



Number of Parliamentarians: International Comparisons

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This note compares the number of parliamentarians in the lower or single chamber of different countries. While the UK has one of the largest lower/single chambers, it is in the middle of the range in terms of the number of parliamentarians per head of population.

Figure 1 shows how the number of parliamentarians in lower or single chambers varies across a selection of countries, ranging from 122 in New Zealand to 650 in the UK.

The number of parliamentarians per 100,000 people ranges from 0.05 in India to 3.89 in Sweden and Ireland, as shown in Figure 2. The UK has 1.11 parliamentarians per 100,000 people.

Table 1 shows the number of parliamentarians, the population in 2006, and the number of parliamentarians per 100,000 population for selected countries.

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Figure 1: Number of parliamentarians in lower or single chamber, selected countries

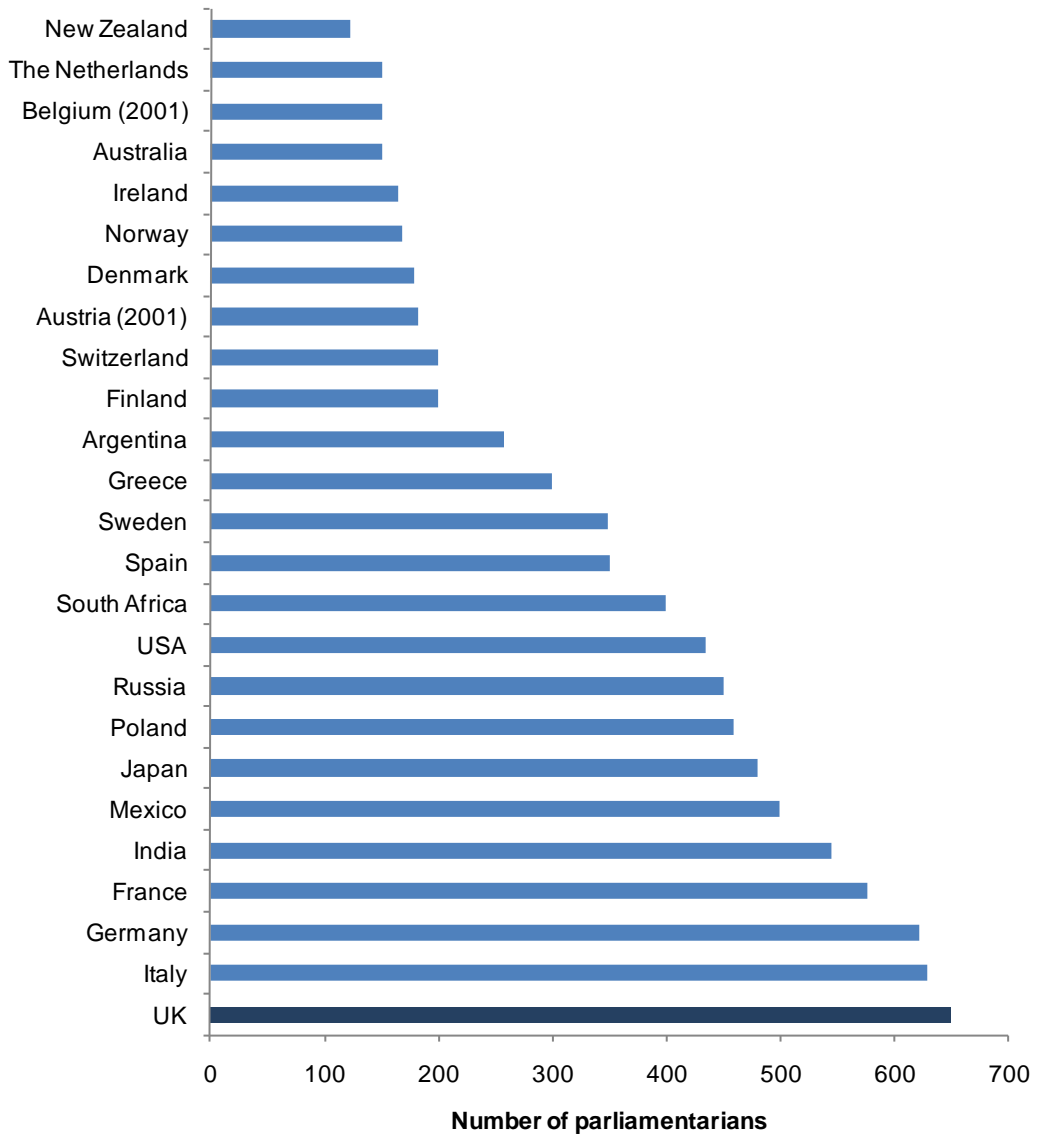


Figure 2: Parliamentarians in lower or single chamber per 100,000 population, selected countries

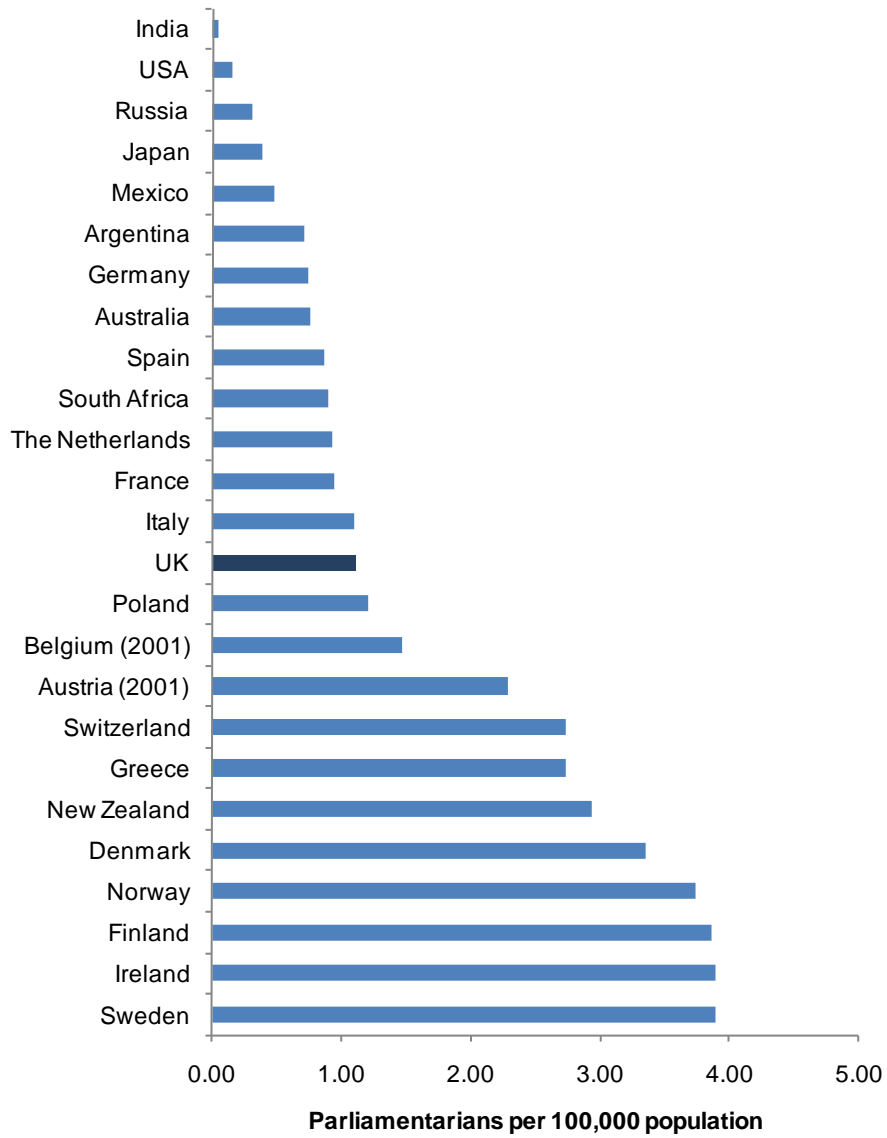


Table 1: Parliamentarians and population, selected countries

	Parliamentarians	Population in 2006 (millions)	Parliamentarians per 100,000 population
Ireland	165	4.2	3.89
Sweden	349	9.0	3.89
Finland	200	5.2	3.86
Norway	169	4.5	3.74
Denmark	179	5.3	3.35
New Zealand	122	4.1	2.94
Greece	300	11.0	2.74
Switzerland	200	7.3	2.74
Austria (2001)	183	8.0	2.28
Belgium (2001)	150	10.3	1.46
Poland	460	38.2	1.20
UK	650	58.8	1.11
Italy	630	57.1	1.10
France	577	61.4	0.94
The Netherlands	150	16.1	0.93
South Africa	400	44.8	0.89
Spain	350	40.8	0.86
Australia	150	20.1	0.75
Germany	622	83.5	0.74
Argentina	257	36.3	0.71
Mexico	500	103.3	0.48
Japan	480	127.8	0.38
Russia	450	145.2	0.31
USA	435	281.4	0.15
India	545	1,028.6	0.05

Source:

Inter-Parliamentary Union Parline Database

UN Statistics Demographic Yearbook 2006