

THE PROCESS OF A MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT

Trigger: HM Opposition tables a motion declaring 'That this House has no confidence in HM Government'.

Should the Prime Minister resign, a new Prime Minister must win a vote of "no confidence" within 14 days or a General Election is triggered.

Convention dictates that a "no confidence" vote will take precedence over normal Parliamentary business, and that the Government of the day will suitably find Parliamentary time to hold that vote.

If motion passes, this starts a 14-day countdown clock. If the Prime Minister refuses to resign, they must win another motion of "no confidence" within 14 days or a General Election is triggered.

A vote is then held by the House of Commons, usually on the next sitting day. For the "no confidence" motion to pass, a "simple" majority is needed: 50% of MPs +1.

If motion fails, the House has declared that it does have confidence in the Government of the day. There are, however, no limits to the number of times the Opposition can table a motion of "no confidence" to the House.

A coalition of Opposition parties may also attempt to form a Government and win a motion of "no confidence" within 14 days.