



**POLITICAL  
INTELLIGENCE**

# The Private Members' Bill Ballot 2023:

## Winning MPs and their Interests



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## Introduction

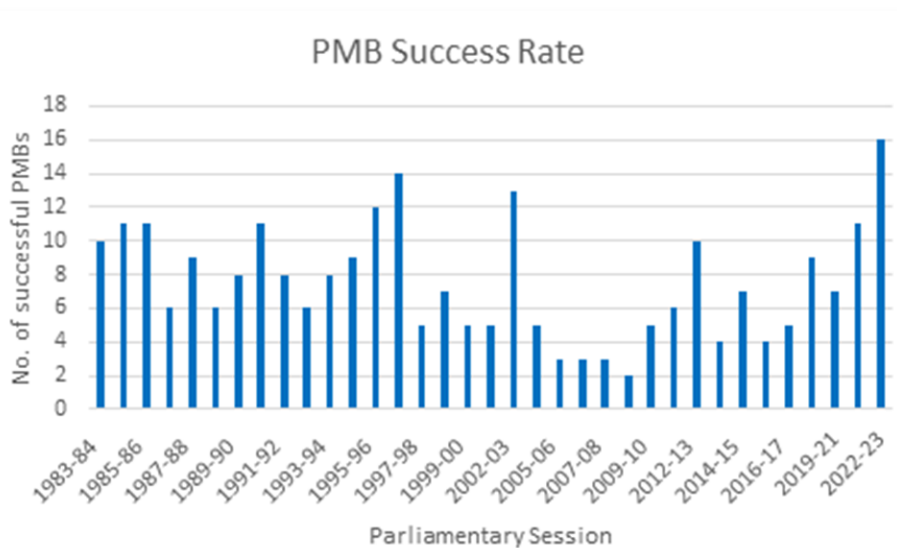
Labour's Julie Elliot, a member of the Culture Media and Sport Committee, bagged the coveted top spot in the Private Members' Bill (PMB) ballot, which gives 20 MPs the opportunity to propose new legislation of their choice in this parliamentary session. Chris Elmore, the vice chair of the Labour party with an interest in matters related to Wales, came second in the draw, followed by Conservative veteran MP Laurence Robertson, who has a keen interest in policy related to sport and gambling.

The MPs were selected in the 16 November 2023 draw and are due to give their first reading of the PMBs on 6 December. Before then, they can expect to be lobbied by their party, campaign groups, and constituents eager for them to champion a particular cause. A total of 415 MPs participated in the draw which took place against a backdrop of ongoing concerns about the cost of living and conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East. The Ballot also came following the King's Speech on 7 Nov where the government put forward 21 bills which it hopes to pass in the current session. With a general election due by January 2025, the MPs in the PMB ballot and the government face considerable time pressure to pass legislation.

Ballot bills typically have a higher chance of success than other PMBs as they have priority for the 13 Friday sessions which are set aside for debates on non-governmental legislation. Members who are drawn high on the ballot can nominate one of the first seven Fridays for their Second Reading, giving them a greater chance of progressing. Come the eighth Friday, bills that have passed the second reading take priority, so have a much greater chance of success.

Often a PMB will only pass into law if it is supported by the government, a factor which inevitably plays into the MPs' choice of subject. However, government support is no guarantee of success, as was demonstrated in the last parliamentary session where the hunting trophies (import prohibition) bill was effectively filibustered by some Conservative peers. The government has said it wants to pursue some of its legislative agenda through PMB's, including some of the manifesto commitments that were Included in the dropped Animal Welfare Bill.

Sixteen PMBs were passed into law in the last parliamentary session, though the number tends to be lower, with the 2013-2014 parliamentary session passing just four.





## 1. Julie Elliott (Labour, Sunderland Central)

Julie Elliott is a member of the Culture, Media, and Sport Committee, chair of the APPG Digital Skills, and Co-Chair of the APPG Britain-Palestine, a recently lively and politically contentious area of policy. She has been active in the committee's inquiries regarding women in sport, creator remuneration, and gambling regulation.

Nobody was immediately available at Elliot's parliamentary or constituency offices to respond to requests for information from Dods Political Intelligence.

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Dods People Profile: [Julie Elliott](#)

## 2. Chris Elmore (Labour, Ogmore)

His first time being drawn in the ballot, Elmore has placed second and therefore stands a strong chance of his PMB progressing through the legislative stages.

In addition to his role as a Senior Opposition Whip and vice chair of Labour party, he has shown particular interest in matters relating to Wales, where his constituency is situated, and serves as vice-chair of both the Rail in Wales and the Wales in the World APPGs.

His spoken contributions and parliamentary questions indicate an interest in worker's rights, employment and pensions policy. He serves as vice-chair of the Pensions APPG and has co-sponsored backbench Bills on parental leave and on protections for retail workers.

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## 3. Laurence Robertson (Conservative, Tewkesbury)

Laurence Robertson, whose policy interests include gambling, sport, horseracing, and Africa, is considering his options for the PMB and would also welcome suggestions, his office said.

Robertson, who was elected in 1997, is chair of the Racing and Bloodstock APPG and was an Adviser on Safer Gambling and Sport to the Betting and Gaming Council until June. Immediately after the ballot, he was in the Commons for Culture, Media and Sport questions asking about the government's plans for an independent football regulator.

The veteran Tory has chaired the APPG for Ethiopia and Djibouti since 2009 and is vice chair for the APPGs for Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Robertson's contributions and written questions also indicate an interest in trade, food security and international aid.

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Dods People Profile: [Laurence Robertson](#)

#### 4. Wayne David (Labour, Caerphilly)

Wayne David, the Shadow Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, is mulling the PMB options and taking representations, his office said shortly after the draw. David has a broad range of interests, including foreign affairs and health. He is the chair of the Liver Disease and Liver Cancer APPG and has asked written questions on the issue. Earlier this year, David used a Westminster Hall debate on obesity and fatty liver disease, to call on the government to implement the 9pm watershed plans to protect children from junk food advertising on television and online. He also urged ministers to put an emphasis on early diagnosis by ensuring that every community diagnostic centre has a facility to assess fibrosis.

More recently, he has submitted written questions on the infected blood scandal, focusing on the recommendations contained in the report by Sir Robert Francis entitled Compensation and Redress for the Victims of Infected Blood: Recommendations for a Framework and the Infected Blood Inquiry entitled Second Interim Report.

In March, David spoke in parliament about dangerous dogs, citing a loophole in the regulations on dog breeding. Following up on a letter he had written to the DEFRA Secretary, he told the All-Party Dog Advisory Welfare Group that rather than singling out certain breeds of dogs, there should be a recognition that most, if not all, dogs are potentially dangerous and that a different approach was needed. David is also vice chair for a number of country based APPGs including Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Belize and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

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Dods People Profile: [Wayne David](#)

#### 5. Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour (Co-op), Brighton, Kempdown)

Lloyd Russell-Moyle, the first ever MP to disclose to parliament that he is HIV positive, is considering his options for the PMB ballot, his office said. While this is the first time he has been drawn in the ballot, he moved two PMBs during the 2017-19 session under the Ten Minute Rule -- the Tenancy (Deposit and Arbitration) Bill and the Youth (Services and Provisions) Bill— though both failed to reach second reading.

Russell-Moyle's interests include youth affairs, prevention and treatment of HIV infection, international development and arms controls. He is the chair of the APPG for Youth Affairs and has worked in various youth service and participation roles, including at the European level and UN. He also sits on the International Development Committee and the Committees on Arms Export Controls.

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Dods People Profile: [Lloyd Russell-Moyle](#)

## 6. Selaine Saxby (Conservative, North Devon)

Selaine Saxby, said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) that she had committed to the RSPCA and Dogs Trust charities that if she was successful in the ballot, she would do everything she could to take a part of the Animal Welfare Bill through. The bill was dropped by the government in the last session.

Saxby, a member of the Select Committee on Work and Pensions since 2020, presented a PMB in the last session which aimed to prohibit the use of disposable barbecues on open moorland, beaches and in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and give local authorities the power to prohibit their sale, but it fell away at the first reading.

The Conservative MP is vice chair of multiple APPGs including, Rural Services, Cycling and Walking, Coastal Communities, Climate Change and the Environment. and was a Team PPS at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 2021-22.

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Dods People Profile: [Selaine Saxby](#)

## 7. John Spellar (Labour, Warley)

John Spellar, a member of the Defence Select Committee, and active in parliamentary debates on defence, transport and foreign affairs. As a former national officer in an industrial union, the veteran MP elected in 1992 has taken a particular interest in manufacturing, defence industry and defence procurement.

He has sponsored PMBs including on formal recognition for the Armenian genocide of 1915-16, prohibiting the practice of offering preferential pricing to new customers over existing customers, and prohibiting the import of wild animal specimens derived from trophy hunting.

Nobody was immediately available at Spellar's office to respond to requests for information from Dods Political Intelligence.

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## 8. Jack Brereton (Conservative, Stoke-on-Trent South)

Jack Brereton, who is running a campaign to reclassify so-called monkey dust as a Class A drug, is considering his options for his PMB, his office said. Brereton is a member of four select committees, the Public Accounts Commission since 2017, the Procedure Committee since 2020, the Highgate cemetery Bill Committee since 2021 and the Transport Committee since 2022. He previously sat on the Transport Committee 2018-2019 and the Work and Pensions Committee 2017-2019. He is also vice chair of multiple APPGs including on Kashmir, Rail Group, "left behind" neighbourhoods and British Muslims.

His parliamentary contributions during the previous session suggest that he has a diverse range of interests which include transport, infrastructure, energy, and the economy.

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## 9. Anna Firth (Conservative, Southend West)

Anna Firth, a barrister before being elected in 2022, put forward a PMB that didn't make it into law during the 2022-23 session, the Animal Welfare (Responsibility for Dog Attacks) Bill. It aimed to amend the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to require a person in charge of a dog to take all reasonable steps to ensure it did not fatally injure another dog. Her parliamentary contributions point to a diverse range of interests including illegal immigration, the NHS, the Renters Reform Bill, and football regulation. Firth is a member of APPGs on Minimally Invasive Cancer Therapies, Entrepreneurship, Coastal Communities, and Children's Parliament.

Nobody was immediately available at Firth's office to respond to requests for information from Dods Political Intelligence.

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Dods people profile: [Anna Firth](#)

## 10. Kim Johnson (Labour, Liverpool, Riverside)

Kim Johnson is considering several ideas for her PMB, including on free school meals which she has campaigned for in the past, her parliamentary office said. In December 2022, Johnson supported Zarah Sultana's PMB: Free School Meals (Primary Schools) Bill, which was introduced under the Ten Minute Rule so had little chance of passing through the House. She has also previously backed plans to bring a PMB on joint enterprise convictions and has voiced support for the [campaign group](#) 'Joint Enterprise: Not Guilty by Association'.

She is a member of the Women and Equalities Committee and the Education Committee and sits on APPGs relating to Children, Young People, Education, and Women's Issues. She has

campaigned and spoken in House of Commons debates on alleviating child poverty and tackling racial and gender discrimination.

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Dods People Profile: [Kim Johnson](#)

## 11. Jonathan Lord (Conservative, Woking)

Jonathan Lord, who has been drawn in the PMB ballot three times before, is chair of APPGs on Egypt and Yoga in Society, and vice chair on a range of other APPGs including the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, British Hindus, children who need palliative care, Isle of Man, and the Southeast.

Lord, who was elected in 2010, has a solid track record of success in delivering PMBs. His first, a proposal for the Football Licensing Authority to provide safety advice and guidance to other sports, became law in 2011 as the Sports Grounds Safety Authority Act. His second PMB, to prevent foreign and Commonwealth armed forces members being disadvantaged in applications for UK citizenship, was enacted in 2014 as the Citizenship (Armed Forces) Act 2014. The following year, he proposed a PMB which led to the passing of the Mutuals' Deferred Shares Act 2015, which enabled organisations registered under the Friendly Societies Act 1992 to issue deferred shares.

Lord's voting record shows he opposed same sex marriage and independent advice for women seeking abortions and was a supporter of the leave campaign during the EU referendum. His only select committee membership has been the Cultural Objects (Protection from Seizure) Bill, which only operated for a week. More recently he spoke in parliament on 12 Sept during the LGBT+ People and Spouses: Social Care debate about preventing people with criminal records from working in social care, and during a debate on at-risk academics where he stressed the importance of freedom of expression in modern universities.

Nobody was immediately available at Lord's office to respond to requests for information from Dods Political Intelligence.

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Dods People: [Jonathan Lord](#)

## 12. Sarah Champion (Labour, Rotherham)

Sarah Champion is the Chair of the International Development Committee. This year the committee produced reports on the topics of UK aid for refugee host countries, aid spending in the UK, and the UK's strategy towards development finance institutions".



Champion also has an interest in animal welfare and recently put her name to a 10-minute rule motion to prohibit the import of puppies aged under six months, pregnant dogs in specified circumstances, and; dogs with cropped ears or docked tails.

Nobody was immediately available at Champion's office to respond to requests for information from Dods Political Intelligence.

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### 13. Gareth Johnson (Conservative, Dartford)

This is the second time that Gareth Johnson, a long-time campaigner on animal welfare, has been drawn in the PMB ballot. This may align with the government's aim to pursue elements of its dropped Animal Welfare Bill using PMBs, which could include prohibitions on fur trade, puppy smuggling, or trophy hunting – a ban which, although pushed by the Government, was defeated by its own Peers. Environment Minister Trudy Harrison told a Westminster Hall debate earlier this year that Government would back new backbench Bills on animal welfare, in light of the failure to pass further legislation in this area, which she attributed to lack of parliamentary time.

Johnson's first PMB effort aimed to ban the wearing of medals or insignia awarded for valour by anyone not entitled to do so. Johnson has also introduced the same Ten-Minute Rule Bill in two separate parliamentary sessions, which aimed to make provision for court orders to prohibit disruptive passengers from flying. Johnson also has interests in home affairs and the environment, as well as campaigning on Gurkha pensions and the issue of Property Management Companies in his constituency.

Nobody was immediately available in Johnson's office to respond to a request for information from Dods Political Intelligence.

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### 14. Kevin Brennan (Labour, Cardiff West)

Kevin Brennan, a member of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee since 2020 and Shadow Minister for Victims and Sentencing since 2023, will announce the subject of his PMB shortly, his office said.

The former Shadow Minister for Education and CMS came sixth in the 2021 private members' bill ballot and put forward the Copyright (Rights and Remuneration of Musicians etc) Bill, but it fell away at the second reading. He said that the pandemic and loss of live music had highlighted how little musicians received from streaming platforms and he wanted to ensure a right to fair remuneration.

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## 15. Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour, South Shields)

Emma Lewell-Buck, who has a background in council care services policy before being elected in 2013, has focused her previous legislative efforts on ensuring families have access to healthy food. She submitted a Ten-Minute Rule Bill in 2021 titled the School Breakfast Bill, which sought to require schools to provide breakfast club facilities. During the most recent parliamentary session, she proposed the Healthy Start Scheme (Take-Up) (No. 2) Bill, which would ensure that families eligible for the Healthy Start scheme are registered to receive it so children and families automatically receive free fruit, vegetables and milk.

Before entering parliament Lewell-Buck was the lead member for adult social care and support service at South Tyneside Council where she initiated a shake-up of care services, including introducing unannounced inspections of private care homes.

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Dods People Profile: [Emma Lewell-Buck](#)

## 16. Gavin Robinson (DUP, Belfast East)

Gavin Robinson is the Deputy Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Spokesperson on Home Affairs and Defence. His membership of APPGs indicate a broad range of interests: he is chair of the APPG on aerospace, and vice chair on APPGs for armed forces covenant, funerals and bereavement, Pitcairn Islands, sovereign wealth funds, war heritage, and zoos and aquariums, and participates in APPGs on war crimes, Isle of Man, dying well, and multiple sclerosis.

He has submitted written questions recently concerning overspend in the financial year 2022-23 by the Northern Ireland Executive. He has also expressed concern that the UK's defence budget has not increased to reflect the proliferation of threats and about the independence of the BBC. He has also voiced concern about constitutional harm to Northern Ireland following Brexit. Robinson was the Lord Mayor of Belfast from 2012-2013 before he was elected in 2015.

Nobody was immediately available at Robinson's office to respond to requests for information from Dods Political Intelligence.

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Dods People Profile: [Gavin Robinson](#)



## 17. Ruth Jones (Labour, Newport West)

Ruth Jones, Shadow Minister for Environmental Protections and Animal Welfare, is mulling her options after being drawn in the PMB ballot for the first time, her office said. Jones, who had a 30-year career as an NHS physiotherapist before being elected in 2019, sits on both the Welsh Grand Committee and Welsh Affairs Committee. She is also co-chair for the APPG on Safeguarding in Faith Communities and several health APPGs, including on sepsis and coeliac disease.

Jones has been vocal in her support for GMB Union members who have been demonstrating on the need for equal pay between retail and depot employees, calling it a “huge issue that is leaving thousands of people, mainly women, worse off year on year.”

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Dods People Profile: [Ruth Jones](#)

## 18. Liz Truss (Conservative, South West Norfolk)

Although drawn towards the end of the list, the PMB presented by former prime minister Liz Truss is likely to attract attention due to her high profile and backing from allies in the libertarian wing of the Conservative party. Since being elected in 2010, she has held various government roles including Foreign Secretary, and Secretary of State for Justice, and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, giving her a broad policy experience.

In recent months, Truss has attacked Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's plans to gradually ban the purchase of cigarettes, raised questions about involvement of China in an artificial intelligence summit, and set up a group to advocate for lower taxes and tougher requirements for receiving state benefits – policies she pushed for during her record-short tenure in Number 10. The group has published a range of recommendations ahead of the Autumn Statement including implementing a “use it or lose it” system to time-limit planning permissions, and measures to emphasise zoning, ending net zero levies and introducing licenses for fracking.

Nobody was immediately available in Truss' office to respond to a request for information from Dods Political Intelligence.

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Dods People Profile: [Liz Truss](#)

## 19. Harriett Baldwin (Conservative, West Worcestershire)

Harriet Baldwin, a former Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development, will set out her PMB shortly, her office said. She has been chair of the Treasury Committee Treasury Sub-Committee on Financial Services Regulation

since 2022. She also sits on the Scrutiny of Strategic Thinking in Government Sub-committee and the Select Committee on Liaison. Previously she has also sat on the Members Estimate Audit Committee and the Administration Estimate Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, both from 2020-2023. Her APPG memberships include, Africa, Ethiopia and Djibouti, Sustainable Finance, UN Women and Women and Enterprise.

Her parliamentary contributions during the previous session suggest that she has a diverse range of interests which include finance, the economy, international affairs and education.

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Dods People profile: [Harriett Baldwin](#)

## 20. Anne McLaughlin (SNP, Glasgow Northeast)

Anne McLaughlin, the Scottish National Party's spokesperson for International Development, has sat on multiple committees relating to justice before taking up her current post. She put forward a PMB during the 2022-23 session that didn't make it into law which was the Pre-Payment Meters (Self-Disconnection) Bill. It aimed to require energy companies to allow a grace period before disconnecting customers with pre-payment meters who had run out of credit and offer debt management support to all customers.

Many of her of her spoken contributions this year have also been about energy bills.

Nobody was immediately available at McLaughlin's office to respond to requests for information from Dods Political Intelligence.

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