
The Library holds copies of the debates of the Westminster Parliament, both the House of Commons and The House of Lords (Hansard) and the Scottish Parliament (Official Report).

Hansard
Reports of the debates in both Houses of Parliament are known as "Hansard" after the publishing company which produced them for most of the 19th century; they are now published by The Stationery Office (TSO). Until 1909 the Commons and Lords debates were published together but since then they have appeared in separate volumes.

House of Commons

House of Commons Hansard is issued daily at http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/commons/ (1988 onwards) and the library stocks bound volumes covering two to three weeks in hard copy. Written answers are separated from the debates and appear at the back of each volume. There is an index in each volume and eventually a sessional index is issued (shelved after the last volume of a Parliamentary Session). The format of all the indexes is very similar; items are listed under subject headings, names of MPs and Ministers, names of places and names of Bills being debated.

References in the index show the volume numbers in bold type, then the column numbers. The letter W after an entry denotes a written answer, e.g.: -

Debate Reference

Harman, Harriet
Debates, etc.
NHS (08.12.87) 124 338, 346-52

Topic  Date  Vol No.  Col Refs

Written Answer Reference

Noise control
Aircraft noise 118 37-8w

Topic  Vol No.  Col Refs (Written Answers Section)
House of Lords

House of Lords Hansard at [http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/lords/] (1995 onwards) is similar in format to the Commons. The Library stocks the bound volumes of Lords Hansard. There are very few oral and written answers in the Lords: oral answers are numbered separately, in italics with the abbreviation WA. The last bound volume of a Parliamentary session contains a sessional index.

**Debate Reference**

Universities, Tuition Fees, [643] (23.1.03) 887.

**Written Answer Reference**

Asylum Claims by Post, Question, [644] (10.2.03) WA80

**Scottish Parliament Official Reports**

The **Official Report** is the substantially verbatim report of parliamentary proceedings, including debates, statements, questions and votes. The Official Report is issued in three parts:

- **Meeting of the Parliament**
  Individual issues of the Official Report – Meeting of the Parliament appear for each day the Parliament is sitting. The correct citation for an entry in the Official Report - Meeting of the Parliament is, for example:

  SP OR 17 May 2001, col. 769

- **Written Answers Report**
  [http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/39875.aspx]
  Part of the Official Report. It contains the text of written questions lodged by MSPs and the answers given by either the Scottish Executive or the Presiding Officer. The correct citation for an entry in the **Official Report** – Written Answers is, for example:

  SP WA 10 May 2001, p. 151
Committee Sessions (electronic reports are accessible on individual committee websites): report of the proceedings of meetings for each of Parliament’s individual Committees. Issues appear for each day that a Committee sits. The correct citation for an entry in the Official Report – Committee is, for example,


Committee Abbreviation (i.e. Rural Development) Date Col No.

The Official Report has no index. However, it is possible to search for information on a particular topic by using the Scottish Parliament website Advanced Search engine http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/searchadvanced.aspx
Locating Hansard and the Scottish Parliament Official Reports in the Library

Commons and Lords Hansard are shelved in the Debates section on Level 7 of the University Library in the Maps and Official Publications Unit. The Official Reports of the Scottish Parliament are shelved in the Scottish Parliament section.

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