



Hansard Society Ltd

Annual Report and Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2025

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*Front cover image: The Attorney General,
Lord Hermer KC, addressing the Hansard Society's
Annual General Meeting on 2 September 2025*

Image credits

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Administrative and legal information

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Foreword

This is my final Annual Report reflecting on a full year as Chair of the Hansard Society. My tenure as Chair has been shaped by Brexit, the Covid pandemic and continuing political churn. Each has presented new opportunities for the Society's work, whilst placing new demands on our small organisation.



Perhaps the clearest example of the Society's contribution is our work on delegated legislation. Regulations affect people's rights, responsibilities and daily lives, yet the power to make them often attracts little scrutiny. We have helped move the issue beyond specialist circles and move it higher up the political and media agenda. Conversations with fellow Peers and MPs leave me in no doubt how highly they value the Society's expertise. Drawing on our research and daily monitoring of Statutory Instruments, we have exposed weaknesses in the system (see a particularly powerful example on pages 10–11) and proposed practical reforms to give Parliament a more effective say over the hundreds of regulations made by Ministers each year.

The Society has also found new ways to reach people. I am particularly proud of the *Parliament Matters* podcast. Its weekly conversations take our work to audiences across the UK and around the world, reaching people on a scale that monthly events at Westminster could never match. And our Parliament Matters Bulletin has helped people in Parliament and beyond to understand what is happening in the Commons and Lords each week and why it matters.

In 2025 we published the latest edition of *Britain Votes*, the post-general election series of our *Parliamentary Affairs* journal. The 2024 general election brought the challenges our democracy faces into sharp focus: the second lowest turnout of the post-war period, low participation among young people, and declining confidence in MPs and Westminster. These are signs that public support for parliamentary democracy and the rule of law, particularly among the next generation, cannot be taken for granted. Parliament must show that it can respond effectively and decisively to the country's changing needs: make good law in good time, hold the Government to account and earn public confidence.

That challenge gives the Society an important role in the years ahead. To play it, we must also be able to sustain our work through the political turbulence. Our future plans therefore have two connected aims: to set out how Parliament can become more effective, and to build a resilient, sustainable Society, capable of making that case over the long-term.

The work recorded in these pages was delivered by just four staff. People are often astonished that such a small team can produce work of this range and quality, commanding respect nationally and internationally. We do so without public funding, an endowment or a guaranteed source of philanthropic income. Raising the money to sustain our work is a continuing challenge. My warmest thanks go to our staff for their exceptional work, and to all those who so generously share their time and expertise with us. I am especially grateful to our funders, including the Legal Education Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, and to our members and donors. Their support makes the Society's work possible. We would welcome the support of others who share our concern for the future health and resilience of our democracy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Taylor'.

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton

Acknowledgements

The Trustees extend their sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the Hansard Society over the past year. We are especially grateful to the Legal Education Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for their continued support, and to our members, donors, and supporters whose commitment enables us to pursue our mission.

Our thanks also go to the Society's dedicated staff team for their professionalism, expertise, and commitment throughout the year.

Our Parliament Matters podcast continues to go from strength to strength thanks to the expertise and creativity of co-host and editor Mark D'Arcy, supported by producers Richard Townsend and Gareth Jones.

We remain indebted to the co-editors of *Parliamentary Affairs*, Professor Alistair Clark and Dr Louise Thompson, for their outstanding stewardship of the journal, particularly in bringing the special *Britain Votes 2024* general election edition to publication with the support of guest co-editor Professor Stuart Wilks-Heeg.

The journal's success depends above all on the quality of the research it publishes. We are grateful to the 79 scholars from around the world whose work appeared in *Parliamentary Affairs* during the year, and to the many others who submitted their research for consideration. We also extend our thanks to the expert peer reviewers whose time and careful judgement are essential to maintaining the journal's high academic standards. We thank the production team at Oxford University Press for ensuring the journal continues to reach readers around the world every quarter.

Finally, we are profoundly grateful to the many MPs, Peers, parliamentary officials, academics, consultants, and partner organisations who generously shared their time and expertise with us during the year. We also acknowledge the invaluable support of many others across the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, the Senedd, and the Northern Ireland Assembly whose names cannot be published. Their advice, insight, and willingness to engage with our work continue to strengthen everything we do.

Our thanks in particular to:

Lord Alton of Liverpool	Lord Goodman of Wycombe	Aileen Murphie
Steve Baker	Dr Daniel Gover	Sarah Olney MP
Dr Stephen Holden Bates	Sandro Gozi MEP	Robbie Owen
Lord Beamish	Patrick Grady	George Owers
Steve Brine	Lord Hart of Tenby	Toby Perkins MP
Liam Byrne MP	Professor David Heald	Greg Power
Bambos Charalambous MP	Professor Jonathan Healey	Dr Craig Prescott
Dr Sofia Collignon	David Hencke	Lord Ricketts
Marsha de Cordova MP	Lord Hermer KC	Joshua Rozenberg
Dr Eloise Donnelly	Helen Jones	Professor Meg Russell
Professor Mark Elliott	Dr Peter Just	Dr Robert Saunders
Paul Evans	Danny Kruger MP	Dr Ruxandra Serban
Lord Falconer of Thoroton	Kim Leadbeater MP	Cat Smith MP
Professor Laurence Ferry	Valentine Low	Jamie Stone MP
Dame Elizabeth Gardiner	Kit Malthouse MP	Dr Marie Tidball MP
Professor Colin Gavaghan	Catherine McKinnell MP	Seb Whale
Lord Goldsmith KC	Dr Henry Midgley	Sarah Wollaston



Trustees' report

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law, present their annual report (pages 8–35) and accounts (pages 38–51) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, those of the governing documents, and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance, 'Charities and Public Benefit'. The Trustees review the activities of the Charity on an ongoing basis and are satisfied that they continue to be directly related to the Society's core mission and objectives.

Delegated legislation

The Hansard Society continued to be the leading independent voice on delegated legislation and delegated powers, highlighting a persistent constitutional problem: Parliament is increasingly asked to approve broad ministerial powers in primary legislation before key policy decisions have been made, while the regulations that give effect to those powers receive only limited parliamentary scrutiny.

Our work had particular impact during scrutiny of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. Our first briefing of the year, published in January 2025, examined two significant delegated powers in the assisted dying bill: one enabling ministers to specify the substances that could be used for an assisted death, and a broad ‘Henry VIII’ power to make regulations governing assisted dying services. This briefing informed debate in the Public Bill Committee and led to several amendments being tabled by MPs.

As the Bill evolved, so did our analysis. By the time it reached the House of Lords, the number of delegated powers had increased from 17 to 42. Our second briefing assessed whether parliamentary oversight had been strengthened or weakened, identifying continuing concerns about extensive Henry VIII powers, inconsistent scrutiny procedures, and the need for more policy detail to be set out in the Bill.

We raised similar concerns during scrutiny of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, where important policy choices – including a national scheme of delegation for planning functions and consumer benefits for households near new electricity transmission infrastructure – were left to delegated legislation. We argued that Parliament was again being asked to approve powers without sufficient policy detail, while the proposed scrutiny procedures offered



Monday 10 November – Friday 14 November 2025

Highlights

House of Commons

- **Tuesday:** David Lammy will face MPs at oral questions about the Ministry of Justice; Remembrance Day debate on the armed forces.
- **Wednesday:** PMQs; Conservative Opposition Day; Delegated Legislation Committee debates on new regulations for data centres and to increase immigration fees.
- **Thursday:** Planning and Infrastructure Bill begins “ping-pong”. Sir David Davis MP leads a debate on the legacy of the Troubles.

House of Lords

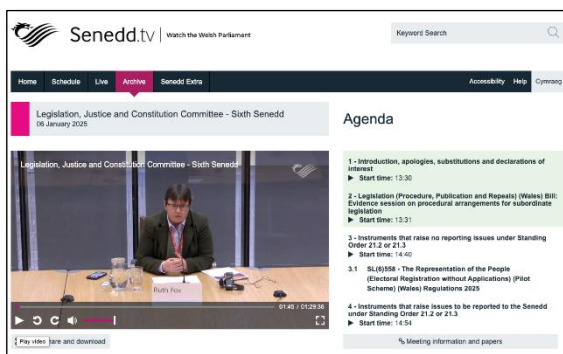
- **Monday:** Planning and Infrastructure Bill (Third Reading); Crime and Policing Bill (Committee).
- **Tuesday:** Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill (Report); Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill continues ping-pong; Tobacco and Vapes Bill (Grand Committee).

Our weekly Parliament Matters Bulletin

MPs and Peers little meaningful opportunity to influence the resulting regulations. By the end of the Bill’s Commons stages, the scrutiny arrangements for both powers had been strengthened.

Throughout the year, our Parliament Matters Bulletin helped bring delegated legislation to a wider parliamentary and public audience. Alongside weekly previews of Statutory Instrument debates and Delegated Legislation Committees, we published analysis of delegated powers in major bills, including the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill and the Pension Schemes Bill, ensuring these often-overlooked issues reached MPs and their staff as well as a broader readership.

We also pressed for wider reform. In our submission to the House of Commons Modernisation Committee, published in February 2025, we argued that improving the scrutiny of delegated legislation should be a top priority for Commons reform. We described delegated legislation as the “legislation of everyday life” and called for scrutiny procedures that better reflect the political and legal significance of individual Statutory Instruments.



Our Director's appearance before the Welsh Senedd's Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee on 6 January 2025

Our work also demonstrated how delegated legislation interacts with other constitutional issues. In evidence to the House of Lords International Agreements Committee, we warned that parliamentary scrutiny of treaties is weakened where implementation is left to delegated legislation, leaving MPs with little meaningful opportunity to debate let alone challenge significant legal changes affecting many aspects of domestic policy.

Our expertise was also recognised by other legislatures across the UK. Our Director gave evidence to the Senedd's Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee on legislative proposals to codify procedures for scrutinising delegated legislation in Wales, and to the Scottish Parliament's Delegated



Powers and Law Reform Committee on the growing use of framework bills and Henry VIII powers.

The Society's reputation as the leading authority in this field was further reflected in an invitation to contribute the chapter on delegated legislation to the second edition of the textbook *Exploring Parliament*, published by Oxford University Press. The inclusion of a dedicated chapter in this edition of the textbook reflects the growing importance of delegated legislation in the years since the first edition appeared in 2018.



Alongside our research and advocacy, our Statutory Instrument Tracker® continued to be an indispensable resource for monitoring the progress of delegated legislation. Tracking every Statutory Instrument laid before Parliament since the start of the 2017 session, together with consultations that may lead to new regulations, the Tracker brings together key information – including parent Acts, scrutiny procedures, parliamentary deadlines, committee reports, debate transcripts, and related instruments and consultations – making an otherwise complex process transparent and accessible.

In 2025 we tracked the progress of 578 Statutory Instruments and 279 SI-related consultations.

Case study: How our Statutory Instrument monitoring caught a critical legal error

One of the biggest challenges in delegated legislation is not simply the volume of regulations, but the complexity of some of the procedures used to scrutinise them.

Parliament has created at least 18 enhanced scrutiny procedures, each with its own rules, timetables and approval requirements.

While intended to strengthen parliamentary oversight, the proliferation of these procedures has also increased the risk of administrative error.

That risk became reality in July 2025.

While carrying out routine daily updates to our Statutory Instrument Tracker®, our Researcher, Matthew England, discovered that a Legislative Reform Order (LRO) relating to the disclosure of adult social care data had been made by the Minister and brought into force before it had been approved by the House of Commons.

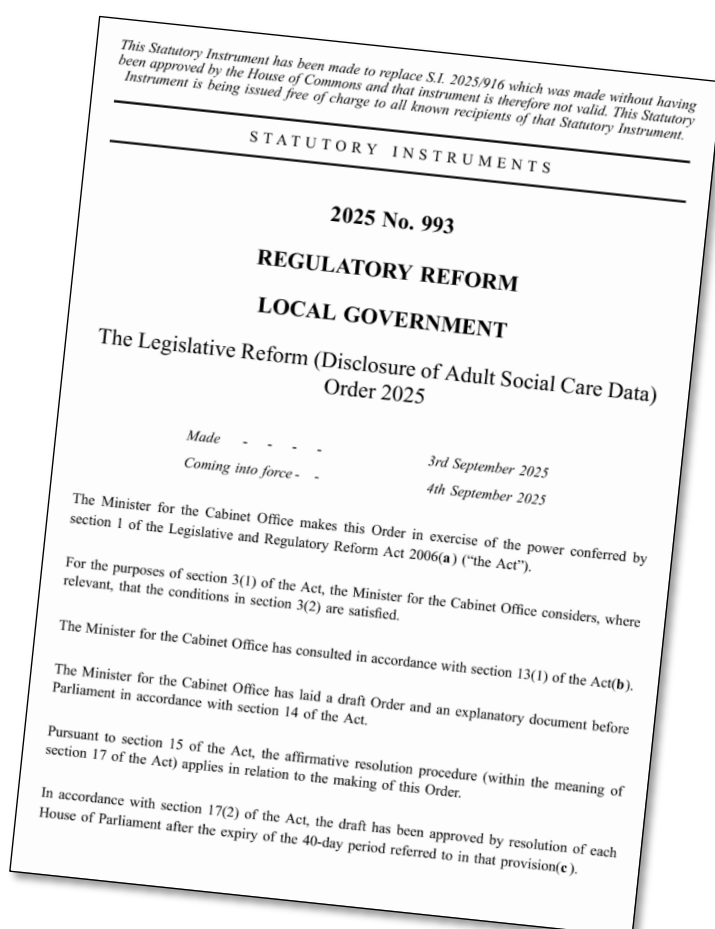
The Order was subject to one of Parliament's most complex and rarely used scrutiny procedures: the super-affirmative procedure. Both Houses needed to approve the Order, but MPs did not need to debate it and no Delegated Legislation Committee was required, because the relevant Commons select committee had unanimously recommended that it should proceed. Somewhere in the process, however, the Government failed to table the final Commons approval motion before making the Order.

The complexity of the process helps to explain how this happened. Cabinet Office guidance on producing an LRO runs to around 60 pages – more than twice the length of the Act that created the procedure. Neither the officials responsible for the Order nor the Minister had handled an LRO before. Only four LROs had been made since 2018, and none since 2022, leaving little

institutional memory. LROs are rarely used because the length of the procedure can often exceed that for primary legislation: the Cabinet Office's own project timetable allowed up to 46 weeks to complete the process.

The consequences could have been serious. The Order was intended to allow local authorities to share adult social care data with the National Fraud Initiative for the purpose of detecting fraud. Had councils relied on an Order that had not been lawfully approved, they might have shared sensitive personal data without a valid legal basis.

Recognising the seriousness of the issue, we alerted Cabinet Office officials, parliamentary clerks, and the responsible Minister, Georgia Gould MP. Within 24 hours, the Cabinet Office wrote to every local authority instructing them not to rely on the Order and had suspended the data-sharing system until the error could be rectified.



There was real concern that the mistake could require the entire process to begin again, delaying implementation of the policy by up to a year. However, following discussions during the Summer recess between Cabinet Office officials, parliamentary clerks, and the legislation team at the National Archives, it was agreed that the Government should table the outstanding approval motion when Parliament returned in September, thereby regularising the Order.

The episode demonstrated how procedural complexity can itself become a legal risk. Our Statutory Instrument Tracker® – combined with the Society’s expertise – identified a critical error that the Government had overlooked. The Society thereby helped to ensure that the law was made properly and prevented what could have become a significant data governance failure affecting councils across the country.



Hansard
Society
Insight

Statutory Instrument
Tracker®

My dashboard

All Statutory Instruments

Events calendar

All consultations

Notifications

Legislative Reform (Disclosure of Adult Social Care Data) Order 2025

[View SI No.993](#)[Remove from watch list](#)

PROCEDURE
Strengthened

MAKING DEPARTMENT OR
AGENCY
Cabinet Office

POLICY AREA
Local Government, Data
Protection, Social Care

SESSION
2024-26

CONCLUDED

Parliamentary activity

Consideration by
Joint Committee on
SIs
TBA

Consideration by
designated
Commons
Committee
1 Jul 2025

Consideration by
designated Lords
Committee
13 Jun 2025

House of Commons
Approval motion
2 Sep 2025

House of Lords
Debate
16 Jul 2025

House of Lords
Approval motion
21 Jul 2025

⚠ On 22 July 2025, the Government made the instrument, which accordingly came into force on 23 July 2025. However, we can find no record of the approval motion having been agreed by the House of Commons and are currently raising the matter with the relevant authorities.

⚠ Procedural Notes: (i) There is no requirement for the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments to formally consider Legislative Reform Orders (LROs). (ii) Although the House of Lords will always debate and vote on an LRO, this is not the case in the House of Commons. If the Business and Trade Select Committee recommends the LRO for approval without a division, then the formal approval motion is put to the House without debate.

⚠ On 4 September 2025, a fresh version of the instrument was made, having been approved by the House of Commons. The instrument includes a note that the previous version was made without having been approved by the House of Commons and was therefore invalid. This version is therefore being issued free of charge to all recipients of the earlier version.

Our Statutory Instrument Tracker gave subscribers immediate insight into the Legislative Reform (Disclosure of Adult Social Care Data) Order 2025 and the Government’s procedural mistake in making it before Parliament had given the approval required by law

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Hosting the official Lord Speaker hustings

As the House of Lords prepared to elect a successor to Lord McFall of Alcluith, the Hansard Society once again hosted the official hustings for candidates for Lord Speaker.

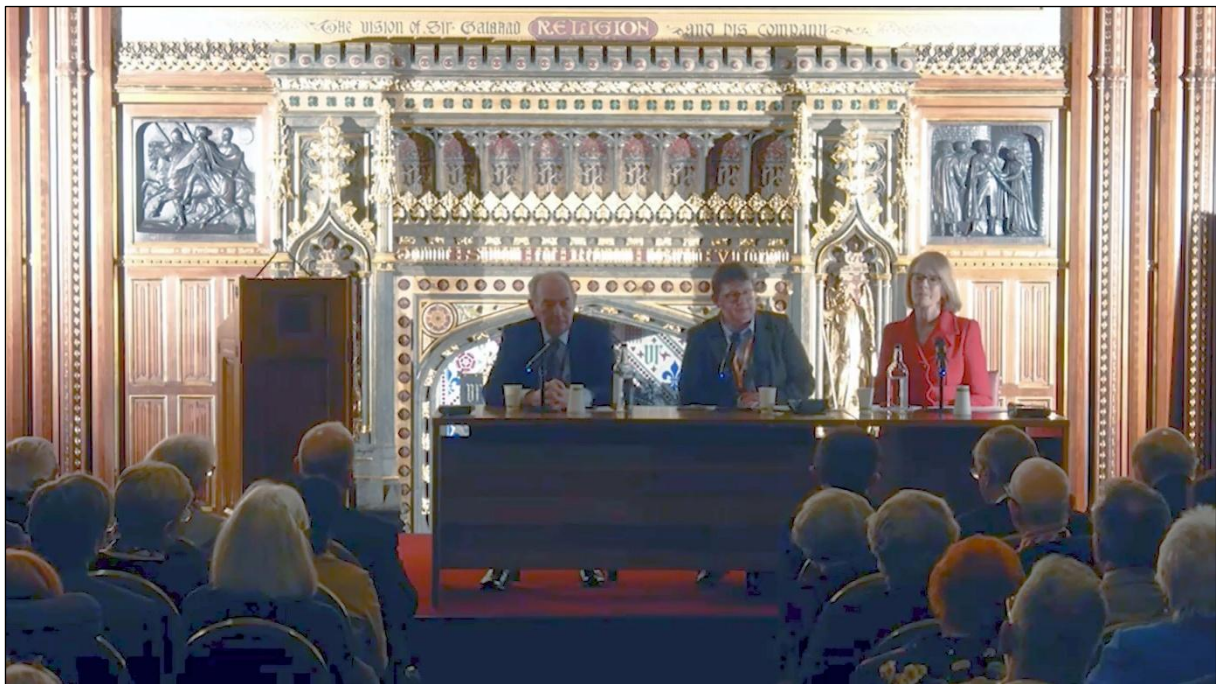
Chaired by the Society's Director, Ruth Fox, the event on 9 December 2025 gave Peers an opportunity to hear directly from the candidates about their vision for the role.

Lord Forsyth of Drumlean (former Conservative MP and Secretary of State for Scotland Sir Michael Forsyth) and Baroness Bull (former ballerina at the Royal Ballet and Creative Director of the Royal Opera House Deborah Bull) were questioned on some of the most significant issues facing the House

of Lords, including impartiality, self-regulation, public trust, governance, parliamentary security, and the future of the Restoration and Renewal Programme.

We also included the hustings as a special episode of our podcast, offering listeners a unique opportunity to hear the discussion.

The event continued the Society's longstanding role in supporting elections for Parliament's presiding officers. We previously hosted the official Lord Speaker hustings in 2011, 2016, and 2021, staged the first-ever public hustings for candidates for Speaker of the House of Commons in 2009, and co-hosted the 2019 Commons Speaker hustings with *The House* magazine.



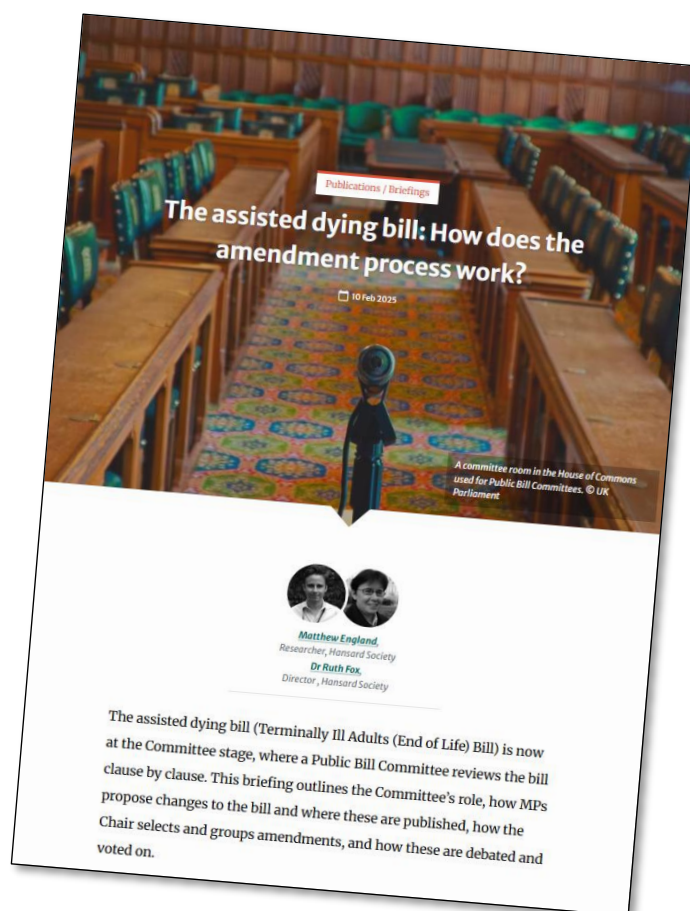
Lord Forsyth and Baroness Bull either side of Hansard Society Director Ruth Fox at the Lord Speaker hustings in the Robing Room of the Palace of Westminster on 9 December 2025

The assisted dying bill

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill – a Private Member's Bill to legalise assisted dying – generated intense public interest and sustained parliamentary debate before falling at the end of the 2024–26 Session.

While discussion of the Bill naturally centred on the underlying ethical and policy questions, its passage through Parliament also focused significant attention on the legislative process itself. The Hansard Society played a leading role in informing that debate, providing impartial, authoritative analysis of the parliamentary procedures, while using the Bill's progress to highlight challenges in legislative scrutiny.

Following the Bill's Second Reading in the House of Commons on 29 November 2024, it was referred to a Public Bill Committee which began its work on 11 February 2025. To help parliamentarians, journalists and the wider public understand this often-complex stage, we published a comprehensive guide, *The assisted dying bill: How does the amendment process work?* The guide explained how amendments are tabled, selected, debated and decided. We also produced briefings in



advance of Report Stage and Third Reading, setting out how proceedings were likely to unfold. These resources were widely shared online and frequently cited in national media coverage.





Our article in The House magazine on the assisted dying bill and the significance of it being a Private Member's Bill (June 2025)

Our Director, Dr Ruth Fox, and Researcher, Matthew England, also contributed to the public debate through an article in *The House* magazine, examining claims that the Bill had been “rushed” through the House of Commons. Their analysis concluded that, although the pre-legislative policy development could have been more robust, the Bill had in fact received an unusually high level of Commons scrutiny, even compared with large Government bills. The issues and data set out in the article were raised by MPs during Business Questions in the Commons chamber on the day of publication.

Before the Bill was considered by the House of Lords, we published a comprehensive guide to the Lords legislative process. Our briefing warned that the key risk to the Bill was not outright rejection, but delay. A large volume of amendments, we warned, could consume the limited time available and prevent it from completing its passage through the Upper House:

“A determined minority of Peers could table hundreds of amendments to this Bill and insist on lengthy debate.

Since 2010, 28 Bills have attracted more than 500 amendments and four have seen over 1,000 proposed amendments. All of these were Government Bills, where ministers could grant more time. For a Private Member's Bill, where time is scarcer, such tactics could prove fatal.”

That warning proved prescient. More than 1,200 amendments were tabled, resulting in extended debate that prevented the Bill from completing its passage through the Lords before prorogation. Our briefing had also correctly anticipated, eight months in advance, that prorogation was likely to occur shortly before the local elections.



Special series of our Parliament Matters podcast

Alongside our written analysis, we used our Parliament Matters podcast to provide in-depth coverage of the Bill and the parliamentary procedures shaping its fate. Through a series of special episodes, we followed the Bill from its introduction in the Commons to its eventual demise at the end of the session, combining interviews with the Bill's principal architects, perspectives from key political participants, and expert procedural analysis.

The series secured contributions from several of the key figures most closely associated with the legislation.

The Bill's sponsor, Kim Leadbeater MP, joined us to discuss her stewardship of the legislation, the amendments she introduced to address concerns during the scrutiny process, and the personal pressures of leading one of the parliament's most high-profile and controversial debates. We also spoke to Lord Falconer of Thoroton ahead of the Bill's Second Reading in the House of Lords, where he would act as its sponsor. A longstanding advocate of assisted dying reform, he reflected on the Bill's prospects in the Upper House and the wider campaign to change the law.



Dame Elizabeth Gardiner, the recently retired First Parliamentary Counsel and former head of the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, gave a rare interview discussing the legal and drafting challenges involved in preparing the legislation – work she undertook on a pro bono basis for the Bill's sponsor.

As the Bill progressed, we also heard directly from political participants on all sides of the debate. Public Bill Committee members Sarah Olney and Kit Malthouse reflected on the scrutiny process in the Commons, while Bambos Charalambous and Danny Kruger discussed the challenges of organising support and opposition to the Bill. Dr Ben Spencer brought the perspective of a former academic specialising in mental capacity, and Dr Marie Tidball discussed both her amendments to the Bill and her experience as a newly elected disabled MP navigating Westminster's physical and procedural barriers. With questions arising about whether and how the legislation should be reviewed if enacted, we talked to Professor Colin Gavaghan about the lessons from New Zealand's experience of assisted dying reform.

Former senior Commons Clerk Paul Evans guided our audience through the workings of Public Bill Committees, the amendment process, Report Stage, and Third Reading, while former Clerk of the Parliaments Sir David Beamish explained the distinctive procedures and conventions of the House of Lords, assessed the Bill's prospects in the Upper House, and later decoded the significance of its marathon Second Reading debate. We also examined the Lords' unusual decision to refer the Bill to a temporary select committee, with analysis from Dr Daniel Gover, one of the UK's leading authorities on Private Members' Bills, alongside Hansard Society researcher Matthew England.

By bringing together the Bill's sponsors, leading supporters and opponents, legislative drafters, parliamentary practitioners, and academic experts, the podcast series provided a unique forum for informed discussion of both the legislation and the parliamentary processes governing its progress. It reinforced the Hansard Society's reputation as a trusted, non-partisan source of insight and expertise at the centre of one of the most closely watched legislative debates of the parliament.

Through our written briefings, podcast coverage, and media commentary, we helped MPs, Peers, journalists, and the public better understand not only how Parliament scrutinises legislation, but also how parliamentary procedure can shape political outcomes. Our work was cited on 11 occasions by MPs and Peers during debates in both Houses on the Bill. By improving understanding of the legislative process, we

contributed to a more informed public and parliamentary debate. We also helped equip many MPs – for whom this was their first experience of legislating – in navigating the complexities of parliamentary scrutiny and the amendment process, enabling them to engage more effectively with the Bill's detailed provisions.



"I was out doing a leaflet delivery as every good Lib Dem does at the weekend. I was listening to the podcast and it was really, really interesting. It actually explained things to me that I didn't previously know about groupings and amendments and so on. And it was great. It gave me quite a bit of confidence going into the bill committee because it's my first bill committee. I haven't done one before. And it's quite an interesting one to get started on. But yes, in terms of kind of explaining why we do the things the way we do them, it was brilliant. So, thanks very much for that."

Sarah Olney MP
14 February 2025



Past and present Petitions Committee chairs Cat Smith MP, Catherine McKinnell MP, and Jamie Stone MP participating in an episode of Parliament Matters (November 2025)

Parliament Matters podcast

Our weekly podcast remained at the heart of our public engagement work throughout the year, with 59 episodes released in 2025.

Presented by former BBC parliamentary correspondent Mark D'Arcy and the Society's Director, Ruth Fox, and produced by former BBC radio producers Richard Townsend and Gareth Jones, *Parliament Matters* reflects the Society's core mission: explaining how Parliament works and exploring how it can work better. In the spirit of Lord Reith, we aim to inform, educate, and entertain. By combining expert analysis with lively discussion, the podcast places political developments in their parliamentary context, going beyond the headlines to examine the procedures, conventions, and history that shape Westminster.

During the year we welcomed 54 guests, including 14 current MPs, five former MPs, eight members of the House of Lords, two former parliamentary officials, and 16 academics. We continued to reflect the political balance of Westminster, with guests from the Labour, Conservative, Liberal

Democrat, and Scottish National parties, as well as Crossbench Peers.

A particular highlight was our special series following the progress of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill throughout its passage through Parliament. Across multiple episodes, we tracked the assisted dying bill through each stage of its parliamentary journey, explaining both the political debate and the complex legislative procedures involved.

Whipping Yarns

Our Whipping Yarns mini-series offered a glimpse behind the scenes of Westminster by exploring the often-misunderstood role of party whips. Former Scottish National Party Chief Whip Patrick Grady reflected on managing the party's expansion from six to 56 MPs after the 2015 general election, and on the pastoral responsibilities that accompany the role. Former Conservative Chief Whip Simon Hart similarly lifted the lid on the balance between discipline, administration, and welfare support for MPs, challenges that define the work of the whips. And political journalist Seb Whale charted the evolution of party management from the

turbulent politics of the 1970s, the Maastricht rebellions of the 1990s, to the legendary “black book”, the Brexit showdowns, and the brief premiership of Liz Truss.



Dr Marie Tidball MP spoke to us about the hurdles she faced working in Parliament with a disability (March 2025)

The pressures of political life

A recurring theme throughout the year was the human reality of political life and the pressures faced by those who serve in Parliament. Former MP Steve Baker spoke candidly about the personal toll of political life, while Labour MP Dr Marie Tidball discussed the practical and procedural barriers facing disabled parliamentarians. Following publication of the Speaker's Conference report on the abuse of MPs and parliamentary candidates, we examined how politics and political communication are changing, and the consequences for those in public life. We also analysed the fallout from a controversial WhatsApp group involving Labour politicians, exploring how digital communication has become both indispensable and potentially hazardous in modern politics.

Scrutiny and accountability

Questions of scrutiny, accountability, and Parliament's ability to hold government to account ran through many of our discussions. Former GP Dr Sarah Wollaston and former Health Minister Steve Brine reflected on the similarities between constituency surgeries and GP surgeries, drawing on their experience as former Health Select Committee chairs to highlight

both the strengths of cross-party committee work and concerns about MPs' engagement with evidence and scrutiny of public spending.

Professor David Heald offered a sobering assessment of Parliament's limited influence over public finances, arguing that the UK's executive-dominated budget process is overdue for reform. Toby Perkins MP, Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee, discussed the challenge of scrutinising the Government's Net Zero commitments following publication of the Climate Change Committee's Seventh Carbon Budget recommendations. Veteran journalist David Hencke explained the prolonged vacancy in the office of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, and the implications for public accountability.



Liam Byrne MP and Lord Ricketts appeared on podcasts episodes about the scrutiny of international relations (May and November 2025)

Parliament and the world

As the Government negotiated new trade deals with India, the US, and the EU, we explored Parliament's limited role in scrutinising treaties and international agreements. Liam Byrne MP, Chair of the Business and Trade Committee, discussed weaknesses in the current system, while Lord Goldsmith KC and Lord Ricketts reflected more broadly on parliamentary oversight of foreign policy and the UK's evolving relationship with the European Union.



Marsha de Cordova MP and Sandro Gozi MEP discussed their roles co-chairing the UK–EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (November 2025)

Labour MP Marsha de Cordova and French MEP Sandro Gozi discussed the work of the UK–EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly established under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, providing insights into parliamentary diplomacy on both sides of the Channel.



House of Lords expert Professor Meg Russell (July 2025)

Reforming Parliament

How parliamentary institutions evolve and why reform so often proves elusive was a regular theme of the podcast. Greg Power drew on his experience as a past Hansard Society colleague, former Special Adviser to the Leader of the House of Commons, and founder of Global Partners Governance, to explore the psychology of MPs and the obstacles to parliamentary reform.

Professor Meg Russell argued that legislation to remove the remaining hereditary Peers offered a rare opportunity for wider House of Lords reform, while Lord Goodman suggested that many of Britain's

political and economic challenges stem from weaknesses in the House of Commons itself. He argued that economic renewal requires parliamentary renewal, with fewer but better-prepared bills, stronger scrutiny, and more experienced Ministers, including some appointed from outside Parliament.

Parliamentary agent Robbie Owen, of law firm Pinsent Masons, also made the case for restoring greater parliamentary control over major infrastructure decisions and reducing reliance on delegated legislation.



Journalist and former MP Lord Goodman spoke about parliamentary renewal (September 2025)

Constitutional questions

Constitutional issues featured prominently throughout the year. Lord Alton discussed human rights, relations with China, and proposals for a statutory duty of candour following public disasters. Lord Beamish raised concerns about protecting the independence of Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee, which he chairs.



The chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, Lord Alton, discussed his concerns (September 2025)

Legal commentator Joshua Rozenberg helped unravel the constitutional implications of a superinjunction that effectively prevented parliamentary scrutiny of a major national security breach, while Professor Mark Elliott explored the legal and political consequences of allegations of Chinese espionage in Westminster.

We also looked at Parliament's relationship with the monarchy, with Dr Craig Prescott examining the constitutional position of members of the Royal Family and the role of the King in Parliament today.

The machinery of Parliament

Several episodes focused on how Parliament operates day to day, particularly during moments of political controversy or constitutional significance. We examined Parliament's recall during the Easter recess to pass emergency legislation to protect the steel industry. Ahead of President Donald Trump's second State Visit, we explored who decides whether foreign leaders are invited to address Parliament and how those decisions are made.

We devoted an episode to Prime Minister's Questions, with Dr Ruxandra Serban comparing Westminster's weekly exchanges with equivalent sessions in Canada, Australia, and Ireland, and explaining why France's National Assembly abandoned its own PMQs-style experiment after only a few months.

Parliament and the public

The relationship between Parliament and the public was another important theme. Marking the tenth anniversary of the House of Commons Petitions Committee, we brought together its current and former chairs – Jamie Stone MP, Cat Smith MP, Catherine McKinnell MP, and Helen Jones – to discuss how petitions influence



Renowned legal commentator Joshua Rozenberg on the superinjunction that impeded Parliament's scrutiny (July 2025)

parliamentary debate and government policy. We also celebrated our 100th episode by reflecting on the first year of the new parliament and the major developments that had shaped it.

Parliament in historical perspective

History was an important lens through which we sought to understand contemporary politics. Historian George Owers traced the emergence of Britain's party system during the reign of Queen Anne, while Dr Jonathan Healey revisited the dramatic events leading to the English Civil War and their enduring significance for Parliament's relationship with the Crown. Peter Just reflected on the parliamentary afterlives of former Prime Ministers, while constitutional historian Dr Robert Saunders explored why the office of Prime Minister has become increasingly difficult to sustain in the modern political environment.

Across these and many other conversations, we worked to fulfil our mission of helping listeners understand not only what happens in Parliament, but why it matters.

Parliamentary Affairs Journal

In 2025, we published more than 1,000 pages of original research and analysis on representative politics in the UK and around the world.

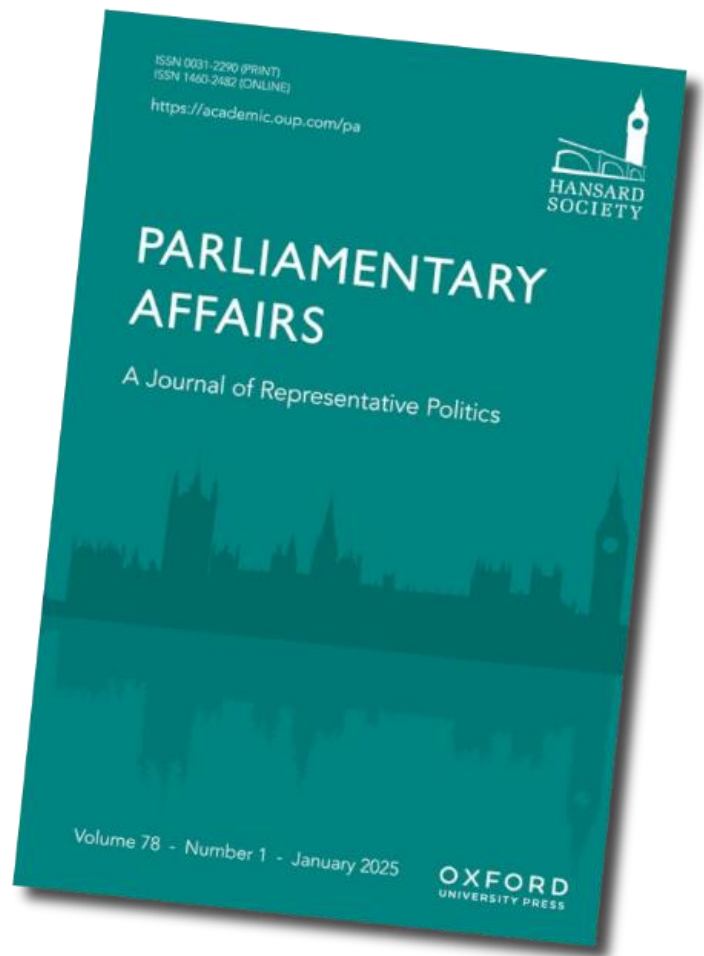
Across four quarterly issues, the journal featured 37 peer-reviewed articles by 75 contributors. Fourteen articles focused on the UK, while the remainder examined politics in 15 other countries and presented comparative regional and international analyses. We also published the latest edition of our 'Britain Votes' series, a special supplementary issue analysing the 2024 UK general election.

The journal continued to reach a substantial international readership, with nearly a quarter of a million online article access requests made during the year.

It also maintained its strong academic reputation, remaining ranked among the top 40% of political science journals worldwide by Impact Factor, and in the top 10% of law journals by CiteScore. These rankings are an important measure of a journal's quality and influence, shaping publication choices by researchers and decisions on subscriptions and research support by universities and funding bodies.

The breadth of topics covered reflected many of the defining political questions of the day. Several of the year's most widely read and discussed articles examined the continuing impact of Brexit on British politics. A study by scholars associated with the British Election Study explored whether the political realignment associated with Brexit persisted into the 2024 general election, concluding that while Brexit itself is no longer the dominant dividing line in party competition, the electoral and demographic changes it accelerated continue to shape British politics.

Other articles addressed Parliament's place in the political system and the challenges



facing representative democracy. Professor Meg Russell and Dr Lisa James analysed how Parliament's power was portrayed in the national media during the Brexit years, arguing that it was frequently presented as either dangerously weak or dangerously strong, with little recognition of its constitutional role.

The journal also published timely research on the growing security risks facing elected politicians. Neil Matthews and Sean Haughey argued that the security measures increasingly adopted by MPs are reshaping how they engage with constituents, raising important questions about the future of constituency representation and identifying an urgent need for further research in this area.

The journal's most-read article during the year was once again Jan Eichhorn and Johannes Bergh's 2021 study, 'Lowering the Voting Age to 16 in Practice: Processes and Outcomes Compared'. As the Government prepares legislation to lower the voting age to 16, the article's continuing popularity demonstrates the enduring value of rigorous comparative research in informing contemporary public policy debates.

Britain Votes: The 2024 General Election

One of the year's publishing highlights was Britain Votes 2024, the latest volume in our long-running series analysing UK general elections. Published as both a special issue of

Parliamentary Affairs and as a book, it was co-edited by Professor Alistair Clark, Dr Louise Thompson, and Professor Stuart Wilks-Heeg.

The volume brought together 29 leading scholars across 18 chapters to provide a comprehensive academic assessment of the 2024 general election. Contributors included Professors Tim Bale, Sir John Curtice, Philip Cowley, Rachel Gibson, Eunice Goes, James Mitchell, and Jonathan Tonge.

The collection examined the election from every major perspective: the Conservatives' historic defeat, Labour's landslide victory on just over a third of the vote, the Liberal Democrats' resurgence, and the breakthrough performances of Reform UK, the Green Party, and independent candidates. Other chapters explored the electoral geography of the contest; voting patterns in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland; campaign finance; the growing role of TikTok, generative AI, and data-driven campaigning; and the changing dynamics of women's representation and ethnic minority voting.

The volume also captured the human story of the campaign – from the choreography of election visits to the inevitable gaffes and controversies as well as the likely challenges facing a new, inexperienced Parliament.

To accompany publication, the editors joined the Society's Parliament Matters podcast to discuss why Labour secured such a commanding parliamentary majority on only a third of the vote, the record-breaking disproportionality of the election result, historically low turnout, and what the 2024 election revealed about the resilience, and the pressures, facing British democracy.



Giving evidence before the Scottish Parliament's Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, with Dr Stephen Holden Bates and Professor the Lord Norton of Louth (24 April 2025)



Supporting parliamentary effectiveness

The Hansard Society is regularly invited to support parliamentary committees as they review their effectiveness and consider how to strengthen scrutiny.

During the year, we contributed to strategy away days for the House of Commons Procedure Committee and Public Accounts Committee, helping members reflect on priorities for future inquiries and the effectiveness of committee questioning. We also gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee as it considered recommendations on committee effectiveness for the next session of Parliament following the 2026 Scottish elections.

Our expertise was also called upon in a range of professional development activities. Our Director acted as a 'dummy' witness in training exercises for parliamentary clerks, helping prepare future committee staff for the practical and procedural challenges they may encounter during evidence sessions.

Ruth Fox and Mark D'Arcy, co-hosts of our podcast, were invited to take part in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's senior management team annual retreat, to discuss the communication challenges facing legislatures. We also met with participants in the Canadian Parliamentary Internship Programme during their study visit to Westminster, to brief them on the latest political and procedural developments in Parliament.

Alongside the inquiries highlighted elsewhere in this report, we submitted evidence to the House of Lords Constitution Committee on the rule of law; to the House of Commons Modernisation Committee on its strategic priorities and improving public access to Parliament; and to the House of Commons Procedure Committee on the parliamentary status of independent MPs, including their representation on committees and whether Commons procedures should better reflect the growth in independent representation.

Marking 75 years of the rebuilt House of Commons chamber

Uncovering a forgotten chapter in the Society's history

To mark the 75th anniversary of the reopening of the House of Commons Chamber following its destruction in the Blitz, Parliament mounted a special exhibition in Portcullis House in September and October 2025 celebrating the Chamber's reconstruction. After the Chamber was destroyed by German bombing in May 1941, Winston Churchill insisted that it should be "restored in all essentials to its old form". A committee of MPs appointed the architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to oversee the project, and in 1944 he produced plans for the new Chamber, accompanied by an extraordinary architectural model to help Members visualise his design.

The model, made by Thorp Modelmakers over five months, is a remarkable piece of craftsmanship. Built to a scale of 1:48 from wood, glass, lead, gilt brass, and imitation leather, it features miniature MPs, a Speaker's Chair and Mace, and even a removable roof fitted with electric lighting. Displayed alongside Scott's drawings in late 1944, it enabled MPs to examine and debate the design of the Chamber before reconstruction began.

Research for the exhibition uncovered an unexpected connection with the Hansard Society. The model became one of the centrepieces of *Parliament Past and Present*, the Festival of Britain exhibition staged in

Westminster Hall in 1951, which attracted more than a quarter of a million visitors in just ten weeks. The Society produced the

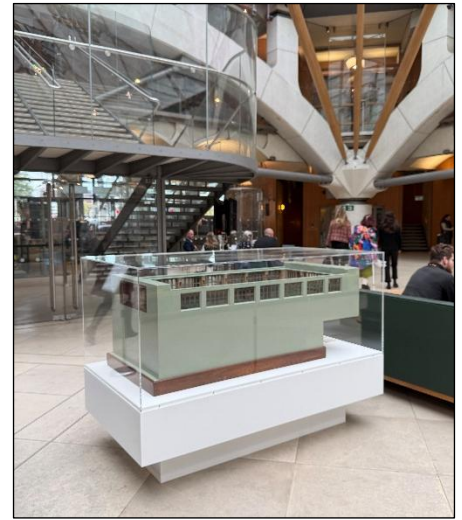
official exhibition catalogue, and when the exhibition closed Parliament transferred the entire display – including the Chamber model – to the Hansard Society so that it could continue to be exhibited around the country.

That gift, however, came without funding. To support the Society's stewardship of the collection, Winston Churchill, Clement Attlee and Liberal leader Clement Davies jointly appealed in *The Times* for public donations. The Society subsequently took the exhibition on tour, attracting more than 110,000 visitors in Blackpool alone before arranging further displays elsewhere.

The collection was eventually placed into storage. Over the ensuing decades, having disappeared from public view, its whereabouts became unknown. Its recent rediscovery in Parliament therefore not only reunited visitors with an important artefact from the rebuilding of the Commons

Chamber but also solved a small mystery in the Society's own history, revealing the significant role it played in preserving and sharing Parliament's heritage in the years after the Second World War. It is hoped that the

model will now go on permanent display in Parliament's Education Centre.



The model on display in Portcullis House (October 2025)



A view of the Commons Chamber model from above

Our plans for the future

The Society's long-term objective is to secure reforms that make Parliament a more effective institution.

Over the coming year, we will focus our resources on three priorities.

1. Advocate for reforms for a more effective Parliament

Through our research, policy development, and engagement with parliamentarians, officials, and civil society organisations, we will continue to develop practical reforms designed to strengthen Parliament's role in making our laws and holding the Government to account. Our work is focused on five key areas.

(a) A better system for making laws and regulations

We will continue to advocate for reform of the delegated legislation system so that Ministers cannot make significant policy and legal changes without effective parliamentary scrutiny.

Building on the recommendations of our cross-party Delegated Legislation Review, we will work with parliamentarians from across the political spectrum to secure reforms that strengthen parliamentary oversight while supporting effective government.

(b) Stronger scrutiny of taxation and public spending

Parliament's control of public finances is a long-established constitutional principle: Government cannot raise taxes or spend public money without Parliament's approval. In practice, however, parliamentary scrutiny of taxation, the Budget, and departmental spending plans (the Estimates) is weaker than in many comparable legislatures. We will continue to develop proposals to strengthen Parliament's scrutiny of the Budget and Estimates process. Better financial scrutiny will improve democratic

accountability and help ensure public money is spent more effectively.

(c) More effective scrutiny of the UK's international relations

International agreements and relations with the European Union increasingly shape domestic law and public policy, yet parliamentary scrutiny has not kept pace. We will continue our work on strengthening Parliament's scrutiny of EU relations, treaties, and other international agreements, advocating for reforms that enable Parliament to play a more effective role in scrutinising the Government's international relationships and obligations.

(d) Stronger links between Westminster and the devolved legislatures

Effective governance of the United Kingdom depends upon constructive relationships between Westminster and the devolved legislatures. Yet there are currently no formal mechanisms through which the two Houses of Parliament and the devolved legislatures can meet regularly to discuss matters of shared concern. In partnership with the Study of Parliament Group, the Society has developed proposals for a new Inter-Parliamentary Body to provide a structured forum for dialogue, improve mutual understanding, and strengthen cooperation across the UK's legislatures.

(e) Updating the language, customs, and rules of the House of Commons

The House of Commons needs to demystify the way it works, by making its procedures easier to communicate, understand, and engage with – for both MPs and the public. By updating the language, customs, and Standing Orders of the House of Commons to reflect current statutory obligations, conventions, and recent parliamentary practice, the House can be more accessible, more relevant, and more effective in serving the people it represents.

2. Support the next generation of MPs and parliamentary candidates

The 2024 general election brought many first-time MPs to Westminster. The House of Commons is a complex institution, and new Members face a steep learning curve if they are to become effective legislators and scrutineers.

We will continue to develop practical resources and training programmes to equip MPs and their staff with the knowledge, skills and confidence to perform their parliamentary roles effectively. We will also develop and pilot a training programme for prospective parliamentary candidates, providing a grounding in the constitution, the legislative process and the work of the House of Commons before they take their seats.

3. Build a stronger financial future for the Hansard Society

The Society's independence and non-partisanship is the foundation of its credibility. Unlike many organisations working to improve democratic governance,

we have neither an endowment nor the backing of large philanthropic donors. Each year, we must generate the income needed to deliver our charitable mission.

We do so through a diverse range of income streams. Project grants from organisations such as the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Legal Education Foundation support specific programmes of work. Alongside this, we generate unrestricted income from our journal *Parliamentary Affairs*, the Statutory Instrument Tracker®, membership subscriptions, and training programmes.

Every pound we raise is reinvested in our research, education and public engagement activities. Strengthening and diversifying our income streams remains a priority. To support this the Board has proactively recruited new Trustees with expertise in philanthropy, partnerships and income generation. They will join the Board in Autumn 2026. Their advice and support will help the Society to further develop its sources of income, develop new fundraising opportunities and strengthen its long-term financial sustainability.

Governance and decision-making

Charitable status

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales on 30 November 2001 and registered as a charity on 25 March 2002. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which set out its charitable objects and powers and is governed by its Articles of Association.

Honorary Co-Presidents

The Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament serve as the Society's Co-Presidents. These honorary roles reflect the Society's unique position as a trusted, independent and non-partisan 'critical friend' of the Westminster Parliament. While the Speakers are supportive of the Society's work, they have no formal role in its governance, management or activities.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for the governance, strategic direction and stewardship of the Society. Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the Director.

The Board of Trustees normally meets four times a year, with additional meetings convened as required. It does not operate standing committees but establishes sub-committees or working groups from time to time where additional oversight or specialist input is needed.

The Director attends Board meetings and provides regular reports on the Society's work. Other members of staff may attend Board meetings where appropriate to support discussion of specific items on the agenda.

Recruitment

Trustees are elected or co-opted in accordance with the Society's Articles of

Association. The Chair and Treasurer are appointed annually. Other Trustees are appointed for an initial term of three years and may be reappointed for a further three-year term. In exceptional circumstances, the Board may co-opt a Trustee for a further period where this is considered to be in the best interests of the Society.

When recruiting new Trustees, the Board seeks to achieve an appropriate balance of skills, experience and perspectives.

Vacancies are advertised publicly and promoted through the Society's networks including those of stakeholders from the public, private and charitable sectors, as well as across the political spectrum.

To support a fair and inclusive recruitment process, applications are assessed through a blind review of candidates' responses to role-specific questions and their CV. The recruitment process is anonymised up to and including the shortlisting stage to minimise the potential for unconscious bias.

All new Trustees receive a structured induction programme. This includes an introductory meeting with the Chair and Director, discussions with members of staff about their areas of work, and an induction pack covering the Society's activities, governance arrangements, Trustees' legal duties and relevant charity law.

Conflicts of interest

The Society's Board benefits from the wide range of experience, expertise and networks that its Trustees bring from Parliament, politics, government, academia, business and civil society. These connections strengthen the Society's work but may also give rise to actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.

To manage this risk, the Society maintains a Conflict-of-Interest Policy. All Trustees are required to complete a declaration of

interests on appointment and to update it annually or earlier if a new potential conflict of interest arises. In addition, declarations of any relevant interests are a standing item at every Board meeting, enabling any actual or potential conflicts to be identified and managed appropriately.

Staff and volunteers

The Charity's senior management during 2025 comprised the Director, Dr Ruth Fox. The Society employed two full-time and two part-time staff members throughout the year.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the Society's remuneration policy and reviews it annually during the Budget setting process. Responsibility for implementing the policy is delegated to the Director.

Salary levels are set to attract and retain staff with the skills, knowledge and experience needed to deliver the Society's charitable objectives, while taking account of the Charity's financial resources.

In addition to its employees, the Society engages freelancers where specialist expertise is required to deliver particular projects. During the year, this included, for example, the co-host and producer of the Parliament Matters podcast.

Operational support

The Society contracts a range of core services to specialist external providers. Accounting services are provided by JS2, pension services by Titan Wealth, IT support by Cheeky Munkey, and HR advice by HR Services. The Society also provides staff with access to an externally delivered Employee Assistance Programme.

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to anyone who shares our commitment to strengthening parliamentary democracy. Individuals may join as ordinary members or as members who in addition subscribe to our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*. Members of Parliament may join as parliamentary patrons.

To ensure membership is as accessible as possible, the Society offers concessionary rates for people under 30 years of age, students, the unwaged receiving welfare benefits, and those who are retired on a low income. We recognise that financial barriers can limit political engagement and participation, and we hope these reduced rates enable more people to support the Society's work and become part of our community.

Financial overview

The financial statements contained in this report are prepared in accordance with the FRS 102 Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

Income

Total income for 2025 was £290,085, a decrease of £64,333 compared with 2024. The decrease was primarily due to the timing and completion of grant-funded project work. Nevertheless, the Society's income continued to be derived primarily from grants supporting our charitable activities, and from publications, which together generated £283,101 (2024: £340,215).

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £279,291, down from £297,684 in 2024. As a result, the Society had a net surplus of £10,794, compared with a surplus of £56,834 in the previous year.

Balance sheet

At the year end, the Society held £49,740 in restricted funds, an increase from £28,629 in 2024. The general fund stood at £124,249, compared with £134,566 in the previous year. Overall, net current assets thus increased to £173,989, up from £163,195 at the end of 2024.

Reserves policy

The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the Charity's financial resilience by maintaining an appropriate level of free reserves. These reserves provide a buffer against short-term financial pressures and unforeseen events that could affect some or all of the Society's activities.

As the Society has no endowment or significant capital assets, it relies on income from project grants, membership

subscriptions, Statutory Instrument Tracker® subscriptions, training programmes, publications, and donations. This funding model means that income can fluctuate from year to year, making prudent financial management essential.

The Trustees have therefore set a reserves policy requiring the Society to maintain free reserves equivalent to a minimum of three months' core operational expenditure, currently £77,702. The adequacy of this level is reviewed annually to ensure it remains appropriate considering the Society's activities, financial position and operating environment.

Grant funding

We are grateful to the following grant-making organisations for their continued support of the Society's work.

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust provided £77,444 as part of a three-year restricted grant. This funding supports our work to make the case for parliamentary reform and to deliver support to MPs on legislative and related parliamentary procedures.

The Society also received £16,364 from the Legal Education Foundation (LEF) to support our ongoing research into delegated legislation, continuing its longstanding commitment to this area of our work.

Financial risks

The principal financial risks facing the Society are:

- the potential impact of an economic downturn on income from donations, membership, training, and the Statutory Instrument Tracker®;
- the risk that forecast income from our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*, may not be realised;

- insufficient reserves or cash flow to support the Society's activities; and
- inadequate unrestricted income to meet core operating costs.

The Board reviews the Society's financial position at each meeting. These risks are managed through income generation pipelines, careful budgetary controls, cashflow monitoring, and prudent management of reserves to ensure that the Society remains financially sustainable and operates within its available resources.

Financial outlook

The Society's overall financial position has been more challenging in recent years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the loss of our international Scholars Programme, which for decades provided a significant source of unrestricted core income.

Over the five years since the pandemic began, the Society recorded significant deficits in three years (2021–2023), drawing on its reserves to support the transition to a more sustainable operating and funding model.

However, in 2025 the Society delivered a second consecutive annual surplus, albeit a

modest one. The reduction in the surplus compared with 2024 was largely attributable to planned investment in the organisation, including cost-of-living salary increases for staff, the replacement of IT equipment, and funding the Parliament Matters podcast from unrestricted core income.

Going concern

Having considered the Society's financial plans, reserves position, and confirmed income and expenditure, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. They therefore conclude that the Charity is a 'going concern' and are confident that it will continue to operate for at least the next 12 months from the date of this assessment (September 2026).

Fundraising

The Society is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and complies with the standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice. During the year, the Society did not engage any professional fundraising companies or agents to carry out fundraising activities on its behalf.

Key risks

Risk management

The Hansard Society maintains a comprehensive risk register to identify, assess and manage the key risks and uncertainties that could affect the delivery of its charitable objectives.

The Trustees recognise that risk cannot be eliminated entirely. Their aim is to ensure that risks are understood, appropriately managed and reduced to an acceptable level. Where opportunities arise that involve a higher degree of risk but have the potential to advance the Society's mission, the Board carefully balances the potential benefits against the associated risks before determining the appropriate course of action.

The Board formally reviews the full risk register at least twice a year. Between these scheduled reviews, any material change in a risk rating is reported to the Board to ensure that appropriate action can be taken where necessary.

Risks are assessed across six categories:

- (i) operational;
- (ii) financial;
- (iii) strategic;
- (iv) reputational;
- (v) occupational health; and
- (vi) legal and regulatory matters.

Each risk is scored for both impact and likelihood on a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 represents minimal impact or a remote likelihood and 5 represents extreme impact or a highly likely occurrence).

The two scores are multiplied to determine the overall risk rating, which guides the level of oversight and management required:

- 21–25: Alarm bell – immediate action required; potential existential threat to the Society.
- 16–20: Priority – comprehensive mitigation measures required, with monthly monitoring.
- 11–15: Important – appropriate mitigation in place; monitored quarterly.
- 6–10: Watchlist – reviewed quarterly, with further mitigation implemented when resources permit.
- 1–5: Managed – reviewed quarterly to identify any changes in risk.

The Trustees confirm that, at the date of this report, no risks are assessed as falling within the 'alarm bell' category.

Seven risks are currently classified as 'priority' risks. Six of these principal risks and uncertainties remain materially unchanged from last year.

A new 'priority' operational risk has been added to the register to reflect the increasing threat of unauthorised access to the Society's critical IT systems, which could result in a data breach or disruption to key services.

Details of the Society's principal risks identified in the risk register, together with the measures in place to manage them, are summarised in the table on the following pages.

Key risks identified by the Society

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation / Commentary</i>
Operational	
Temporary loss of key staff	
As a small organisation, the unplanned loss of key personnel, even for a short period of time, could have a significant impact on the Society's ability to deliver its work.	Staff work to ensure that processes are clearly documented, and, wherever practicable, knowledge and responsibilities are shared through cross-training. Nevertheless, the Society's small size means that unplanned or prolonged staff absences could still have a significant impact on operational delivery.
Cyber security	
The Society like other organisations faces increasing threats from unauthorised access to our critical IT systems, leading to a potential data breach or service disruption, for example to our website or online Statutory Instrument Tracker® app.	With advice and support from our IT provider, we maintain a range of security controls, including antivirus and endpoint protection, multi-factor authentication, daily secure backups to third-party servers and use of a Password management app. We continue to keep these arrangements under review with our IT provider, putting controls in place were appropriate to the nature of the Society's work and its risk profile. We also regularly review the case for dedicated cyber insurance assessing whether the value provided is commensurate with the Society's level of risk exposure.

Risk	Mitigation / Commentary
Financial	
Economic conditions adversely affecting the Society's income	
An uncertain economic environment, characterised by persistent inflation and weak business confidence, may reduce the availability of discretionary income from memberships, donations, sponsorship, training and subscriptions.	The Society's income generation strategy is focused on diversifying revenue streams, with particular emphasis on developing sustainable sources of recurring annual income. Membership growth showed encouraging progress during the year, although subscriptions to the SI Tracker remained broadly stable. During the year, the Society engaged with a small number of high-net-worth individuals interested in politics and Parliament.
Inadequate reserves and cashflow	
The Society's reserves policy requires the maintenance of free reserves equivalent to a minimum of three months' core operating expenditure. The adequacy of this policy is reviewed annually by the Trustees.	Further progress is needed to deliver the Society's financial turnaround plan in full, but the combination of careful cost control and increased income generation is beginning to deliver results. For the second consecutive year, the Society recorded an annual surplus. As a result, the general fund closed the year at £124,249, exceeding the level required under the Society's reserves policy. Cashflow pressures remain limited, as a significant proportion of the Society's income – most notably the profit share from Oxford University Press in respect of <i>Parliamentary Affairs</i> – is received in advance. In addition, some grant funding is paid quarterly or annually in advance of delivery, providing further support for the Society's liquidity.
Forecast income from <i>Parliamentary Affairs</i> is not realised	
The principal risks to income from <i>Parliamentary Affairs</i> are a decline in institutional subscriptions resulting from financial pressures on universities and the potential longer-term impact of the transition to open access publishing.	The journal continues to benefit from a strong institutional subscriber base, supported by its inclusion in Oxford University Press (OUP) consortia agreements. Its increasing Impact Factor has further strengthened its reputation and is expected to help sustain demand. To date, the anticipated financial impact of the transition to open access publishing has not materialised. The Society is renewing its publishing partnership with OUP on existing financial terms, securing this important unrestricted income stream through to 31 December 2030.

Risk		Mitigation / Commentary	
Occupational health			
Illness resulting in the loss of key staff			
Given the Society's small team, the short-notice absence of one or more members of staff due to illness could have a disproportionate impact on the delivery of key activities.		Staff are expected not to attend the office when they have a contagious illness and are encouraged to work remotely where appropriate, helping to minimise the risk of transmission. All staff have the IT equipment and software needed to work effectively from home, ensuring business continuity where possible. Work planning takes account of the potential impact of staff absences on key projects. To strengthen organisational resilience, processes are clearly documented, responsibilities are shared wherever practicable, and cross-training is provided for critical activities, including maintenance of the SI Tracker and production of the weekly Bulletin and Parliament Matters podcast.	

Risk		Mitigation / Commentary	
Strategic			
Changes in membership of the Board leading to a loss of key skills or institutional knowledge			
The planned or unplanned departure of Trustees could result in the loss of valuable expertise and institutional knowledge. Unexpected vacancies may also create recruitment costs and place additional demands on staff time and organisational resources.		Succession planning is a standing priority for the Board. Trustees' terms of office are reviewed regularly, taking account of anticipated departures over the following 12–18 months. Where the expiry of a Trustee's term would result in the loss of critical skills or institutional knowledge, the Board may, in exceptional circumstances, co-opt that individual for a further period. Several Trustees are approaching the end of their terms of office. To ensure continuity while refreshing the Board's skills and experience, the Society has recruited a pipeline of four new Trustees who will join the Society during a managed transition period in 2026. Recruitment was informed by a Board skills audit and focused on strengthening expertise in charitable fundraising, digital communications and stakeholder engagement.	

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the Hansard Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

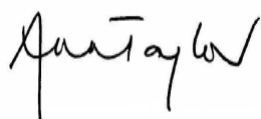
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. So far as each of the Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees on 15 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton

Independent Examiner's report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hansard Society for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 38 to 51.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

Since the Charity's income is in excess of £250,000, its examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of my membership of the Association of Accounting Technicians which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



17 September 2026

Andrew Wells FMAAT

Counterculture Partnership LLP

23 St Leonards Road, Bexhill, East Sussex, TN40 1HH

Financial statements



Hansard Society Limited

Statement of financial activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
for the year ending 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
	Note				
INCOME					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	6,893	-	6,893	14,303
Charitable activities	4	189,293	93,808	283,101	340,215
Investments: Bank interest		91	-	91	-
TOTAL INCOME		196,277	93,808	290,085	354,518
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		206,594	72,697	279,291	297,684
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	206,594	72,697	279,291	297,684
Net (expenditure) and Net movement in funds		(10,317)	21,111	10,794	56,834
Balances brought forward		134,566	28,629	163,195	106,361
Balances carried forward		124,249	49,740	173,989	163,195

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years derive from continuing activities.

Hansard Society Limited
(a company limited by guarantee no. 04332105)

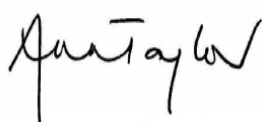
Balance sheet

as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Intangible assets	8	-	-
Tangible assets	9	6,244	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	46,126	47,791
Cash at bank and in hand		147,452	164,033
		<u>193,578</u>	<u>211,824</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(25,833)	(48,629)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		167,745	163,195
NET ASSETS		<u>173,989</u>	<u>163,195</u>
FUNDS			
Restricted funds	12	49,740	28,629
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	12	6,244	-
General fund	12	118,005	134,566
		<u>124,249</u>	<u>134,566</u>
		<u>173,989</u>	<u>163,195</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2025. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements. The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. They were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Directors on 15 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton



Lina Mar (Hon. Treasurer)

Hansard Society Limited

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash (used in) / provided by operating activities		
Net movement in funds	10,794	56,834
Add back depreciation and amortisation	892	879
Less investment income	(91)	-
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	1,665	(31,974)
(Decrease) in creditors	(22,796)	(773)
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	(9,536)	24,966
Cash flows (used in) / provided by investing activities		
Investment income	91	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(7,136)	-
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(7,045)	-
(Decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(16,581)	24,966
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	164,033	139,067
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	147,452	164,033

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Statutory information

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales (company number 04332105). The registered office address and principal place of business is The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, England, SE11 5RR.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with the *Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Hansard Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

2.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company include the Trustees. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in

respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the 'going concern' basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Having reviewed our budget and projections in light of the current situation, the Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the 'going concern' basis in preparing its financial statements.

2.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.4 Income

All income, including funding from government, is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to income, it is probable that income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts. Income is deferred only when the Society has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified the income is to be expended into a future period. Where donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included as restricted income when receivable.

2.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included within the item of expense to which it relates. Direct costs, including directly attributable salaries, are allocated on an actual basis to the key strategic areas of activity. Overheads and other salaries are allocated between the expenses headings on the basis of time spent.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity, and include governance costs which are incurred in connection with enabling the Society to comply with external regulation, constitutional and statutory requirements and in providing support to the Trustees in the discharge of their statutory duties.

2.6 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less amortisation. A full year of amortisation is charged on all assets in the year of purchase. Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

*Website development:
3 years straight line*

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. A full year of depreciation is charged on all assets in the year of purchase. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

*Office and computer equipment:
4 years straight line*

2.8 Employee benefits

Short-term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Pension scheme: the Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme, the assets of which are administered by Scottish Widows. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the Charity benefits from the employees' services. The Charity has no further liability under the scheme.

2.9 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

2.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.12 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation

resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2.13 Accounting judgements and estimates

The key judgements and estimates used in the preparation of these Financial Statements are as follows:

- The depreciation rate of tangible fixed assets and amortisation rate of intangible fixed assets (as detailed above).
- Support costs are apportioned to direct activities based on the direct staff costs allocated to those activities (see Note 5).

There are no other key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	6,893	-	6,893	14,303
	<u>6,893</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,893</u>	<u>14,303</u>

In the year to 31 December 2025, all income from donations and legacies was unrestricted.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
The Legal Education Foundation	-	16,364	16,364	49,091
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	77,444	77,444	77,444
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	-	-	-	19,067
Total grants	-	93,808	93,808	145,602
Other project income:				
Research, education and events	3,545	-	3,545	4,404
Membership subscriptions	7,522	-	7,522	6,839
Publications	178,226	-	178,226	183,370
	<u>189,293</u>	<u>93,808</u>	<u>283,101</u>	<u>340,215</u>

5. Expenditure

Current year

	Direct staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2025 £
Projects: Research, education and events	97,771	48,586	128,907	275,264
Publications	1,737	-	2,290	4,027
Support costs (see Note 6)	29,171	102,026	(131,197)	-
	<u>128,679</u>	<u>150,612</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>279,291</u>

Prior year

	Direct staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2024 £
Projects: Research, education and events	110,428	71,314	115,742	297,484
Publications	-	200	-	200
Support costs (see Note 6)	22,862	92,880	(115,742)	-
	<u>133,290</u>	<u>164,394</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>297,684</u>

6. Support costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Governance costs		
Independent examination	1,440	1,440
Board expenses and meeting costs	-	-
	<u>1,440</u>	<u>1,440</u>
Other support costs		
Staff costs	29,171	22,862
Premises, equipment and depreciation	31,895	26,561
Stationery, post, phone and IT	18,523	19,291
Information, research and communications	8,716	3,652
Legal and professional	30,345	30,019
Other	11,107	11,917
	<u>131,197</u>	<u>115,742</u>

7. Employee and key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and Senior Management Team. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employers pension contributions) were £64,426 (2024: £61,561).

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration from the Charity during the year. No Trustees were reimbursed any expenses in the year (2024: nil) relating to travel and subsistence.

There were no related party balances as at 31 December 2025 (2024: nil).

The aggregate payroll costs were:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	117,071	119,443
Social security costs	3,387	6,654
Employer pension contributions	8,221	7,193
	<u>128,679</u>	<u>133,290</u>

No employees had emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year or the previous year (exclusive of employer pensions and employer National Insurance contributions).

Particulars of employees

The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:

2025 No.	2024 No.
<u>4.0</u>	<u>4.1</u>

8. Intangible fixed assets

	Website development £
Cost	
At 1 January 2025	25,096
Additions in the year	-
At 31 December 2025	<u>25,096</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2025	25,096
Charge for the year	-
At 31 December 2025	<u>25,096</u>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2025	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer and office equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2025	9,665
Additions in the year	7,136
Disposals in the year	(6,549)
At 31 December 2025	<u>10,252</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2025	9,665
Disposals in the year	(6,549)
Charge for the year	892
At 31 December 2025	<u>4,008</u>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2025	<u>6,244</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>

10. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments	8,684	11,424
Accrued income	24,970	30,261
Other debtors	12,472	6,106
	<u>46,126</u>	<u>47,791</u>

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	1,426	13,708
Taxes and social security	4,712	2,842
Pension contributions	1,064	957
Accruals	10,957	7,629
Other creditors	1,081	2,082
Deferred income	6,593	21,411
	<u>25,833</u>	<u>48,629</u>

Deferred income:

Balance brought forward	21,411	28,818
Amount released to income	(21,411)	(28,818)
Amount deferred in the year (see Note 2.4) all relating to services not performed until the following financial year:		
Statutory Instrument Tracker income	-	640
The Legal Education Foundation	-	16,364
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	6,593	4,407
	<u>6,593</u>	<u>21,411</u>

12. Statement of funds: Current year

Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	15,854	-	-	-	15,854
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	(332)	77,444	(43,226)	-	33,886
The Legal Education Foundation	13,107	16,364	(29,471)	-	-
Total restricted funds	28,629	93,808	(72,697)	-	49,740

Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust: this relates to a grant to review the customs, language and rules of the House of Commons.

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust: this relates to a grant for our 'Building a Better Commons' work on parliamentary reform.

The Legal Education Foundation: this relates to a grant to support our work on reform of the parliamentary scrutiny system for delegated legislation.

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Fixed assets	-	-	(892)	7,136	6,244
Total designated funds	-	-	(892)	7,136	6,244

Fixed asset fund: This represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets in use by the Society and therefore not available to meet future operational expenditure. A transfer is made each year to reflect the change in net book value.

Summary of funds in the year

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Designated funds	-	-	(892)	7,136	6,244
General fund	134,566	196,277	(205,702)	(7,136)	118,005
	134,566	196,277	(206,594)	-	124,249
Restricted funds	28,629	93,808	(72,697)	-	49,740
Total funds	163,195	290,085	(279,291)	-	173,989

13. Statement of funds: Prior year

Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	26,693	19,067	(29,906)	-	15,854
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	10,447	77,444	(88,223)	-	(332)
The Legal Education Foundation	(2,737)	49,091	(33,247)	-	13,107
Total restricted funds	34,403	145,602	(151,376)	-	28,629

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Fixed assets	879	-	(879)	-	-
Total designated funds	879	-	(879)	-	-

Fixed asset fund: This represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets in use by the Society and therefore not available to meet future operational expenditure. A transfer is made each year to reflect the change in net book value.

Summary of funds in the year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Designated funds	879	-	(879)	-	-
General fund	71,079	208,916	(145,429)	-	134,566
	71,958	208,916	(146,308)	-	134,566
Restricted funds	34,403	145,602	(151,376)	-	28,629
Total funds	106,361	354,518	(297,684)	-	163,195

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Designated funds £	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	6,244	-	-	6,244
Net current assets	-	118,005	49,740	167,745
	6,244	118,005	49,740	173,989

Prior year

	Designated funds £	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets	-	134,566	28,629	163,195
	-	134,566	28,629	163,195

15. Pension

The Society operates defined contribution schemes for its employees, making a contribution of 7% of gross salaries. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Society and amounted to £8,221 (2024: £7,193). Contributions totalling £1,064 (2024: £957) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

16. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date, the company had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for property) which fall due as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Less than one year	20,380	33,593
Between two and five years	-	16,796
	<u>20,380</u>	<u>50,389</u>

17. Statement of financial activities: Prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
INCOME			
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	14,303	-	14,303
Charitable activities	194,613	145,602	340,215
TOTAL INCOME	<u>208,916</u>	<u>145,602</u>	<u>354,518</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	146,308	151,376	297,684
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>146,308</u>	<u>151,376</u>	<u>297,684</u>
Net (expenditure) / income and Net movement in funds	<u>62,608</u>	<u>(5,774)</u>	<u>56,834</u>
Balances brought forward	<u>71,958</u>	<u>34,403</u>	<u>106,361</u>
Balances carried forward	<u>134,566</u>	<u>28,629</u>	<u>163,195</u>



HANSARD
SOCIETY

Hansard Society Ltd

Registered office

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London
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September 2026

Hansard Society Ltd registered in England & Wales number 4332105, charity number 1091364