

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Gender balance of House of Lords Select Committee membership

- 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 first such report and in the future these statistics will be published annually.
- The numbers in the table below show the gender balance of House of Lords Select Committee membership as at the end of March 2020; 32.6% of select committee members were female and 67.4% were male. The gender balance of the membership of the House of Lords as a whole at the end of March 2020 was 27.7% female and 72.3% male.³

Committee name	Female members	Male members
Audit	2	5
Commission	5	7
Communications and Digital	6	7
Conduct	6	3
Constitution	4	9
Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform	3	7
Democracy and Digital Technologies	3	10
Economic Affairs	3	10
Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013	5	7
European Union	7	12
EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee	3	9
EU External Affairs Sub-Committee	5	7
EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee	3	9
EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee	2	8
EU Internal Market Sub-Committee	3	10
EU Justice Sub-Committee	3	7

¹ https://intranet.parliament.uk/Documents/intranet/news-current-issues/UK%20Parliament_%20Gender%20Sensitive%20Parliament%20Audit_Report_DIGITAL.pdf

² https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/house-of-lords-commission/2017-19/UK_Parliament_Gender_Sensitive_Report_Response_Combined.pdf

³ 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 27.6% female and 72.4% male. No members are recorded as having identified as non-binary.

Finance	3	7
Finance Bill Sub-Committee	2	6
Food, Poverty, Health and Environment	7	4
Gambling Industry	2	10
High Speed 2 (West Midlands to Crewe) Bill	0	7
International Relations and Defence	6	6
Joint Committee on Consolidation etc. Bills	5	7
Joint Committee on Human Rights	2	4
Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy	5	5
Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments	2	5
Liaison	2	9
Procedure	6	14
Public Services	5	7
Science and Technology	7	8
Secondary Legislation Scrutiny	2	9
Services	2	8
Standing Orders (Private Bills)	0	7
TOTALS	121	250
Percentage	32.61%	67.39%

Select Committee Chairs

- Five committees (the Commission, European Union, Liaison, Procedure, Standing Orders (Private Bills)) are chaired by appointed office holders of the House.⁴ The Audit Committee is chaired by an external lay member (who is also a member of the Commission)⁵. Three of the four Joint Committees are chaired by members of the House of Commons.
- Of the remaining 24 Committees or sub-Committees, six are chaired by female members,⁶ and 18 by male members.⁷

Membership

⁴ The Commission is chaired by the Lord Speaker; the European Union Committee is chaired by the Earl of Kinnoull; the Liaison, Procedure and Standing Orders (Private Bills) Committees are chaired by the Senior Deputy Speaker.

⁵ The Audit Committee is chaired by Liz Hewitt.

⁶ Finance Committee; Constitution Committee; International Relations and Defence Committee; Public Services Committee; EU Internal Market Sub-Committee; EU External Affairs Sub-Committee.

⁷ Conduct Committee; Services Committee; Communications and Digital Committee; Economic Affairs Committee; Science and Technology Committee; Finance Bill Sub-Committee; High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Bill Committee; Secondary Legislation Committee; Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee; EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee; EU Energy Sub-Committee; Democracy and Digital Technologies Committee; Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 Committee; Food, Poverty, Health and the Environment Committee; Gambling Industry Committee; Consolidation etc. Bills Committee.

5. Lay members have been included in the membership totals in the table above for the Commission, the Audit Committee and the Conduct Committee. Co-opted members are included in the figures. House of Commons members have not been included in the totals for Joint Committees.