Time limits for debate

Note: Not all motions have time limits, for example there are no time limits for debate on personal explanations or government motions not related to bills. Time limits apply only when they have been set by the relevant standing order.

Government bills (SO 144)

Second and third readings

Minister/Lead Opposition/ first crossbench speaker:	40 mins
All other speakers:	20 mins
Minister in reply:	20 mins

Note: A member may move that their time limit be extended by not more than 10 mins. Question is put without debate.

Committee of the Whole

Speakers:	15 mins

Note: The member speaking may seek the leave of the Committee to continue speaking for a period of no longer than 15 mins.

Question time (SO 64)

Question (or supplementary question):	1 min
Answer:	3 mins
Answer to supplementary:	2 mins

Note: A Minister may seek the leave of the House to extend the time for an answer by one minute.

Take note of Answers to Questions (SO 69)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	3 mins

Debate interrupted after 30 minutes to allow a Minister to speak, if desired.

Committee reports & government responses (SO 239)

Mover:	15 mins
All other speakers:	10 mins
Mover in reply:	10 mins

Private members' bills (SO 193)

Leave to bring in bill

Debate:	60 mins
Speakers:	10 mins

Debate interrupted ten minutes before end of debate time (ie. after 50 mins) to allow mover to speak in reply.

Mover in reply:	10 mins

Second and third readings

Debate:	no overall time limit
Mover:	30 mins
All other speakers:	20 mins
Mover in reply:	20 mins

Committee of the Whole

Speakers:	15 mins

Private members' motions (SO 192(1))

Debate:	30 mins
Mover:	5 mins
Speakers:	3 mins

Debate interrupted after 30 mins to allow mover to speak in reply.

Mover in reply:	3 mins

Private members' long form motions (SO 192(2))

Debate:	120 mins
Mover:	20 mins
All other speakers:	15 mins

Debate interrupted after 120 mins to allow mover to speak in reply

Mover in reply:	5 mins

Members' statements (SO 43(2))

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	3 mins

Time limits for debate

Note: Not all motions have time limits, for example there are no time limits for debate on personal explanations or government motions not related to bills. Time limits apply only when they have been set by the relevant standing order.

Disallowance motions (SO 82)

Debate:	90 mins
Mover/Minister:	15 mins
All other speakers	10 mins

Debate interrupted after 90 mins to allow mover to speak in reply

Mover in reply:	10 mins

Matters of Public Importance (SO 206)

Question of urgency

Mover/Minister:	10 mins

Debate

Debate:	90 mins
Mover/Minister/Lead Opposition*:	15 mins
All other speakers:	10 mins

Debate interrupted after 90 mins to allow mover to speak in reply

Mover in reply:	10 mins

* Only when motion moved by a Government member

Urgency Motions (SO 207)

Question of urgency

Mover/Minister:	10 mins

Debate

Mover/Minister/Lead Opposition*:	15 mins
All other speakers:	10 mins
Mover in reply:	10 mins

*only when motion moved by a Government member

Suspension of standing orders (SO 204)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	5 mins

SSO for SO 52 or SO 55

Mover/Minister only:	5 mins

Debate interrupted after 30 mins. Mover cannot speak in reply.

Cut-off dates for Government bills (SO 145)

Question of urgency

Minister/Opposition:	10 mins
2 Crossbench members from different parties:	5 mins

Declaring Council bills urgent (SO 146)

Question of urgency

Minister/Opposition:	10 mins
2 Crossbench members from different parties:	5 mins

Selection of Bills Committee Report (SO 141)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	5 mins

Debate interrupted after 30 mins to allow mover to speak in reply.

Mover in reply:	5 mins

Consideration of a document after tabling (SO 59)

Debate:	60 mins
Chair/Mover:	15 mins
All other speakers:	10 mins

Debate interrupted after 60 minutes to allow mover to speak in reply.

Mover in reply:	10 mins

Ministerial statements (SO 50)
(count up/count down)

Minister:	no time limit
Opposition:	equal time to respond

Adjournment of the House (SO 33)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	5 mins