

Assignment 1

The Parliament is the supreme legislative body, which consists of two houses that service on behalf of UK citizens. They are obligated to create and challenge laws, present the interests of the public, and examine the government. The two houses are: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. ([Parliament.UK](#))

The House of Lords is the second house of the UK parliament. It amplifies its efforts and functions autonomously from the elected House of Commons. The Lords are responsible for examining and challenging the actions of the government in addition to creating and amending laws. ([Lords.UK](#))

“The House of Lords Appointments Commission was established in 2000, It is independent and separate from the House of Lords.” The Appointments Commission suggests candidates for candidature as non-party political life peers. It also carefully evaluates all nominations for all life peers, including those recommended by the UK’s major political parties, to ensure the highest standards of propriety. Proposals for members can come from general public and political parties alike. Appointments are formally made by the King following the Prime Minister’s approval.

Unlike members of Parliament in the House of Commons, members of the House of Lords are either appointed or inherit their positions. Most are life peers, appointed by the Queen/ King on the Prime Minister’s proposal or the recommendations of the House of Lords Appointments Commission. Life peers hold their titles for the entirety of their lifetimes rather than passing them onto their progeny. The House of Lords is composed of the twenty-six Church of England Bishops, or Lord Spiritual. These non-elective positions are held by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Bishops of London, Durham, and Winchester, and the next twenty-one longest serving bishops. In the past, inherited peers were granted.

Before a member is actually appointed, the government or the House of Lords Appointments Commission usually announces the identity of a new member. But before any one can join, a title must be chosen and legal documents known as Writs of Summons and Letters Patent must be prepared. A life peerage is established by letters Patent issued by the King. Recipients of Letters Patent become members upon sealing (a mark indicating royal approval). Following that, they will be able to be addressed in writing at the House of Lords using the title of Lord or Baroness. They are not allowed to vote or sit in the chamber until they are introduced. The members’ entry into the House is made possible by the Writ of Summons.

When you become a member of the Lords there is a brief ceremony called an introduction that lasts approximately five minutes. In the Lords, there are often no more than two introductions every day. There are two supporters for every new member (occasionally from their party or group). Before any member can sit in the House and cast a vote, they are required to swear an oath or affirmation to the monarch. A freshly introduced member’s maiden speech is their first speech. The next speaker extends greetings and congratulates the new member. Typically, first addresses are brief and uncontroversial. ([Appointments Commission. Uk](#))

The House of Lords has three main responsibilities: legislating, investigating matters of public policy, and holding the government accountable. The lower house of the Westminster parliamentary system is the House of

Lords. It can only stall most bills rather than veto them, unlike the House of Commons, which has the power to overturn the government.

The House of Lords used to be a more powerful house than the House of Commons. Prior to the Parliament Act of 1911, laws passed by the Commons could be overruled by the House of Lords. The 1911 Act, which restricted this power to the delaying authority of the Lords currently possessed, was one of the most important modifications to the history of the House of Lords.

Members of the House of Lords carefully consider draft legislation carefully before government bills are signed into law. Any proposed modifications to legislation, though, also need to be approved by the Commons. It therefore essentially functions as a 'revising' chamber, asking the Commons to reconsider its plans.

Peers look into a wide range of public policy issues through the work of parliamentary select committees, from home affairs and justice to the long term viability of the National Health Service. Committees generate reports that frequently have a direct or indirect impact on how government policy is formulated.

The Lords' other role is to hold the government responsible. Members of the chamber ask government ministers questions during the question period and debates, to which they must reply.

Peers almost never attempt to overturn laws passed by the House of Commons as a whole. In accordance with the Salisbury Convention, the House of Lords hardly ever rejects a bill in its entirety and never tries to thwart legislation that was promised in the manifesto of the ruling party. Though it offers suggestions for MPs to reconsider, the unelected House of Lords generally respects the democratic mandate of Commons.

(ucl.ac.uk)

An advantage of the House of Lords is that their expertise is derived from a variety of backgrounds, including teaching and law. There are also many experts in the Upper House who are able to identify flaws in legislation. When it comes to technical matters, this frequently occurs because many current or former lawyers are able to identify when a piece of legislation is written in a way that makes it difficult or unclear to apply. Another advantage of the House of Lords is the examination. Because the Lords have less party discipline and are therefore less partisan, debates, question time, and select committees are valuable tools for the House of Lords. Rather than following whip instructions, they can examine by principle. One more advantage is that the Lords can raise so many issues with suggested changes that the government may be compelled to reevaluate its plans, even though they cannot compel the Commons to change its laws.

A disadvantage of the House of Lords is that since the PM selects Commissioners, appointments (despite Independent Commissions) have been accused of cronyism, which is the practice of appointing friends and associates to positions of authority without due consideration for their qualifications. Another disadvantage of the House of Lords is that the Lords are meant to act as a safeguard against the 'elective dictatorship' of government, as defined by Lord Hailsham in 1976. Still, the lacklustre track record of the Lord holds its own. Despite voicing grave concerns, it has not succeeded in slowing down the steady rise in Police authority. The most well-known setback for it was the introduction of the Poll Tax in 1988. One more disadvantage of the House of Lords is the Parliament Act of 1949, which decreased to one year's postponement. As it was customary for them to hold the position for life, it also permitted Lords to renounce, or give up, their title.

(Getrevising.Uk)

A suggestion for reform in the House of Lords is their non-popular choice. Reform has many options, but history demonstrates how challenging it is. Many contend that one of the most urgent reforms that need to be put in place in order to prevent the Lords from becoming too big is restricting the Prime Minister's authority to appoint new peers. ([Get revising.Uk](#)) Another suggestion for reform is that the House of Lords is completely full! The House of Lords now has 820 peers, up from 666 in 1999. This puts the chamber second only to the roughly equally democratic National People's Congress of China in terms of size. Speeches in popular debates may be subject to stringent time limits because there is insufficient space to accommodate more than half of the peers. In secrecy, a bipartisan group of MPs and peers have formed a committee to consider ways to reduce its size. ([indy100.com](#))

To conclude, I believe that the House of Lords should not reform. Firstly the current structure makes it possible to appoint specialities in a range of disciplines, which promotes a chamber with a wide range of expertise. Another reason is the preservation of tradition. Opponents contend that the house of Lords' current arrangement preserves its historical and constitutional significance and adds to the institutional stability of the United Kingdom. And another reason is due to the avoidance of partisanship. A House that is appointed may be less susceptible to party politics, offering a reviewing body that can examine laws on its own.

Reference List

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