



HOUSE OF COMMONS

# About Select Committees

**Easy read**



# About Select Committees



Select Committees are small groups of people.



They work for **Parliament**.



Parliament is a group of people who make laws and check what the Government is doing.



Parliament is split into

- The House of Commons
- The House of Lords
- The Queen.

## What Select Committees do



Only people from the House of Commons or the House of Lords can be part of a Select Committee.

Select Committees look closely at

- what the Government is doing
- other things to do with the Government's work
- anything else that Parliament decides needs to be looked at.



They find out information and say what they think needs to happen next.

Select Committees are useful and can save Parliament a lot of time.



This is because it is easier for a small group to look closely at something and say what needs to happen than the whole of the House of Commons or Lords.

## Select Committees in the House of Commons



They look at lots of different things.

Some look at how each part of the Government is working.



For example, they look at

- how much money each part of the Government is spending
- how new rules and laws will work.



Select Committees may also look at things like

- how public money is spent
- a problem happening in the country
- how Parliament works.



## Select Committees in the House of Lords



They look at certain subjects more closely.



People in the House of Lords are there because they know a lot about a certain subject.



This means they can help to look at the subject in a lot of detail when they are part of a Select Committee.

Select Committees in the House of Lords may look closely at subjects like



- laws and rules made in Europe



- the media. This is TV, radio, newspapers, websites and magazines



- money in the country. This is called the economy.



Some Select Committees are people from both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

## How Select Committees work



Select Committees find out information about the subject they are looking at.



Select Committees can also ask people from the Government to answer questions.



They ask people outside of Parliament for information and ideas as well.



Select Committees must then tell Parliament

- what they have found out
- what they think needs to change.



They write a report about this.

Everyone can see the reports.

## How you can find out more



You can come along to listen to some Select Committee meetings.



Some meetings are on TV.



The website for Parliament has lots of information about Select Committees and their work.

**[www.parliament.uk/about/how/committees/select](http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/committees/select)**



Or you can phone our information line to find out more on **020 7219 4272**.