

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Gender balance of the House of Lords Select Committee membership – July 2025

1. In December 2018 the UK Gender Sensitive Parliament Audit¹ 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.² This is the sixth 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 2025. 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.³ As of 29 July 2025, 36.0% of select committee members were female and 64.0% were male.⁴ The gender balance of membership of the House of Lords as a whole as of 29 July 2025 was 31.4% female and 68.6% male.⁵ When we published the equivalent figures last year, 35.8% of select committee members were female and 64.2% were male, whilst the gender balance of the membership of the House of Lords as a whole was 29.2% female and 70.8% male.⁶

¹ 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

² 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

³ 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.

⁴ If external / lay members are excluded, then the percentage figures are 35.2% female and 64.8% male respectively.

⁵ 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 also 31.4% female and 68.6% male. No members are recorded as having identified as non-binary in 2025 or in any previous year.

⁶ July 2024 figures excluded 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) as these Committees had not yet been reappointed following the dissolution of Parliament in May 2024. The Joint Committees are included in the July 2025 figures.

Committee name	Female members	Male members
Autism Act 2009	6	6
Built Environment	4	8
Commission	5	7
Communications and Digital	6	7
Conduct	6	3
Constitution	3	9
Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform	5	5
Economic Affairs	2	12
Environment and Climate Change	2	11
European Affairs	7	6
Finance	4	6
Financial Services and Regulation	3	10
Home-based Working	6	6
Hybrid Instruments	1	4
Industry and Regulators	5	7
International Agreements	2	10
International Relations and Defence	5	8
Joint Committee on Consolidation Bills	5	7
Joint Committee on Human Rights	2	4
Joint Committee on National Security Strategy	3	7
Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments	2	5
Justice and Home Affairs	6	6
Liaison	3	8
Northern Ireland Scrutiny	4	8
Procedure and Privileges	6	18
Public Services	5	7
Science and Technology	6	8
Secondary Legislation Scrutiny	3	8
Selection	3	8
Services	5	5
Social Mobility Policy	5	8
Standing Orders (Private Bills)	2	5
UK Engagement with Space	5	7
TOTALS	137	244
Percentage	36.0%	64.0%

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.⁷ Two of the four Joint Committees are chaired by Commons Members.
5. Of the remaining 25 select committees, 9 are chaired by female members,⁸ and 16 by male members of the House.⁹ When we reported in July 2024, the equivalent figures were 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 29 Deputies appointed, 15 are female (51.7%). This is a slight increase from July 2024 when 14 of the 28 Deputy Chairmen of Committees were female (50.0%).

⁷ 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.

⁸ Autism Act 2009 Committee; Communications and Digital Committee; Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee; Environment and Climate Change Committee; Home-based Working Committee; Industry and Regulators Committee; Public Services Committee; Social Mobility Policy Committee; UK Engagement with Space Committee.

⁹ Built Environment Committee; Conduct Committee; Constitution Committee; Economic Affairs Committee; European Affairs Committee; Finance Committee; Financial Services and Regulation Committee; International Agreements Committee; International Relations and Defence; Joint Committee on Consolidation Bills; Joint Committee on Human Rights; Justice and Home Affairs Committee; Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee; Science and Technology Committee; Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee; Services Committee.