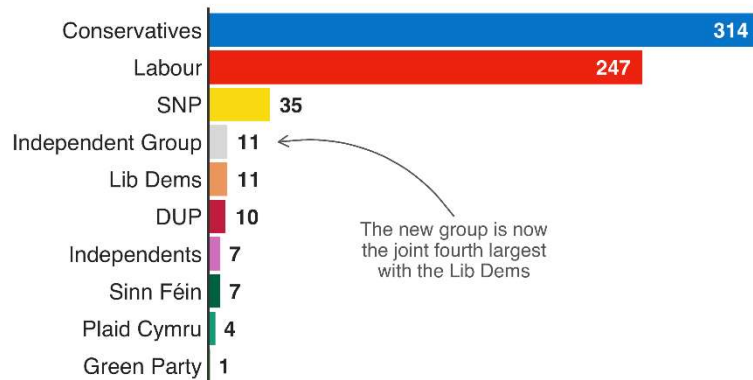




## The current state of parties in Parliament

Number of MPs with each group in the House of Commons



Note: Sinn Féin MPs do not take their seats

Source: BBC research

BBC

The Houses of Parliament, also known as the Palace of Westminster. The business of Parliament takes place in two Houses: the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

## Key Vocabulary

Cabinet	the committee of senior ministers responsible for controlling government policy.
Democracy	a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.
Dictatorship	a government or a social situation where one person makes all the rules and decisions without input from anyone else.
Election	a formal and organised choice by vote of a person for a political office or other position.
House of Commons	The House of Commons is the most powerful of Parliament's two houses. It has 659 members who are elected when the whole nation votes in a general election.
House of Lords	The House of Lords is Parliament's second chamber. Its main job is to 'double check' new laws to make sure they are fair and will work. There are 675 members of the Lords. They are not elected. They come from many different backgrounds.
Houses of Parliament	The Houses of Parliament is the Palace of Westminster, the meeting place of the House of Commons and the House of Lords of the United Kingdom.
Government	the group of people with the authority to govern a country or state e.g. our current Government is formed of the Conservative Party.
Laws	the system of rules which a particular country or community recognises as regulating the actions of its members.
Magna Carta	a charter of rights agreed to by King John of England at Runnymede, near Windsor, on 15 June 1215.
Majority	A majority is the greater part, or more than half, of the total. Needed to win an election.
MP (Member of Parliament)	a person formally elected by the British people to sit in the House of Commons and represent their views.
Political party	a group of people with similar political goals and opinions e.g. Labour, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats.
Prime Minister	the head of the UK's elected government.
Seats	means the number of people 'seated' or elected to sit in Parliament.
Vote	a formal indication of a choice between two or more candidates or courses of action, expressed typically through a ballot or a show of hands.