

Women in the House of Lords

181 (21.7%) out of 833 members of the House of Lords are women, 21.7%, making it more or less into line with the House of Commons, where 22.2% of MPs are women.

The gender balance of peers breaks down by political party (and none) as follows:

Party	Total Peers	No. Women Peers	% Women Peers
Conservative	221	40	18.1%
Labour	244	68	27.9%
Liberal Democrat	94	28	29.8%
Crossbenchers*	183	35	19.1%
Democratic Unionist	4	1	25%
Ulster Unionist	3	0	0%
Plaid Cymru	1	0	0%
UKIP	2	0	0%
Independent**	3	0	0%
Other***	53	9	17%
Bishops	25	0	0%
Totals	833	181	21.7%

*Crossbenchers are peers who do not take a Party whip and are effectively independent

**Independents align themselves with a Party; there are 2 Labour Independents and 1 Conservative Independent

***Others are peers who, for one reason or another (Speaker, judges, leave of absence, suspended, etc) do not appear in any other lists.

Proposals for reform of the House of Lords are currently under discussion. It is likely that the House will be smaller, will have at least some members who are directly elected, and will not include hereditary peers, of whom there are currently 92 (including 2 women).

If hereditary peers and bishops were to be excluded from the current house, there would be 716 peers, of whom 179 (24.6%) would be women.