

## COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

### Gender balance of the House of Lords Select Committee membership – July 2024

1. In December 2018 the UK Gender Sensitive Parliament Audit<sup>1</sup> recommended that a Parliamentary body monitor the gender breakdown of MPs and Peers and those in leadership positions. The House of Lords Commission subsequently asked the Committee of Selection to carry out annual monitoring of Lords committee membership and chairing.<sup>2</sup> This is the fifth annual report on the gender balance of House of Lords select committee memberships.
2. The numbers in the table below show the gender balance of House of Lords select committee membership as of 29 July 2024. The select committees included in the table below are those whose members are selected and proposed by the Committee of Selection before being appointed by way of motions on the floor of the House.<sup>3</sup> As of 29 July 2024, 35.8% of select committee members were female and 64.2% were male.<sup>4</sup> The gender balance of membership of the House of Lords as a whole as of 29 July 2024 was 29.2% female and 70.8% male.<sup>5</sup> When we published the equivalent figures last year, 33.6% of select committee members were female and 66.4% were male, whilst the gender balance of the membership of the House of Lords as a whole was 28.8% female and 71.2% male.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UK Parliament, *UK Gender-Sensitive Parliament Audit 2018: Report of the gender-sensitive Parliament audit panel to the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission* (November 2018):

[https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/lords-information-office/uk-parliament\\_-\\_gender-sensitive-parliament-audit-report-digital.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/lords-information-office/uk-parliament_-_gender-sensitive-parliament-audit-report-digital.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> UK Parliament, *Response to the UK Gender Sensitive Parliament Audit 2018: Agreed jointly by the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission* (June 2019):

[https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/lords-committees/house-of-lords-commission/2017-19/UK\\_Parliament\\_Gender\\_Sensitive\\_Report\\_Response\\_Combined.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/lords-committees/house-of-lords-commission/2017-19/UK_Parliament_Gender_Sensitive_Report_Response_Combined.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> To secure a regular turnover of membership, a “rotation rule” operates in the case of most committees, whereby members who have been appointed (or co-opted) for three successive calendar years (or parts of years) may not be reappointed in the following two calendar years. Each January the Committee of Selection recommends the names of members to be appointed to select committees in place of those who are to rotate off those committees. The Committee of Selection also selects and propose the names of members of new select committees.

<sup>4</sup> If external / lay members are excluded, then the percentage figures are 34.9% female and 65.1% male respectively.

<sup>5</sup> These percentages refer to the gender balance of eligible members, and do not include disqualified members or those on leave of absence. The gender balance of the House as a whole including disqualified members and those on leave of absence is 29.3% female and 70.7% male. No members are recorded as having identified as non-binary in 2024 or in any previous year.

<sup>6</sup> July 2023 figures included the Lords members on four Joint Committees (the Joint Committee on Consolidation Bills, the Joint Committee on Human Rights, the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy and the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments). These Joint Committees have been excluded from the July 2024 figures as they have not yet been reappointed following the dissolution of Parliament in May 2024.

<b>Committee name</b>	<b>Female members</b>	<b>Male members</b>
Built Environment	5	7
Commission	5	7
Communications and Digital	5	8
Conduct	6	3
Constitution	4	8
Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform	4	6
Economic Affairs	2	12
Environment and Climate Change	4	9
European Affairs	8	5
Finance	3	6
Financial Services and Regulation	3	10
Food, Diet and Obesity	8	4
Hybrid Instruments	1	4
Industry and Regulators	3	9
International Agreements	1	11
International Relations and Defence	4	7
Justice and Home Affairs	4	8
Liaison	2	9
Modern Slavery Act 2015	5	8
Preterm Birth	7	4
Procedure and Privileges	8	16
Public Services	3	9
Science and Technology	6	8
Secondary Legislation Scrutiny	4	7
Selection	2	9
Services	5	5
Standing Orders (Private Bills)	2	5
Statutory Inquiries	4	8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>212</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>35.8%</b>	<b>64.2%</b>

3. Lay members and external members have been included in the membership totals in the table above for the Commission and the Conduct Committee. Any co-opted members are also included in the figures.

#### Select Committee Chairs

4. Six committees (the Commission, Hybrid Instruments, Liaison, Procedure and Privileges, Selection, Standing Orders (Private Bills)) are chaired by appointed office holders of the House.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> The Commission is chaired by the Lord Speaker; the Hybrid Instruments, Liaison, Procedure and Privileges, Selection and Standing Orders (Private Bills) Committees are chaired by the Senior Deputy Speaker.

5. Of the remaining 22 select committees, 10 are chaired by female members,<sup>8</sup> and 12 by male members of the House.<sup>9</sup> When we reported in July 2023, the equivalent figures were also 10 female chairs and 12 male chairs.

#### Deputy Chairmen of Committees

6. In addition to select committees, the Committee of Selection selects and proposes the panel of Deputy Chairmen of Committees for each new session. Of the panel of 28 Deputies appointed, 14 are female (50.0%). This is equivalent to July 2023 when 15 of the 30 Deputy Chairmen of Committees were female (50.0%).

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<sup>8</sup> Communications and Digital Committee; Conduct Committee; Constitution Committee; Environment and Climate Change Committee; Food, Diet and Obesity Committee; Industry and Regulators Committee; Modern Slavery Act 2015 Committee; Public Services Committee; Science and Technology Committee; Services Committee.

<sup>9</sup> Built Environment Committee; Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee; Economic Affairs Committee; European Affairs Committee; Finance Committee; Financial Services and Regulation Committee; International Agreements Committee; International Relations and Defence; Justice and Home Affairs Committee; Preterm Birth Committee; Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee; Statutory Inquiries Committee.