s148

⁴⁷ HL Deb 25 June 2003 [c295](#)

⁴⁸ Select Committee on the Speaker'ship of the House, *The Speaker'ship of the House of Lords*, 18 November 2003, HL 199, 2002-03, para 5

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, para 55

⁵⁰ HL Deb 12 Jan 2004 [cc377-456](#)

the start”.⁵¹ He reviewed the Committee’s deliberation on the functions of the Lord Speaker, and on the title, concluding that Lord Speaker was appropriate.⁵²

In July 2005 (following a hiatus, whilst the *Constitutional Reform Bill* progressed through Parliament) the issue of the Speakership of the House of Lords came to the fore again. Baroness Amos, the Leader of the House of Lords, proposed the motion:

That this House should elect its own presiding officer; that a Select Committee on the Speakership of the House be appointed to consider further how to implement this resolution with full regard to the House's tradition of self-regulation; that the following Lords be named of the committee: [...] and that the Select Committee shall make recommendations to the House by 20 December 2005.⁵³

The House agreed to the motion to appoint its own presiding officer and re-appoint the select committee to come up with recommendations on how to implement the resolution. The motion was agreed without a division.⁵⁴

The report of Committee on The Speakership of the House of Lords was published on 19 December 2005 and its recommendations for the role, now set out in the Standing Orders and Companion (see section 1.1), were agreed following a debate on 31 January 2006.⁵⁵

The main differences between this report and the initial recommendations of the Select Committee on the Speakership of 2003 were a move away from the Lord Speaker as being seen as a “guardian of the Companion to the Standing Orders”,⁵⁶ and the decision not to give the Lord Speaker the duties of the Leader of the House at question time.⁵⁷

⁵¹ HL Deb 12 Jan 2004 [c379](#)

⁵² HL Deb 12 Jan 2004 [cc380-382](#)

⁵³ HL Deb 12 July 2005 [c1002](#)

⁵⁴ HL Deb 12 July 2005 [cc1000-1032](#)

⁵⁵ HL Deb 31 Jan 2006 [cc134-182](#)

⁵⁶ Select Committee on the Speakership of the House, *The Speakership of the House of Lords*, 27 November 2003, HL 199, 2002–03, p8

⁵⁷ HL Deb 31 Jan 2006 [cc134-6](#)

5. Elections

The Lord Speaker is elected by members of the House of Lords every five years.⁵⁸ In 2006, 2011 and 2016 the election was contested as more than one member had been nominated.

The results of all three elections and the timetable for the two most recent elections are reported below.

5.1 Previous election results

The alternative vote system is used. Tables below shows the votes obtained by each peer after each round of counting, counting continues until one person has more than half of the available votes. Peers are marked with an X at the point when they were excluded, due to finishing last, and their votes were redistributed.

The 2006 result

Baroness Hayman was elected Lord Speaker.

	1st preference votes	Votes after transfers						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lord Boston of Faversham	22	22	22	X				
Lord Elton	52	57	58	60	65	X		
Baroness Fookes	12	X						
Lord Grenfell	103	103	106	109	129	147	170	236
Baroness Hayman	201	201	209	215	229	236	248	263
Countess of Mar	55	53	59	64	66	79	X	
Lord Redesdale	17	17	X					
Lord Richard	45	46	46	46	X			
Viscount Ullswater	74	78	79	83	84	103	135	X
Votes excluded at each stage		1	1	2	4	8	12	54
Total continuing votes at each stage	581	580	579	577	573	565	553	499
Votes needed in order to be elected	291	290	290	289	287	283	277	250

Source: Parliament website, [Result of House of Lords Speakership election, 28 June 2006](#)

⁵⁸ House of Lords, [The Standing Orders of the House of Lords Relating to Public Business: 2016](#), HL Paper 3 2016-17, Standing Order 19

The 2011 contest

The timetable for the 2011 Lord Speaker election was as follows:

By 5pm Thursday 23 June	Candidatures to be registered. In accordance with SO 19(2), each candidate will require a proposer and a seconder.
Monday 27 June	List of candidates published and sent to all Members of the House, together with a statement of each candidate's Parliamentary service, their entry in the Register of Lords' Interests, and election addresses of up to 75 words.
Tuesday 28 June	Hustings event [attended by all candidates except Lord Redesdale].
Wednesday 29 June	Ballot papers sent to those requesting a postal vote, to be returned to the Clerk of the Parliaments no later than 5 pm on Wednesday 13 July
Wednesday 13 July	Voting will take place in the Queen's Robing Room from 10am to 8pm.
Monday 18 July	The Clerk of the Parliaments will report the result of the election to the House at the start of business. Her Majesty The Queen's approval of the House's choice of Speaker will be notified. The full election results (first-preference votes cast for each candidate, and the position after each transfer of votes) will subsequently be made available.
Thursday 1 September	The new Lord Speaker will formally take office.
Monday 5 September	The new Lord Speaker will sit on the Woolsack for the first time at the start of business.

Source: Parliament website, [Election of the Speaker of the House of Lords 2011](#)

The incumbent from 2006-2011, Baroness Hayman, did not stand for re-election.

Baroness D'Souza was elected Lord Speaker.

	1st preference votes	Votes after transfers			
		1	2	3	4
Lord Colwyn	166	167	193	213	285
Lord Desai	78	79	92	X	
Baroness D'Souza	186	188	202	240	296
Lord Goodlad	145	145	150	168	X
Lady Harris of Richmond	62	65	X		
Lord Redesdale	7	X			
Votes excluded at each stage		0	7	16	40
Total continuing votes at each stage	644	644	637	621	581
Votes needed in order to be elected	322	322	319	311	281

Source: Parliament website, [Election of the Speaker of the House of Lords: result](#), 18 July 2011

The 2016 contest

The timetable for the 2016 Lord Speaker election was as follows:

Thursday 19 May, 5 pm	Deadline for candidatures to be registered. Each candidate requires a proposer and a seconder. Deadline for election addresses of up to 75 words.
Monday 23 May	List of candidates published and sent to all members of the House, together with a statement of each candidate's parliamentary service, their entry in the Register of Lords' Interests and election addresses of up to 75 words. Ballot papers sent to those requesting a postal vote.
Wednesday 8 June	Voting takes place
Monday 13 June	The Clerk of the Parliaments to report the result of the election to the House at the start of business. Her Majesty The Queen's approval of the House's choice of Lord Speaker to be notified. Full election results available online and in the Printed Paper Office.
Thursday 1 September	New Lord Speaker takes office.
Monday 5 September	New Lord Speaker sits on the Woolsack for the first time at the start of business

Source: Parliament website, [Election of the Lord Speaker 2016](#)

The incumbent from 2011-16, Baroness D'Souza, did not stand for re-election.

The Hansard Society organised a hustings event on 25 May 2016.⁵⁹

The successful candidate was Lord Fowler, who received over 50% of the total votes at the first count.

First-preference votes	
Lord Cormack	85
Lord Fowler	443
Baroness Garden of Frognal	111
<i>Total votes cast</i>	639
<i>Votes needed to be elected</i>	320

Source: Parliament website, [Lord Speaker election: result](#), 13 June 2016

⁵⁹ Parliament website, [House of Lords elects new Speaker](#), 4 May 2016 (updated); Hansard Society, [Lord Speaker Hustings 2016](#)

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