



FACTS & FIGURES

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Emergency debates in the House of Commons since 1979

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This list notes successful applications for emergency debates in the House of Commons and provides a link to the debate in Hansard. Applications for emergency debates are noted in the Excel spreadsheet.

What is an emergency debate?

An emergency debate is called at short notice on a subject of a "**specific and important matter that should have urgent consideration**".

Applying for an emergency debate

MPs can apply to the Speaker for permission to hold a debate on a topic not scheduled in the week's business* under the rules of [Standing Order \(SO\) No. 24](#). If the Speaker is satisfied that the subject fulfils the criteria set out in SO No. 24, the Member has three minutes following question time (and any urgent questions or ministerial statements) to make their case to the House.

**Note: Parliamentary business is announced by the Leader of the House each Thursday following oral questions. This is usually 10.30am but may be later if there are ministerial statements and/or an emergency debate.*

When is the emergency debate held?

If the House agrees to the request for an emergency debate, the Speaker announces when the debate will be held and for how long. The debate may be held on the same day the application is made but is usually held on the following day.

Emergency debates in the House of Commons since 1979

Parliament	Date	Topic	Member	Party *
1979	27/01/1981	Proposed purchase of the Times	John Smith	Labour
1979	22/12/1981	The Greater London Council	Albert Booth	Labour
1979	15/12/1982	NATO Council meeting	Denis Healey	Labour
1979	14/02/1983	Dispute in the water industry	Gerald Kaufman	Labour
1983	26/10/1983	Invasion of Grenada by USA	Denis Healey	Labour
1983	24/05/1984	Closure at British Leyland	Peter Shore	Labour
1983	19/12/1984	Local Authority capital expenditure	Dr Jack Cunningham	Labour
1983	27/01/1986	Westland plc	Neil Kinnock	Labour
1983	18/12/1986	Airborne early warning system	Denzil Davies	Labour
1983	03/02/1987	Special Branch activities	Gerald Kaufman	Labour
1987	13/04/1988	Changes in the social security system	Robin Cook	Labour
1987	09/11/1989	Ambulance dispute	Robin Cook	Labour
1992	24/06/1993	Trident refit (Scottish economy)	George Foulkes	Labour
1997	-	No emergency debates	-	-
2001	20/03/2002	Afghanistan	Bernard Jenkin	Conservative
2005	12/07/2006	UK-US Extradition Treaty	Nick Clegg	Liberal Democrat
2005	26/11/2008	Pre-Budget Report	George Osborne	Conservative
2010	06/07/2011	Phone Hacking	Chris Bryant	Labour
2010	29/02/2012	Treaty on stability, co-ordination and governance	William Cash	Conservative
2010	20/03/2012	Health and Social Care Bill	Andy Burnham	Labour
2010	18/03/2013	Royal Charter on press conduct	David Cameron	Conservative
2010	01/12/2014	Foreign Affairs Committee (Hong Kong Visit)	Sir Richard Ottaway	Conservative
2015	07/07/2015	English votes for English laws	Alistair Carmichael	Liberal Democrat
2015	08/09/2015	Refugee crisis in Europe	Yvette Cooper	Labour
2015	19/10/2015	Wilson Doctrine	Chris Bryant	Labour
2015	12/04/2016	UK Steel Industry	Angela Eagle	Labour
2015	11/10/2016	Aleppo and Syria	Andrew Mitchell	Conservative
2015	13/12/2016	Aleppo/Syria: International action	Andrew Mitchell	Conservative
2015	30/01/2017	Changes in US immigration policy	Edward Miliband	Labour
2015	29/03/2017	Personal Independence Payment: Regulations	Debbie Abrahams	Labour
2017	11/07/2017	Contaminated blood	Diana Johnson	Labour
2017	17/07/2017	Scheduling of parliamentary business	Valerie Vaz	Labour
2017	18/07/2017	Tuition fees	Angela Rayner	Labour
2017	10/10/2017	Government policy on the proceedings of the House	Alistair Carmichael	Liberal Democrat
2017	24/10/2017	Universal Credit Roll-out	Debbie Abrahams	Labour
2017	14/11/2017	Tax Avoidance and Evasion (paradise papers)	Margaret Hodge	Labour
2017	30/11/2017	Yemen	Andrew Mitchell	Conservative
2017	27/03/2018	EU Referendum: Electoral law	Tom Brake	Liberal Democrat
2017	16/04/2018	Syria	Alison McGovern	Labour
2017	17/04/2018	Military Action Overseas: Parliamentary approval	Jeremy Corbyn	Labour

Parliament	Date	Topic	Member	Party *
2017	21/05/2018	Private Members' bills: Money resolutions	Afzal Khan	Labour
2017	05/06/2018	Offences Against the Person Act 1861	Stella Creasy	Labour/Co-op
2017	18/06/2018	Sewel Convention	Ian Blackford	Scottish National Party
2017	11/09/2018	Yemen	Stephen Twigg	Labour/Co-op
2017	10/12/2018	Exiting the European Union: Meaningful Vote	Jeremy Corbyn	Labour
2017	18/12/2018	EU Withdrawal Agreement	Ian Blackford	Scottish National Party
2017	19/12/2018	Leaving the EU: No Deal	Keir Starmer	Labour
2017	05/03/2019	EU Exit Preparations: Ferry Contracts	Alan Brown	Scottish National Party
2017	20/03/2019	Article 50 Extension	Keir Starmer	Labour
2017	03/09/2019	European Union (Withdrawal)	Oliver Letwin	Conservative
2017	09/09/2019	Prorogation (Disclosure of Communications)	Dominic Grieve	Independent
2017	09/09/2019	European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 2) Act 2019 (Rule of Law)	Jeremy Corbyn	Labour
2019	08/06/2020	House Business during the Pandemic	Alistair Carmichael	Liberal Democrat
2019	08/06/2021	0.7% official development assistance target	Andrew Mitchell	Conservative

Sources: Hansard, Votes & Proceedings, Parliamentary Search, PIMS, POLIS

* Party affiliation of Member at time of debate

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