

## Women Members of Parliament

There are currently a total of 144 women in the House of Commons. These break down by political party as follows<sup>1</sup>:

Party	Total No. MPs	No. Women MPs	Women MPs as % of Parliamentary Group
Labour	256	82	32%
Conservative	306	49	16%
Liberal Democrat	57	7	12%
Green	1	1	-
SNP	6	1	-
Sinn Fein	5	1	-
SDLP	3	1	-
Alliance	1	1	-
Independent	3	1	-
Democratic Unionist	8	0	-
Plaid Cymru	3	0	-
Speaker	1	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>144</b>	-

Percentages are not given for the smaller Parliamentary groupings as the numbers are so small as to render percentages meaningless.

142 women were elected at the General Election on 6 May 2010. The election in the Thirsk & Malton constituency was delayed by the death of the UKIP candidate and was won for the Conservatives by Anne McIntosh on 27 May. Debbie Abrahams won the Oldham East & Saddleworth by-election for Labour on 13 January 2011, bringing the total number of women up to 144.

The percentages of women MPs in recent previous Parliaments (and 1945) is shown below<sup>2</sup>.

General Election	No. Women Elected	Women as % of MPs
2005	128	20%
2001	118	18%
1997	120	18%
1992	60	9%
1987	41	6%
1983	23	3.5%
1979	19	3%
1945	24	4%

<sup>1</sup> Figures from the Parliamentary website at <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/> accessed on 18 January 2011

<sup>2</sup> Source: House of Commons Information Office, *Women in the House of Commons*, Factsheet M4