



As Meg Russell outlined in her [talk](#) at Weekend 2, the House of Lords is less powerful than the House of Commons. Unlike the Commons, it cannot remove the government from office, and it can only delay, rather than veto, most bills. Although it can propose amendments to legislation, these must also be agreed by the Commons. Its primary function is therefore a revising chamber, asking the Commons to reconsider its plans.

The vast majority of members of the House of Lords are appointed, rather than hereditary, peers. There are two key routes to appointment. Peers representing political parties are appointed by the House of Lords Appointments Commission. Members of the public or political parties can also suggest people for appointment as non-party-political peers; these suggestions are then reviewed by the Appointments Commission, which puts forward recommendations. In either case, the

The House of Lords has explored methods for reducing its size. These have involved encouraging peers to consider retirement, and asking governments to avoid making large numbers of appointments.

Once more powerful than the House of Commons, the role of the House of Lords has changed significantly over time. One major reform was the Parliament Act 1911. This removed the previous power of the House of Lords to veto bills, replacing it with the delaying power the Lords has today.

The composition of the Lords has also changed dramatically. The