

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR: RECESS DATES 2023-24

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 Christmas 2022-23 have been agreed by the Parliament. This paper proposes recess dates from the 2023 February recess to the 2023-24 Christmas recess, which take into account planned local authority school holidays.
3. A separate paper invites Bureau to agree to proposed dates for closing the Office of the Clerk.
4. The following observes sitting patterns from previous years.

Proposed recess dates

- 2023 February recess: Saturday 11 February to Sunday 19 February (inclusive). The majority of schools hold in-service days or are on holiday w/c Monday 12 February.
- 2023 Easter recess: Saturday 1 April to Sunday 16 April 2023 (inclusive). Almost every local authority has school holidays planned for these two weeks, and the Easter public holidays fall in the middle of this (Friday 7 April and Monday 10 April).
- 2023 Summer recess: Saturday 1 July to Sunday 27 August (inclusive). Most school holidays begin in the final week of June or first week of July.
- 2023 October recess: Saturday 7 October to Sunday 22 October (inclusive). Most school holidays take place within these two weeks.
- 2023-24 Christmas recess: Saturday 23 December to Sunday 7 January 2024 (inclusive). This recess mirrors most school holidays and encompasses public and privilege holidays. Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Monday.

Recommendation

5. The Bureau is invited to lodge a motion recommending the above dates of the Parliamentary recesses up to and including Christmas recess 2023-24 for consideration by the Parliament.

Parliamentary Business Team
May 2022