

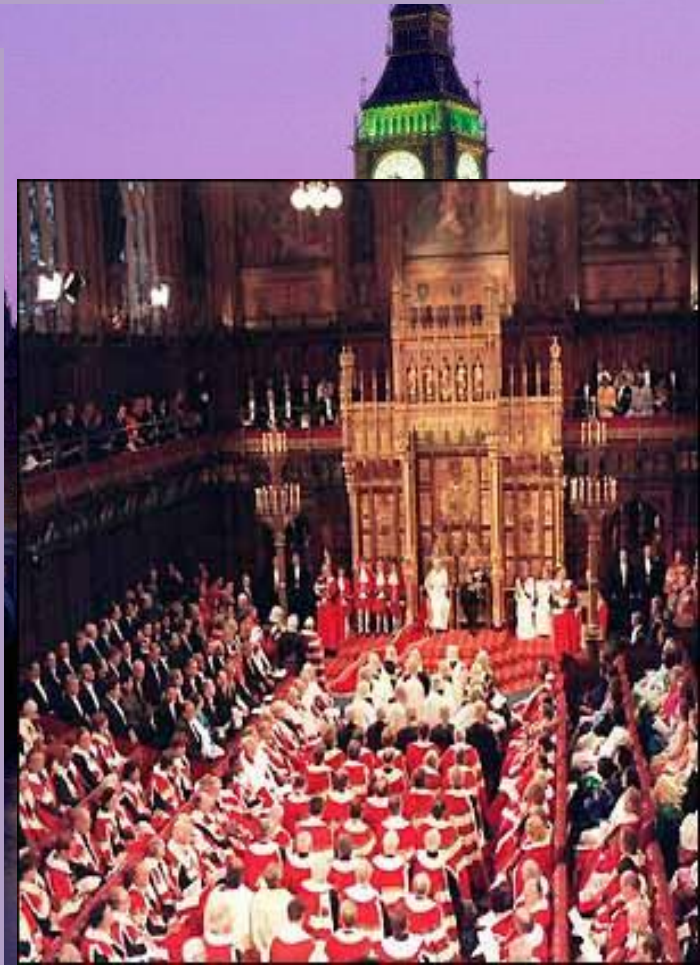
A nighttime photograph of the Houses of Parliament in London, with the River Thames in the foreground. The sky is a deep purple and blue. The building's lights are reflected in the water. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text 'The House of Lords' in a large, bold, black, italicized serif font.

The House of Lords



How the House of Lords is organized

- Members sit in the chamber according to the party or group they belong to. The government and the main opposition party or parties each have a leader, business managers (whips) who organise the work of the House and spokespeople who sit on the frontbench. Crossbenchers have a convenor but, because they have no party affiliation, they do not have a whip system.



- Members of the House of Lords bring experience and knowledge from a wide range of occupations. Many members continue to be active in their fields and have successful careers in business, culture, science, sports, academia, health and public service. They bring this knowledge to their role of examining matters of public interest that affect all UK citizens.

Members and their roles

- There are about 825 members of the House of Lords. The majority (about 700) are life peers



How members are appointed

- **Members of the House of Lords are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister**
- It normally takes several weeks from the time a potential new member is announced, by the government or the House of Lords Appointments Commission, to their actual appointment.
- Before anyone becomes a member, a title has to be agreed and the Letters Patent and Writ of Summons documents must be prepared.
- Letters Patent are issued by the Queen and create a life peerage. Recipients become members when Letters Patent are sealed. They can then be written to at the House of Lords, using their new title of Lord or Baroness. They cannot sit or vote until their 'introduction'.
- The Writ of Summons calls the member to the House and acts as their 'entry ticket'. A new writ is issued for every member at the beginning of each Parliament (after a general election). A writ accompanies the Letters Patent for a new member.

Lord Speaker

- The Lord Speaker, currently Baroness D'Souza, presides over business in the chamber, acts as an ambassador for the work of the House and chairs the House Committee



Leader of the House of Lords



to the position by the Prime Minister.

Types of members

- **Life peers:** The majority (about 700) of members are appointed for their lifetime by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. Any British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen who is a UK resident and taxpayer (налогоплательщик) over the age of 21 is eligible to be nominated or can apply to become a member, via the independent House of Lords Appointments Commission.
- **Archbishops and bishops(Архиепископы и епископы):** 26 Church of England archbishops and bishops sit in the House. When they retire as bishops their membership of the House ceases and is passed on to the next most senior bishop.
- **Elected hereditary members:** The House of Lords Act 1999 ended the right of most hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House. Ninety-two remain.

ИСТОЧНИК:

- <http://www.parliament.uk>



