# HOUSE OF LORDS

## Conduct in the Chamber and Grand Committee

### Do

- Bow to the Cloth of Estate behind the Throne on entering the Chamber (not on leaving) and bow to the Mace as it passes.
- Leave the Chamber quietly and avoid passing between the Woolsack (or the Chair) and any member who is speaking.
- Be discreet when using mobile devices, and always make sure they are set to silent.
- If speaking, be present at least for the opening and winding-up speeches, and the speeches before and after yours, and if there is a speakers' list put your name down to speak.
- Ask short supplementary questions at question time, with a maximum
  of two points, and don't read the text. Ministerial answers to oral
  questions should be no more than 75 words.
- Sit down when the Lord Speaker or Deputy on the Woolsack or in the Chair rises to put the Question or to call on an item of business, or when a member of the Government front bench seeks to advise the House about proceedings.

#### Don't

- Hold intrusive private conversations anywhere in the Chamber.
- Move around the Chamber when the Lord Speaker or Deputies are on their feet, or walk between the Woolsack and the Table.
- Speak from a gangway or the bishops' benches (unless you are a bishop).
- Bring in any material except papers related to the debate, or seek to use exhibits.
- Say "you" when speaking in debate (say "the noble Lord/Baroness" etc.).
- Shout down other members, particularly those who may not be able to make themselves heard easily.

#### **Further information**

Further written information is available from offices in the House and from these publications, which are all available online and from the Printed Paper Office:

## Companion to the Standing Orders



Short Guide to Procedure



Code of Conduct and Guide to the Code



Staff are available to provide detailed advice on:

Amendments (tabling, moving, speaking to, effect of groupings etc.): Legislation Office - 1st Floor, West Front,  $\times 3153$ 

Questions and motions (tabling admissibility, procedure in the Chamber): Table Office – Principal floor, West Front,  $\times 3036$ 

## Scheduling business and groupings:

Government Whips' Office - Principal Floor, West Front, x1113

## Registering and declaring interests:

Registrar of Lords' Interests – 1st Floor, West Front, x3120