

HOUSE OF LORDS

Welcome

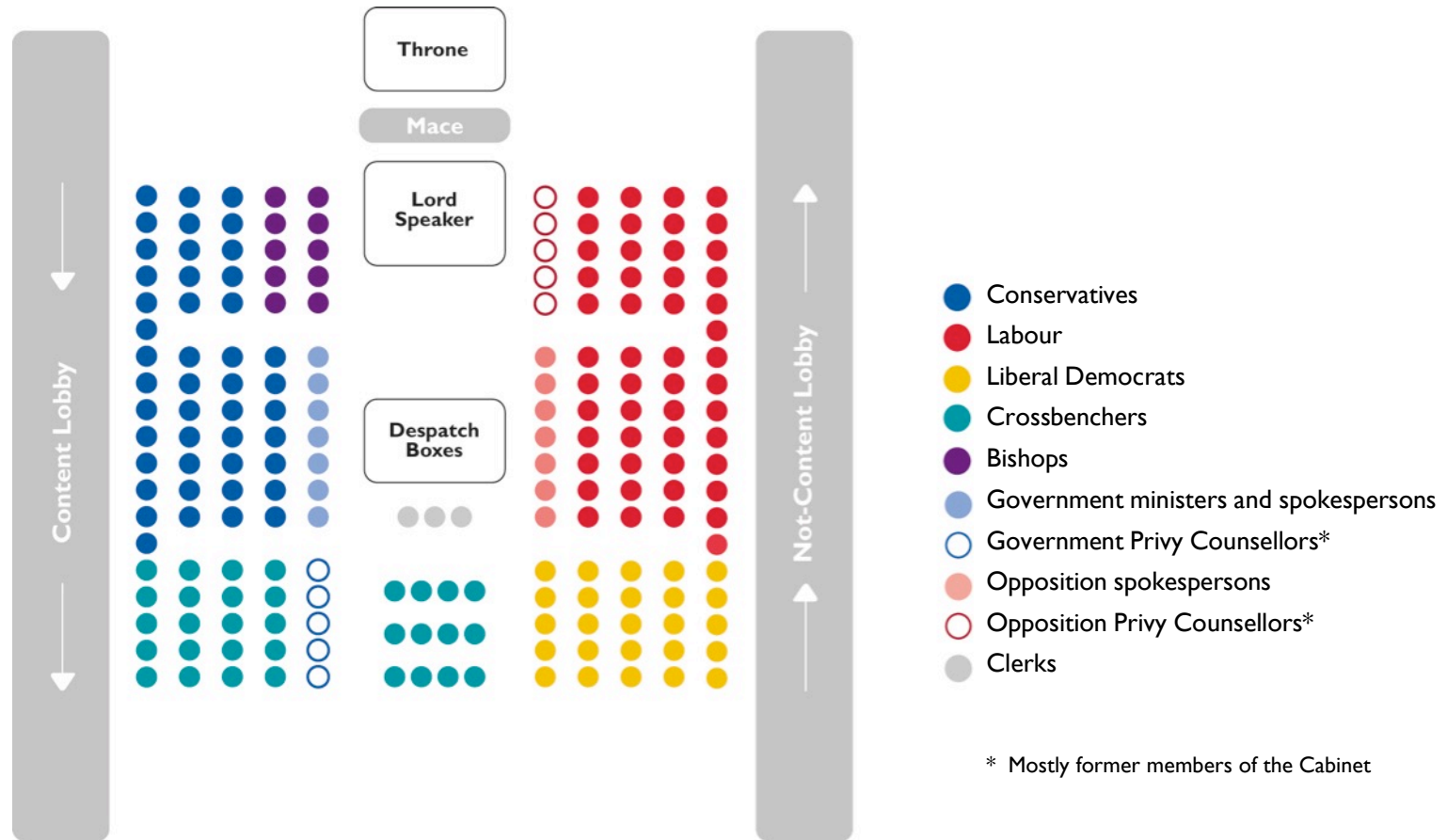
UK Parliament



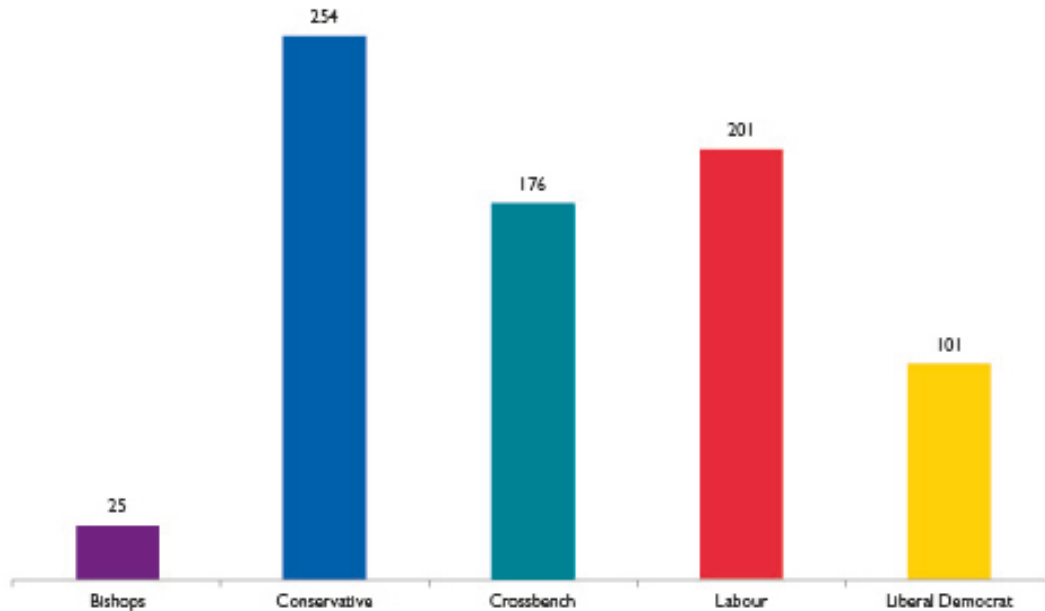
House of Lords chamber



Chamber - who sits where



Membership – the parties and groups



July 2017

Independence of thought

- A significant part of the membership is not party political – the crossbenchers and the bishops
- Members represent the issues that concern them, not geographical constituencies
- Members that do belong to the political parties do not necessarily vote according to their party policy

Different backgrounds and professions

- Members come from different walks of life from across the UK
- Around 210 members (26%) are women
- Many remain active in their careers and are experts in their fields
- The House draws on this professional experience to carry out its work

Checking and challenging government

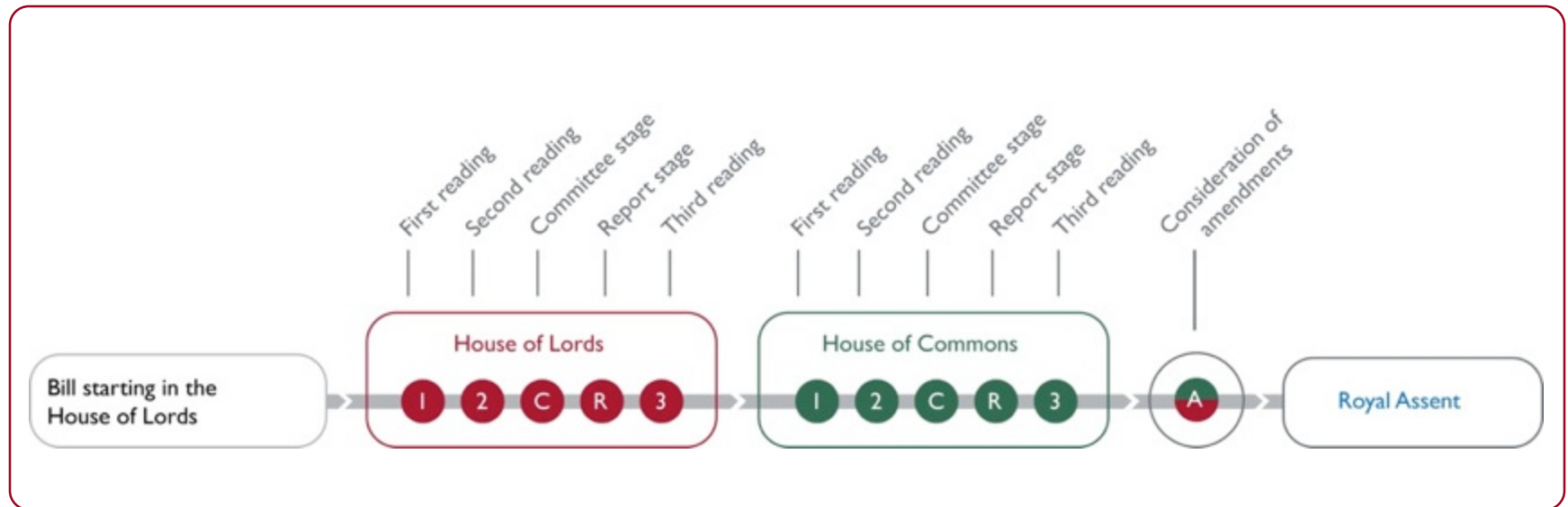
- Questioning
- Debating
- Statements



What the Lords does

- Plays a vital role in improving draft laws
- Investigates public policy in committee work
- Checks on and challenges government action through questioning and debating

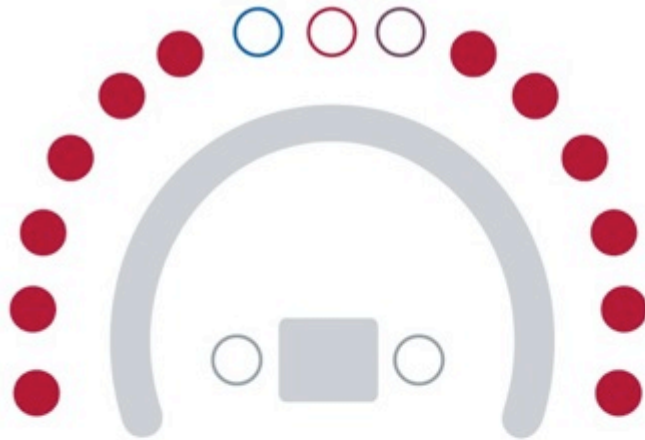
Making laws – how it happens



Recent changes it has persuaded the government to make

- Ensuring children with special educational needs get the same legal protection in academies as other schools
- Protecting the right to legal aid for welfare cases
- Insisting on parity of NHS treatment for physical and mental illness
- Making sure the UK has leading stem cell research facilities
- Banning smoking in cars that carry children

Committee work



- Chairman
- Members
- Clerk
- Specialist adviser
- Transcribers
- Witnesses
- Public seating

House of Lords committees:

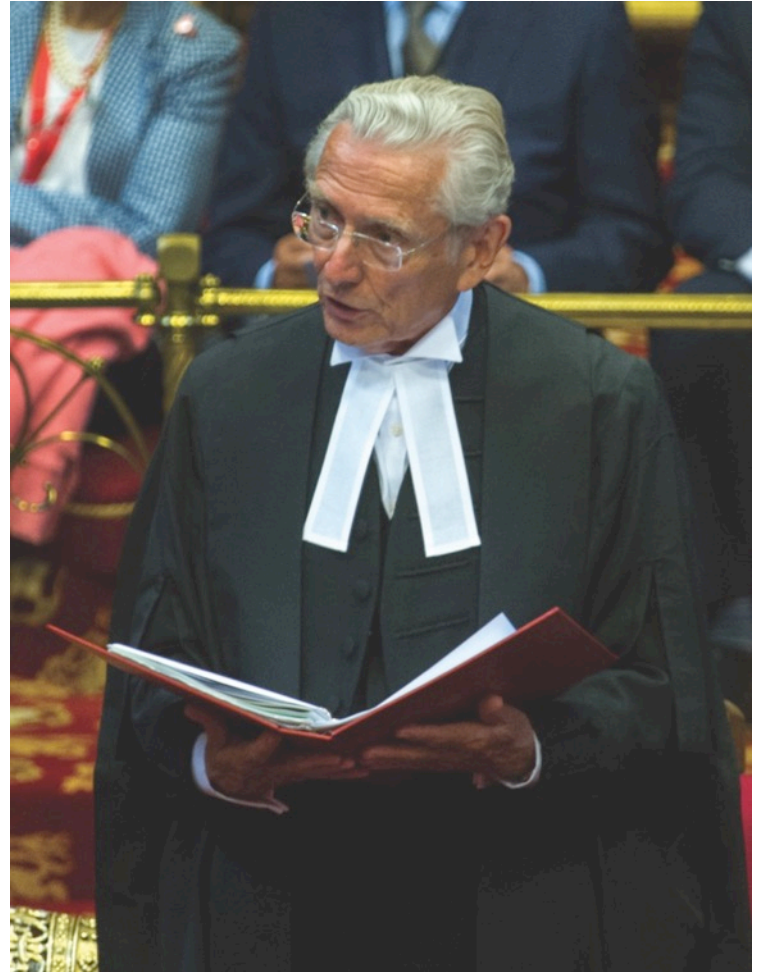
- Constitution Committee
- Communications Committee
- Economic Affairs Committee
- European Union Committee
- International Relations Committee
- Science and Technology Committee



A committee meeting

Lord Speaker

- Chairs business in the chamber
- Acts as ambassador for the Lords
- Current Lord Speaker elected 2016
- First Lord Speaker elected 2006



Party and group leaders in the Lords



Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
Conservative



Baroness Smith of Basildon
Labour



Lord Hope of Craighead
Crossbenches



Lord Newby
Liberal Democrat



Bishop of Birmingham
Bishops

State Opening of Parliament

- State Opening marks the start of the parliamentary year
- Queen's Speech written by the government and read out in the House of Lords chamber
- Queen's Speech sets out the government's agenda for the year



Becoming a member

- Members of the Lords are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- Some non-party political members are recommended by an independent body, the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

Lords on social media



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- See what members are saying at www.lordsdigitalchamber.co.uk



Next steps

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