

MHoC Bill Archive

User Guide

by lily-irl, MHoC Chief Technology Officer (self-designated, not Quad-approved) (but, like, not in a way that makes me in any way responsible for any GDPR stuff) (seriously don't try me)
Last updated 17.03.2024

1 Introduction and purpose

Hiya. If you're reading this, then there's a good chance you're at least passably interested in using the MHoC Bill Archive. Thanks for your willingness to consider lending a hand! The archive can be found at <https://archive.mhoc.lily-irl.com>, and the already-archived bills are hyperlinked on that page for your perusal. Hopefully you need no instructions on navigating that part of the website, but there is a bit more detail later on in this guide.

If you're interested in archiving Bills, I want to explain a bit about the archive's intended purpose and function. A lot of MHoC's history has already been lost to time. For a brief period, Bills and Acts of the MHoC Parliament were published to a legislation website, variously at legislation.mhoc.co.uk and legislation.mhoc.uk. These websites are long gone, taken offline when their creator left the game. What we're left with is a few Wayback Machine snapshots of the websites in various states of completeness, and it's entirely possible that we'll never recover the totality of legislation debated and passed in the simulation.

This archive website is intended to assist us in saving as much of the legislation debated in MHoC as possible. It's a substantial undertaking, but I think it's ultimately a worthwhile one. This website is intended as a *tool*, not as a *repository* – its primary purpose is to grab the markdown of the bills so that they can be exported to /r/mhoc's reddit wiki, which will hopefully have some more longevity than this website.

Thanks again for your willingness to assist. MHoC has meant a lot to me over the past few years I've been in this community, and I think the work that hundreds of people have put into it deserves to be archived and preserved. We will start with bills in the main Westminster sim, and then hopefully move on to motions and the devolved sims over time.

Please let me know, via whatever communication medium suits you best, if you have any questions or are ready to get started.

lily-irl
17th March 2024

2 Logging in

Authenticating with the archive is done via reddit. Note that doing so does not give the website any permissions to access your reddit account; rather, it just receives your username to verify your identity. From the home page, click the 'get started' button to be redirected to the login page.

You must be manually approved to use the website. This is to prevent spammers from flooding the database with bad data. I will approve any community member in good standing to use the website; simply send me a DM over reddit or Discord. Members of the Quadrumvirate and Commons Speakership should already be added, but it's entirely possible I've forgotten someone or misspelt their username.

Log in with reddit

Please note that in order to use this site, you will need to be:

- a moderator of [/r/MHoC](#), or
- specifically authorised to use this website

This isn't intended to be exclusionary - much like the wiki, it's simply intended to prevent bad actors from getting access. If you would like to be approved to access the archive website, please [let me know](#).

i If you've been sent to this page unexpectedly after already logging in, your authorisation token may have expired. Please log in again. If the issue recurs within half an hour, please [let me know](#).

[Log in with reddit](#)



Hey **lily-irl!** **mhoc-archive** would like to connect with your reddit account.

Allow **mhoc-archive** to:

- Access my reddit username and signup date.
- Expires in: 1 hour

mhoc-archive will not be able to access your reddit password.

[Allow](#)

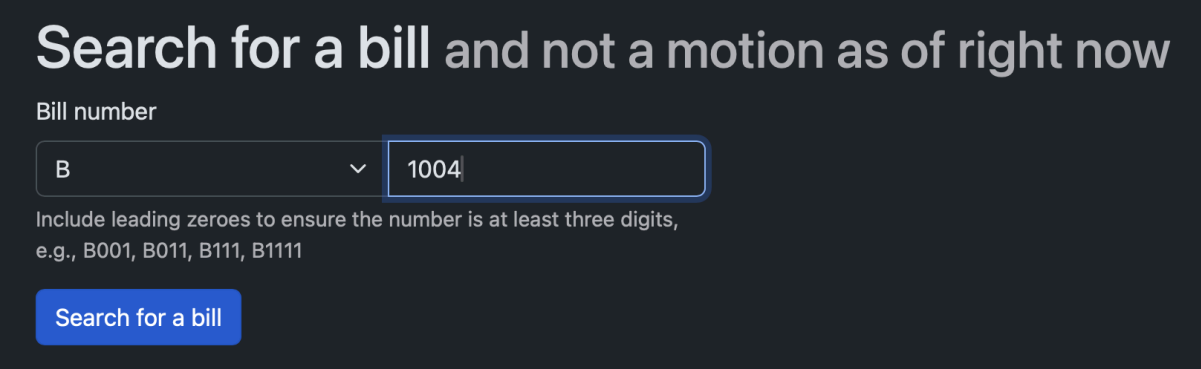
[Decline](#)

After successfully authenticating, you will be redirected to the home page. Clicking the 'get started' button again will allow you to proceed with archiving a bill.

3 Archiving a bill

3.1 Searching for a bill

To begin, search for a bill by its ID, such as 'B1234' or 'LB222'. Select 'B' or 'LB' from the dropdown as appropriate, then enter the corresponding numbers in the text box. It is important to ensure that all bill IDs have at least three digits, ie, 'B004' instead of simply 'B4'.



Search for a bill and not a motion as of right now

Bill number

B 1004

Include leading zeroes to ensure the number is at least three digits,
e.g., B001, B011, B111, B1111

Search for a bill

Clicking the search button will bring up search results for that bill ID. You should select the most recent reddit post that:

- is for the correct bill (watch for false positives – if an amending bill references the one you're searching for, it might show up)
- contains a full copy of the bill's text

You should check both the MHoC and MHoL tabs for the most recent post, as ping-pong means that either House may have been the last to consider it before it passed or failed.

Search results: B1004

Select the most recent version of this Bill (the version as enacted, or its last reading before it failed) *that includes the Bill text*. This may be a results post, third reading, or second reading.

[/r/MHoC](#) [/r/MHoL](#)

RESULTS - B1004.2 LB187 B1020.2 B1047 B1057 B981.3 B1002.2

****Order, order!!** --- # [B1004.2 – Armed Forces Covenant Bill]**
(<https://www.reddit.com/r/MHOCMP/co...>)
[read more](#)

Select this post

Tue, 28 Jul 2020 04:19:56 GMT

B1004.2 - Armed Forces Covenant Bill - Division

#Armed Forces Covenant Bill --- **A**
****BILL** **TO**** Establish a set of rights for members of ... [read more](#)

Select this post

Mon, 20 Jul 2020 13:32:54 GMT

Weekly Update 1 - 18/05/2020 - 24/05/2020

#General Items * The previous update can be found **here.** (Just kidding no it can't there isn't o... [read more](#)

Select this post

Sun, 24 May 2020 17:02:58 GMT

B1004 - Armed Forces Covenant Bill - DIVISION

###Armed Forces Covenant bill Bill** ----**
****A** **BILL** **TO**** Establish a set of rights for ... [read more](#)

Select this post

Fri, 15 May 2020 16:41:28 GMT

3.2 Preparing a bill for archival

The next screen will auto-populate with some information about the bill, but **every post will need editing to ensure it is archived properly**. It is imperative that you do not immediately submit the bill.

First, the **Bill title** should consist only of the short title of the Bill, ending in 'Bill'. In every case, this means removing the ID and reading label. For instance:

B1400.2 - Railways Bill - 3rd Reading

becomes simply:

Railways Bill

Additionally, if the short title ends in 'Act [year]', replace this with 'Bill', even if the bill passed. It will be automatically corrected later, if it was enacted.

Next, the **author** should be the reddit username of the author, without titles, postnominals, honorifics, or '/u/'. For instance, a bill authored by 'Her Grace, the Duchess of Essex DCT GCVO etc' would simply be entered as 'lily-irl'.

- If you cannot work out who the author is (whether because none is listed in the text or they are credited by a peerage name that is not hyperlinked), don't spend too much time worrying about it – simply leave the box blank.
- If multiple authors are listed, pick the first one (or whichever makes the most sense) - do not enter multiple names.

Next, the **Bill text** appears in a text box. A column on the right of the screen shows a markdown preview of how the post should appear. Initially, the text box will contain the entire contents of the reddit post you selected in the previous step, so **editing it down is necessary**.

⚠️ A note on formatting the bill text

The markdown formatting of the bills does not need to be **consistent**, but it should be **orderly**. Every bill author formats their submissions differently, and that's okay – as long as the markdown renders in a way that's comprehensible to a reader, we don't need to be overly concerned with making every bill look like it was created by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

Ideally, the text should be orderly. This means that we don't want to leave artefacts of the bill debates behind, like closing dates or a record of amendments. We simply want to present the bill as it looked before it passed or failed.

Don't stress too much about this. The first priority is archiving the bills, and if we can do that in a way that cuts down on the post-processing work later, then we ought to do so. But if we can get the text into the database, that is what ultimately matters. You shouldn't find it necessary to spend much longer than a minute editing the text of each bill.

- If the post doesn't actually contain the full text of the Bill, clicking your browser's back button *should* work, but if it doesn't, simply close the website and start again.
- Remove all of the following from the text:
 - The heading/short title, if one appears. Note this means the text you will see at some bills, which will appear as
B1400 - Railways Bill
It does **not** mean the long title, eg, 'A Bill to make provision regarding railways, etc'. You **should** include the long title.
 - The authorship credits – that should be taken care of in the 'Bill author' field.
 - The opening speech.
 - The debate/division closing date.
 - Links to amended/repealed legislation, etc.
 - Basically, anything other than the text of the Bill itself.

- Any amendment artefacts, like links to committee votes for text formatting like '[amendment](#green)'. Apply those amendments so that we're left with the final text.
- If the post links to a Google doc of the Bill or other external website, it's okay to leave the Bill text field empty (see below).

Finally, the **problem boxes** are at the bottom. Tick the first box if there's an issue with the length – if the Bill text links to a Google doc or external website. The database has the same length limitation as reddit (40,000 characters), so if a bill is too long for reddit, it's too long for the archive. Tick the second box if there's any other issue or inconsistency with the Bill that might require manual review. I encourage you to be liberal with your use of this box – if something's wrong, it's better to flag it and let someone take a look.

Archive bill data :)

Bill number

Do not include '2', 'A', etc.

Bill title

Only include the short title, e.g. 'Railways Bill'

Author

The author's reddit username, if known. Do not include '/u/', titles, or postnominals

Bill text

****A****

****BILL****

****TO****

Include only the Bill text in markdown format, excluding 'Order, order!', opening speeches, and closing dates

This Bill links to a Google doc or is too long to fit in a reddit post

There's some other issue with this Bill

If either of these are ticked, it's okay to leave the bill text empty

Submit

Markdown preview (please ensure the formatting is sane)

A

BILL

TO

Establish a set of rights for members of the Armed Forces Community

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows –

Part 1 - The Armed Forces Covenant Commissioner

1- Appointment of the Commissioner

(1) As soon as is practicable the Secretary of State must appoint a Armed Forces Covenant Commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner may serve a maximum of two, consecutive or non-consecutive five year terms, but may be removed by the secretary of state if they are incapable of carrying out the functions of their office.

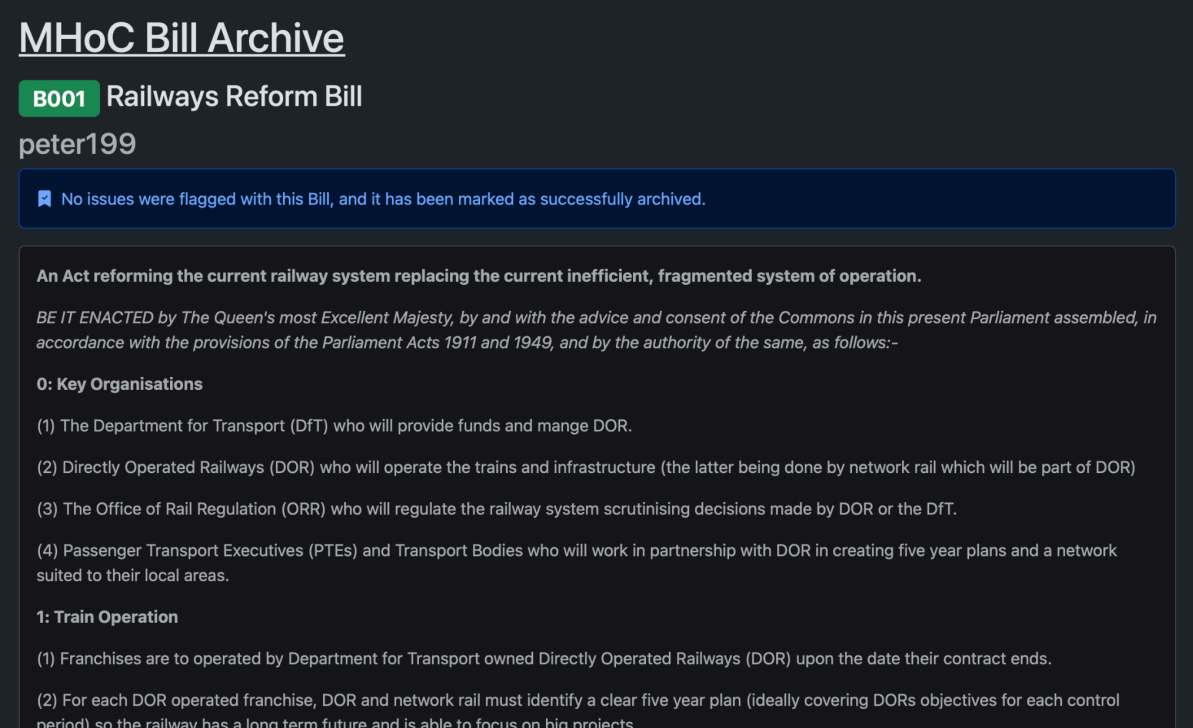
(3) The Commissioner is not a legal agent of the Crown and shall not enjoy any status, immunity or privilege of the Crown in the course of carrying out their official role.

2- Funding & Staffing

4 Viewing the archive

You should not have to be logged in to do this. If the website gets annoyed about authentication when you're trying to view the archived bills, please let me know.

The bill archive is very simple. From the home page, click on any of the bill IDs to be taken to its page.



MHoC Bill Archive

B001 Railways Reform Bill

peter199

No issues were flagged with this Bill, and it has been marked as successfully archived.

An Act reforming the current railway system replacing the current inefficient, fragmented system of operation.

BE IT ENACTED by The Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, in accordance with the provisions of the Parliament Acts 1911 and 1949, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

0: Key Organisations

(1) The Department for Transport (DfT) who will provide funds and manage DOR.

(2) Directly Operated Railways (DOR) who will operate the trains and infrastructure (the latter being done by network rail which will be part of DOR)

(3) The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) who will regulate the railway system scrutinising decisions made by DOR or the DfT.

(4) Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs) and Transport Bodies who will work in partnership with DOR in creating five year plans and a network suited to their local areas.

1: Train Operation

(1) Franchises are to be operated by Department for Transport owned Directly Operated Railways (DOR) upon the date their contract ends.

(2) For each DOR operated franchise, DOR and network rail must identify a clear five year plan (ideally covering DORs objectives for each control period) so the railway has a long term future and is able to focus on big projects.

Here, 'B001' is the ID, 'Railways Reform Bill' is its title, and 'peter199' is its author. Its archived text is displayed below. Clicking 'MHoC Bill Archive' at the top will return you to the home page.

The only thing that might need explaining is the text below the author's name.

- 'No issues were flagged with this Bill, and it has been marked as successfully archived.' is displayed when neither of the problem boxes were ticked during archival.
- 'This bill is too long for reddit, is stored in a Google Doc, or no longer has its text accessible' is displayed when the first box is ticked and the bill text is not available.
- 'There is some problem with this bill that prevents it from being properly archived, and it requires manual review' is displayed when the second box is ticked and the bill is flagged for further review.

MHoC Bill Archive

B000 Test Bill

myeehawk

ⓘ There is some problem with this bill that prevents it from being properly archived, and it requires manual review

A Bill to make provision for making a point about the website, and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Temporal, and Commons, in this Present Parliament assembled, as follows--

MHoC Bill Archive

B1212 Civil Aviation Bill

lily-irl

ⓘ This bill is too long for reddit, is stored in a Google Doc, or no longer has its text accessible

Examples of the error messages above.