



## PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION LIST

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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	<a href="#">Proposed purchase of the Times</a>	John Smith	Labour
1979	22/12/1981	<a href="#">The Greater London Council</a>	Albert Booth	Labour
1979	15/12/1982	<a href="#">NATO Council meeting</a>	Denis Healey	Labour
1979	14/02/1983	<a href="#">Dispute in the water industry</a>	Gerald Kaufman	Labour
1983	26/10/1983	<a href="#">Invasion of Grenada by USA</a>	Denis Healey	Labour
1983	24/05/1984	<a href="#">Closure at British Leyland</a>	Peter Shore	Labour
1983	19/12/1984	<a href="#">Local Authority capital expenditure</a>	Dr Jack Cunningham	Labour
1983	27/01/1986	<a href="#">Westland plc</a>	Neil Kinnock	Labour
1983	18/12/1986	<a href="#">Airborne early warning system</a>	Denzil Davies	Labour
1983	03/02/1987	<a href="#">Special Branch activities</a>	Gerald Kaufman	Labour
1987	13/04/1988	<a href="#">Changes in the social security system</a>	Robin Cook	Labour
1987	09/11/1989	<a href="#">Ambulance dispute</a>	Robin Cook	Labour
1992	24/06/1993	<a href="#">Trident refit (Scottish economy)</a>	George Foulkes	Labour
1997	-	No emergency debates	-	-
2001	20/03/2002	<a href="#">Afghanistan</a>	Bernard Jenkin	Conservative
2005	12/07/2006	<a href="#">UK-US Extradition Treaty</a>	Nick Clegg	Liberal Democrat
2005	26/11/2008	<a href="#">Pre-Budget Report</a>	George Osborne	Conservative
2010	06/07/2011	<a href="#">Phone Hacking</a>	Chris Bryant	Labour
2010	29/02/2012	<a href="#">Treaty on stability, co-ordination and governance</a>	William Cash	Conservative
2010	20/03/2012	<a href="#">Health and Social Care Bill</a>	Andy Burnham	Labour
2010	18/03/2013	<a href="#">Royal Charter on press conduct</a>	David Cameron	Conservative
2010	01/12/2014	<a href="#">Foreign Affairs Committee (Hong Kong Visit)</a>	Sir Richard Ottaway	Conservative
2015	07/07/2015	<a href="#">English votes for English laws</a>	Alistair Carmichael	Liberal Democrat
2015	08/09/2015	<a href="#">Refugee crisis in Europe</a>	Yvette Cooper	Labour
2015	19/10/2015	<a href="#">Wilson Doctrine</a>	Chris Bryant	Labour
2015	12/04/2016	<a href="#">UK Steel Industry</a>	Angela Eagle	Labour
2015	11/10/2016	<a href="#">Aleppo and Syria</a>	Andrew Mitchell	Conservative
2015	13/12/2016	<a href="#">Aleppo/Syria: International action</a>	Andrew Mitchell	Conservative
2015	30/01/2017	<a href="#">Changes in US immigration policy</a>	Edward Miliband	Labour
2015	29/03/2017	<a href="#">Personal Independence Payment: Regulations</a>	Debbie Abrahams	Labour
2017	11/07/2017	<a href="#">Contaminated blood</a>	Diana Johnson	Labour
2017	17/07/2017	<a href="#">Scheduling of parliamentary business</a>	Valerie Vaz	Labour
2017	18/07/2017	<a href="#">Tuition fees</a>	Angela Rayner	Labour
2017	10/10/2017	<a href="#">Government policy on the proceedings of the House</a>	Alistair Carmichael	Liberal Democrat
2017	24/10/2017	<a href="#">Universal Credit Roll-out</a>	Debbie Abrahams	Labour
2017	14/11/2017	<a href="#">Tax Avoidance and Evasion (paradise papers)</a>	Margaret Hodge	Labour
2017	30/11/2017	<a href="#">Yemen</a>	Andrew Mitchell	Conservative
2017	27/03/2018	<a href="#">EU Referendum: Electoral law</a>	Tom Brake	Liberal Democrat
2017	16/04/2018	<a href="#">Syria</a>	Alison McGovern	Labour
2017	17/04/2018	<a href="#">Military Action Overseas: Parliamentary approval</a>	Jeremy Corbyn	Labour
2017	21/05/2018	<a href="#">Private Members' bills: Money resolutions</a>	Afzal Khan	Labour
2017	05/06/2018	<a href="#">Offences Against the Person Act 1861</a>	Stella Creasy	Labour/Co-op
2017	18/06/2018	<a href="#">Sewel Convention</a>	Ian Blackford	Scottish National Party
2017	11/09/2018	<a href="#">Yemen</a>	Stephen Twigg	Labour/Co-op
2017	10/12/2018	<a href="#">Exiting the European Union: Meaningful Vote</a>	Jeremy Corbyn	Labour
2017	17/12/2018	<a href="#">EU Withdrawal Agreement</a>	Ian Blackford	Scottish National Party
2017	19/12/2018	<a href="#">Leaving the EU: No Deal</a>	Keir Starmer	Labour

Parliament	Date	Topic	Member	Party *
2017	05/03/2019	<a href="#">EU Exit Preparations: Ferry Contracts</a>	Alan Brown	Scottish National Party
2017	20/03/2019	<a href="#">Article 50 Extension</a>	Keir Starmer	Labour
2017	03/09/2019	<a href="#">European Union (Withdrawal)</a>	Oliver Letwin	Conservative
2017	09/09/2019	<a href="#">Prorogation (Disclosure of Communications)</a>	Dominic Grieve	Independent
2017	09/09/2019	<a href="#">European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 2) Act 2019 (Rule of Law)</a>	Jeremy Corbyn	Labour

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

\* Party affiliation of Member at time of debate

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