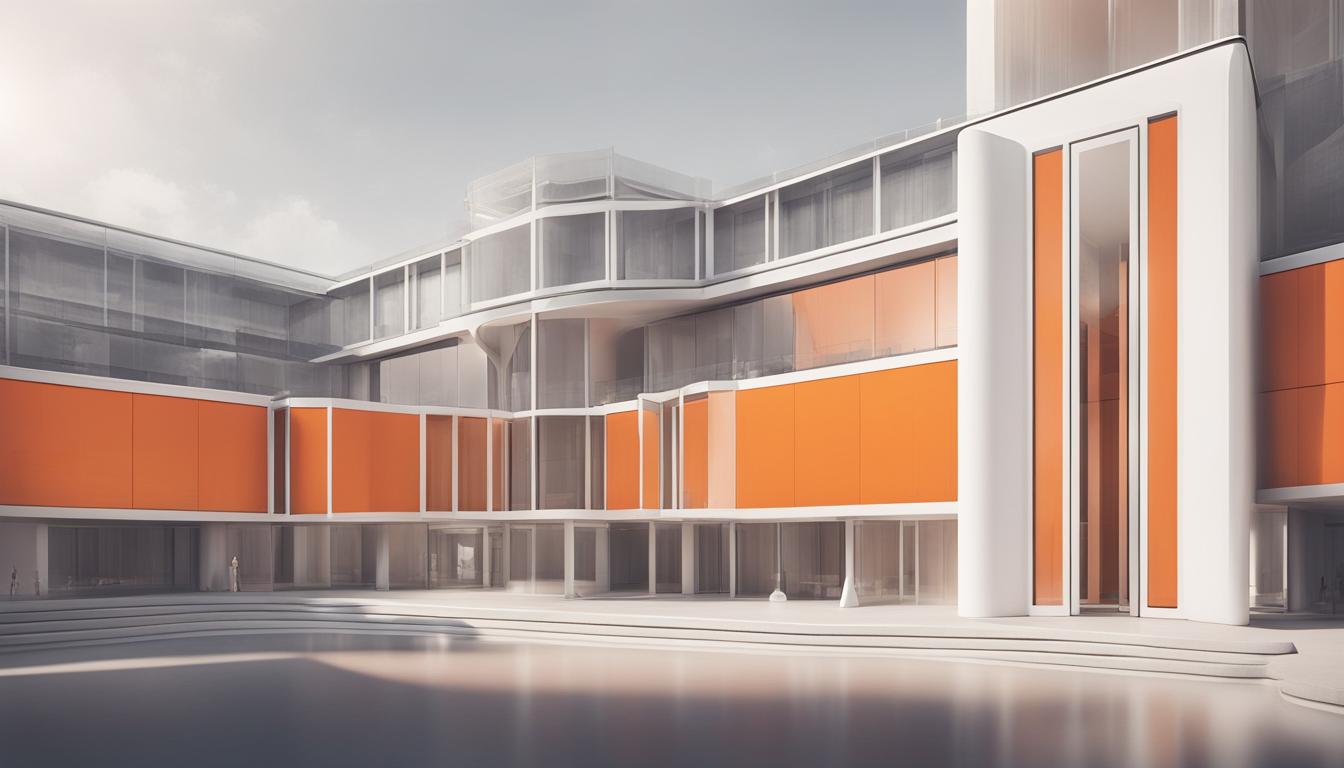
# Labour Leader Baroness Angela Smith Denies Plans for Hundreds of New Peers



**Labour Will Not Create Hundreds of New Peers, Says Baroness Angela Smith**

On Tuesday, Baroness Angela Smith, Labour’s leader in the House of Lords, stated that the Labour party would not appoint hundreds of new peers if they win the next election. This statement comes despite the Conservative party currently having 105 more members in the upper chamber.

Baroness Smith made these remarks during a session with the Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee. She indicated Labour’s preference for gradually appointing more peers over time rather than a large influx, aiming for a balance between government and opposition while reducing the overall number of peers to be closer to the size of the House of Commons.

Currently, the House of Lords has 786 eligible members, with average attendance around half that number. Conservatives hold 277 seats, Labour 172, Liberal Democrats 79, and 180 Crossbenchers who have no party allegiance.

Since 2010, the number of Conservative peers has increased with 219 appointments compared to 84 for Labour. Labour has expressed a desire to abolish the House of Lords but has not ruled out making interim appointments to facilitate legislation.

**About Andrew Stunell, Lord Stunell**

Andrew Stunell, known as Lord Stunell, passed away at age 81. A former Liberal Democrat MP and minister, Stunell was pivotal in the coalition negotiations with Conservatives after the 2010 general election. He was known for his strategic political instincts, shaped in part by his experiences during the 1977-78 Lib-Lab pact.

Stunell’s political career was marked by his role as parliamentary under-secretary in the Department for Communities and Local Government, where he contributed to the Localism Act. His earlier roles included serving on Cheshire County council and involvement in the merger that formed the Liberal Democrats.

Born on November 24, 1942, in Sutton, Surrey, Stunell had a background in architecture and was engaged in local governance before entering national politics. He was made an OBE in 1995 and knighted in 2013. He is survived by his wife, Gillian Chorley, their five children, and six grandchildren.

**Contact and Further Information**

For more stories and updates, readers can subscribe to the Evening Standard’s daily news email or explore additional topics mentioned in the articles.