

The House of Lords

The House of Lords is the upper house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. It meets in the Palace of Westminster just like the house of commons. It has 827 members¹ as of the February. These members are not voted, but merely appointed. They are people who have been knighted or bishops for example, so called Life Peers.

Many people dislike the idea of the House of Lords not being elected, because they see it as undemocratic or even unfair, since the members are able to delay laws by up to one year with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. Considering the amount of time they have to change people's minds they could: delay a law by said year, convince people that it is not a good idea, and when law is then put forward again after that year it will not pass. For these and other reasons some people think that the House of Lords should be abolished and replaced by something more democratic, something more contemporary.

Justice Secretary Jack Straw shares this opinion and would like to replace the House of Lords with a senate consisting of 300 people who are wholly elected. This would of course break the tradition, upsetting many people, which can be seen for example by the users' comments to an article on the Mail Online news site concerning this subject.²

I personally definitely agree that there should be a more democratic replacement for the House of Lords, I was surprised that there is that much protest when I looked at the comments on the said online article. All the same I think Britain should not continue this tradition but realise that it would be more sensible to replace it with a more modern and more democratic solution.

– Kai Middleton

1 <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/lords/>

2 <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1257811/House-Lords-abolished-confirms-Jack-Straw.html>