Open Source: Parliamentary Search

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House of Commons Library
Parliamentary Search: What is it?

- OWLIM Triple Store & RDF – procedural data repository
- Indexing – librarians, indexers & taxonomy experts
- Bespoke indexing tool, Smartlogic taxonomy/thesaurus manager
- Procedural application ➔ Indexing ➔ Parly Search
- Parly Search = Lucene / Solr + Ontology Manager
- Why Lucene / Solr?
  - we were already using it for something else!
Digression: What is RDF?

- Resource Description Framework
- Linked data standard
- Describes data using subject, object & predicate
- Example: Steve’s email is wisesa@parliament.uk
  - Subject = Steve
  - Predicate = ‘has email address’
  - Object = wisesa@parliament.uk
  - 3 components, so called a ‘triple’
- Semantic query language - SPARQL
Parly Search: What does it look like?
Welcome to Parliamentary Search

In Parliamentary Search you can find Parliamentary material, European scrutiny and information, as well as Research briefings published by the Commons and Lords Libraries, and by POST. For more details on content and coverage, see the About Search page.

Search Tips:
- Limit your search to a particular category of information using the tabs at the top of this screen.
- Find out more about your search results by switching the View from Default to Summary or Detailed

Parliamentary Search training courses - open to all Intranet users - are provided by the Commons Library.

If you experience problems accessing Parliamentary Search, or notice issues with the data or potential bugs, then please contact the PDS Service Desk on Ext.2001 or email digitalsupportdesk@parliament.uk.

⚠️ Laid papers for 17-19 session currently unavailable in Search

Laid papers and Statutory instrument records for the new Parliament are currently unavailable in Search.

Records for laid papers (Command papers, White papers, Commons papers, etc...) and Statutory instruments for the 17-19 session are currently unavailable in Parliamentary Search. A new papers laid application was built which did not include a feed to provide laid papers to Parliamentary Search.

Deposited papers and House of Lords papers for this session are available in Search as they are
Popular searches

The options below offer a quick and easy way to run popular search queries. Selecting an option from the list will take you to a simple menu where you can enter your search criteria. The results of your query will be shown in the Parliamentary Search results page. You can make further refinements to your query from the results page. To export your results, select from the options presented at the top of the results page.

Please see the Search homepage for the latest information on any currency issues, or visit the Parliamentary Search currency page.

Tabled questions by Member

Search by Member for oral or written questions tabled in the Commons for which no answer has been published. For written questions tabled in the Lords, search by Member for questions tabled from the 14/15 session for which no answer has been published.

Tabled written questions by answering body

Search by answering body for written questions tabled in the Commons for which no answer has been published. For written questions tabled in the Lords, search by answering body for questions tabled from the 14/15 session for which no answer has been published.

Parliamentary questions

Search for Oral and/or Written questions, filtered by session and legislature. Further refinements, e.g. by Subject, by Member or Department, can be made from the results page.

Members’ contributions

Search for Members’ contributions, filtered by session, legislature and Chamber/Committee.
Advanced Search

BREXIT ((type:"Parliamentary committees") OR (type:"Parliamentary questions") OR (type:"Research briefings")) session:17/19 legislature:"House of Commons"

Quick search | Clear all

Text searching

Search for content with:
- all of these words BREXIT
- this phrase
- one or more of these words
- none of these words

Content type
- Early day motions
- European scrutiny and information
- Legislation
- Members' contributions
- Parliamentary committees
- Parliamentary papers
- Parliamentary proceedings
- Parliamentary questions
- Research briefings

Additional filters

As you select content types to include in your search, more filters that are applicable to those types will appear in this section.

Date

Session
17/19
16/17
15/16
14/15

Subject

Reference

Member/Author

Legislature
House of Commons
House of Lords

Legislation

Chamber/Committee
General committees
Home Office: Brexit
To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much and what proportion of her Department’s expenditure has been identified as relating to its work on the UK leaving the EU in 2017-18.
31 Jul 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5626
Asked by: Williams, Hywel | Answered by: Brandon Lewis | Department: Home Office

Attorney General: Brexit
To ask the Attorney General, what amount of the Law Officers’ Departments’ annual expenditure is allocated to work relating to the UK’s exit from the EU.
27 Jul 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5370
Asked by: Williams, Hywel | Answered by: Jeremy Wright | Department: Attorney General

Attorney General: Brexit
To ask the Attorney General, how many staff in the Law Officers’ department have responsibilities relating to the UK’s exit from the EU.
27 Jul 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5143
Asked by: Williams, Hywel | Answered by: Jeremy Wright | Department: Attorney General

Skilled Workers: Vacancies
To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer to 26 June 2017 to Question 233, what steps are being taken to ensure that ongoing skills gaps of all types are filled.
27 Jul 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 3006
Asked by: Green, Kate | Answered by: Anne Milton | Department: Department for Education

Department for Communities and Local Government: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill
To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate his Department has made of the potential number of Acts or parts of Acts that will be subject to repeal as a result of provisions in the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.
26 Jul 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5988
Asked by: Lake, Ben | Answered by: Jake Berry | Department: Department for Communities and Local Government

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

more
Department for Communities and Local Government: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill: Written question - 5988

Q  Asked by **Ben Lake** (Ceredigion)  

Department for Communities and Local Government

Department for Communities and Local Government: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate his Department has made of the potential number of Acts or parts of Acts that will be subject to repeal as a result of provisions in the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

A  Answered by: **Jake Berry**  

Government departments have been analysing the UK statute book and directly applicable EU law in areas of responsibility to enable an assessment of the scale of the changes needed. This is likely to include the repeal, but also the amendment, of provisions in Acts but we are not in a position to give a sense of scale at this time.

In the Government White Paper on the Repeal Bill, published on 30 March 2017, we estimated around 800-1,000 EU-exit Statutory Instruments will be required.
CEBR: hard Brexit could 'severely limit' construction market | News | Inside Housing
27 Oct 2017 | Research material
Corporate author: Inside Housing

The impact of Brexit on children: Key policy recommendations for the new government that Parliament considers the impact of Brexit on the rights of children and young people and urges the Government
28 Jul 2017 | Research material
Corporate author: Children's Rights Alliance for England

Reality bites: the Brexit negotiations seen from the other side of the Channel
The assumption that the EU27 are willing to accept any Brexit deal is misguided.
24 Jul 2017 | Research material
Corporate author: epc.eu

Brexit and the threat to Northern Ireland
20 Jul 2017 | Research material | Issue 115, August/September 2017
Corporate author: CER Bulletin

Why the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights Needs to Remain Part of the UK’s Legal Arrangements Post the UK’s Exiting the European Union: An Introduction
Briefing note on the EU Withdrawal Bill with particular reference to the EU Charter. Prepared by Jonathan Cooper OBE.
17 Jul 2017 | Research material
Corporate author: Doughty Street Chambers

Cambridge plans postgraduate growth to counter financial worries
University cites Brexit as factor causing financial uncertainty – but also as recruitment
13 Jul 2017 | Research material
Corporate author: Times Higher Education

Cambridge set to seize on ‘Brexit opportunities’ by increasing postgraduate intake
The University of Cambridge will increase its postgraduate student intake in a bid to offset the continued downturn in its financial outlook.
Advantages of Lucene Solr for Parliamentary Search

- Implemented on Parliament’s website – experience
- Simple to set up a development version / test-bed
- Lots of other users – readily available skill in marketplace
- Plenty of resources available to train developers/support staff
- Search algorithm: able to control, easy to modify, able to plug in our own taxonomies as facets
- Not as processor/server/memory-hungry as previous search engine
- Functional, flexible, and fast
- Reliable
Some links:

- Public beta version of Parliamentary Search
  - [http://search-material.parliament.uk/](http://search-material.parliament.uk/)

- Information on Apache Lucene /Solr
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_Solr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_Solr)

- Information on Smartlogic Semaphore/Ontology Editor
  - [https://www.smartlogic.com/products](https://www.smartlogic.com/products)
Thank you – any questions?

Steve Wise
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Some other search examples:
Popular searches: Parliamentary questions

Search for answered Oral and/or Written questions. Further refinements, e.g. by Member or Department, can be made from the results page.

**Parliamentary Questions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
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<th>Written</th>
<th>Both</th>
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<tr>
<td>OPQ type</td>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Supplementary</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislature</td>
<td>House of Commons</td>
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<td>Both</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session</td>
<td>17/19</td>
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<td>15/16</td>
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Parliamentary Search is updated with new questions from the Table Office at the end of each day, and with answers as they are published.

Note that as information systems have evolved over the years, approaches to storing information relating to Parliamentary material have also changed. This can mean that the data provided in rank and tally lists are not strictly comparable over time. Please see the Contents and Coverage section of the About Search page for further guidance. If you have a query about this service, please contact the Library via email to hclibrary@parliament.uk or by phone on x3666.

Version: 1.25.1.5
To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether the Government has the capacity to provide citizens with all the data it holds on them.

02 Aug 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5301
Asked by: Onwurah, Chi | Answered by: Caroline Nokes | Department: Cabinet Office

**Passports**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many passport applications processed by the Passport Office missed the three week target for processing in each month between 1 January and 30 June 2017.

01 Aug 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5754
Asked by: Hanson, David | Answered by: Brandon Lewis | Department: Home Office

**EU Nationals: Disability**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens residing in the UK have a disability.

01 Aug 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 4350
Asked by: Crawley, Angela | Answered by: Brandon Lewis | Department: Home Office

**Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements**

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, with reference to paragraph 49 of his Department’s policy paper entitled Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU, published on 26 June 2017, what healthcare arrangements have been set out in EU Regulations and domestic law for UK nationals and EU citizens that the Government will seek to protect and guarantee.

31 Jul 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5866
Asked by: Blomfield, Paul | Answered by: Mr Steve Baker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

**Home Office: Brexit**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much and what proportion of her Department’s expenditure has been identified as relating to its work on the UK leaving the EU in 2017-18.

31 Jul 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5626
Asked by: Williams, Huwel | Answered by: Brandon Lewis | Department: Home Office
Popular searches: Members' contributions

Search for contributions made by Members during Parliamentary proceedings including oral question time. By default, this report will exclude contributions made by Members acting in the capacity of Speaker or Chair. Oral questions for which no answer has appeared in Hansard are also excluded.

Members' contributions

Exclude Oral question time contributions?  
- Yes  
- No

Legislature
- House of Commons
- House of Lords

Chamber/Committee
- All
- Commons chamber
- Westminster Hall

Session

17/19
- 16/17
- 15/16
- 14/15
- 13/14
- 12/13

Search

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Version: 1.25.1.5
Future of the NHS

<p>That applause is on the record, and I am delighted that my hon. Friend takes that view.</p>

We see this investment as backing the exemplary STP plans that have been published thus far, and we hope that other areas, whose plans are in less good shape, will be encouraged to look at those that have...

20 Jul 2017 | Proceeding contributions | House of Commons | 627 c1104

Member: Mr Dunne

Future of the NHS

<p>It was totally unguarded. I am extremely grateful, as I am sure all clinicians and all those who work in the NHS in Dorset will be.</p>

20 Jul 2017 | Proceeding contributions | House of Commons | 627 c1104

Member: Richard Drax

Future of the NHS

<p>I am not keen to hand administrative work to clinicians, but I recognise that there is a role for ensuring that senior clinicians are present and in charge of activity in wards. That is the experience I am seeing as I visit acute hospitals around the country: senior members of staff, normally coming...

20 Jul 2017 | Proceeding contributions | House of Commons | 627 cc1103-4

Member: Mr Dunne

Future of the NHS

<p>I am listening carefully to the Minister. Would it be naive to say that what we want to see is matron, in the form of Hattie Jacques, back on the wards and to hand far more administrative work, if that is the right phrase, back to clinicians, with whom it originally lay?</p>

20 Jul 2017 | Proceeding contributions | House of Commons | 627 c1103

Member: Richard Drax