Codebook: Private Members' Bills in the UK House of Commons, 1964-2017

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Summary

This data set lists all private members' bills proposed in the UK House of Commons between the 1964 and 2017 general elections. It also records the name of the MP proposing each bill, and the procedure by which they did so. In total, this covers 5,198 proposals. This represents all private members' bills introduced in the period, with the exception of those which were brought to the Commons after being initially proposed in the Lords.

Citation

Users of the data are kindly requested to cite the following paper, which contains the research for which this data was originally collected. That research was funded by a Nuffield College/Economic and Social Research Council Doctoral Studentship.

- Fleming, Thomas G. Forthcoming. 'Partisan Dealignment and Personal Vote-Seeking in Parliamentary Behaviour'. *Political Studies*.

Variables

The data set includes the following variables.

Name	*Description*
session	The parliamentary session in which the bill was proposed.
title	The title of the proposed bill.
sponsor	The MP who sponsored the proposed bill.
method	The procedural route by which the bill was proposed. Either: • "presentation" – bills simply presented to the Commons • "ballot" – bills introduced under the ballot procedure • "ten minute rule" – bills proposed under the Ten Minute Rule, where the motion for leave to bring in the bill was successfully passed. • "ten minute rule (motion negatived)" – bills proposed under the Ten Minute Rule, where the motion for leave to bring in the bill was defeated.

Sources

This data was collected from various sources, which differed across three periods.

- 1964-1983: The principal source was the House of Commons' *Sessional Index*. Unsuccessful attempts to introduce Ten Minute Rule bills were identified by consulting *Hansard* (1964-68) and a series of research notes published in *Parliamentary Affairs* (1968-83) (Burton and Drewry 1970a, 1970b, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1985).
- 1983-2012: The principal source was the House of Commons' *Sessional Information Digest*. The proposers of unsuccessful attempts to introduce Ten Minute Rule bills were identified by consulting *Hansard*.
- 2012-2017: The principal source was the Parliament website (https://services.parliament.uk/bills/). Unsuccessful attempts to introduce Ten Minute Rule bills were identified using information provided by the House of Commons Library.

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