

Parliamentary Bureau – Parliamentary Calendar

Recess dates 2025-2026

Introduction

1. Under Standing Orders, the Parliament shall decide, on a motion of the Parliamentary Bureau the dates of any Parliamentary recess (Rule 2.3.1).
2. Currently, recess dates up to January 2025 have been agreed by the Parliament. This paper proposes recess dates from February 2025 to January 2026, which take into account planned local authority school holidays.
3. A paper on proposed dates for the Office of the Clerk in 2025-26 will be brought forward for consideration at a future meeting.
4. The following observes sitting patterns from previous years.

Proposed recess dates

- 2025 February recess: Saturday 8 February to Sunday 16 February (inclusive). The majority of schools either have holidays or hold in-service days during the week commencing 10 February.
- 2025 Easter recess: Saturday 5 April to Sunday 20 April (inclusive). Almost every local authority has school holidays planned for these two weeks. The Easter public holidays fall at the end of this period (Good Friday on 18 April, then Easter Monday immediately following the proposed dates, on 21 April).
- 2025 Summer recess: Saturday 28 June to Sunday 31 August (inclusive). Most school holidays begin in the final week of June or first week of July.
- 2025 October recess: Saturday 11 October to Sunday 26 October (inclusive). Not all schools have published the term dates for 2025/26. However, out of those that have, 12 have planned holidays for the week commencing 13 October, two for the week commencing 6 October, and one for the week commencing 20 October. In each case, schools are out for either one or two weeks.
- 2025-26 Christmas recess: Saturday 20 December to Sunday 4 January 2026 (inclusive). This recess mirrors most of the published school holiday dates and encompasses public and privilege holidays. Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Wednesday.

Recommendation

5. The Bureau is invited to lodge a motion recommending the above dates of the Parliamentary recesses up to January 2026 for consideration by the Parliament

Parliamentary Business Team
April 2024