Package ‘twfy’

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Title  Drive the API for TheyWorkForYou
Version  0.1.0
Description  An R wrapper around the API of TheyWorkForYou, a parliamentary monitoring site that scrapes and repackages Hansard (the UK's parliamentary record) and augments it with information from the Register of Members' Interests, election results, and voting records to provide a unified source of information about UK legislators and their activities. See <http://www.theyworkforyou.com> for details.
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call_api

Call the API directly

Description

All the other functions call this one - it's exported only for debugging purposes - so use them instead.

Usage

call_api(endpoint, ...)

Arguments

endpoint Function name e.g. 'getConstituencies'
...
endpoint's (often optional) named arguments

Details

If you're really curious about implementation, read on. Each API function introspects to see what its
function name is, bundles up its named arguments, and calls this function with them. Consequently,
aside from a bit of argument checking and/or return value massaging, every function is implemented
exactly the same way.
convertURL

**Value**

Response content, as unserialized by `jsonlite::fromJSON`

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**convertURL**

*Convert URL*

**Description**

Converts a parliament.uk Hansard URL into a TheyWorkForYou one, if possible.

**Usage**

```r
customURL(url)
```

**Arguments**

- `url` url you want to convert

**Value**

A one row data.frame with columns `gid` and `url`.

**Examples**

```r
# Not run:
site <- "http://www.publications.parliament.uk"
pagen <- "/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120418/debtext/120418-0001.htm"
in_page <- "$12041847002086"
address <- paste0(site, page, in_page)
res <- convertURL(address)
names(res) # gid, url

# End(Not run)
```

---

**getBoundary**

*Get constituency boundary information as KML*

**Description**

Get constituency boundary information as KML

**Usage**

```r
customBoundary(name)
```
getComments

Arguments

name
Name of constituency

Value

A character vector full of KML (an XML dialect)

getComments
Get comments left on TheyWorkForYou

Description

Get comments left on TheyWorkForYou

Usage

getComments(start_date = NULL, end_date = NULL, search = NULL, pid = NULL, page = NULL, num = NULL)

Arguments

start_date
Beginning date
end_date
End date
search
A search string
pid
A person identifier
page
which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
num
Number of results to return

Value

A list containing data.frames with columns

- comment_id
  Comment identifier
- user_id
  User identifier
- epobject_id
- bodyText of comment
- posted
  date and time posted
- major
- gid
- firstname
  Commenter's first name
- lastname
  Commenter's last name
- url
  URL of the comment
- useurl
  URL endpoint for commenter
getCommittee

Get members of a Parliamentary Select Committee

Description
If name is not specified, all committees and their members are returned.

Usage
getCommittee(name = NULL, date = NULL)

Arguments
name Name of the committee. Partial names will be matched.
date Date for which the committee membership is required

Details
TheyWorkForYou notes that "We have no information since the 2010 general election, and information before may be inaccurate."

Value
A data.frame of committee members, and also committees if name is not specified.

getConstituencies

Get constituency names

Description
Get constituency names

Usage
getConstituencies(date = NULL, search = NULL)

Arguments
date Date for which constituency names are required
search Search string

Value
A data.frame with single column name containing constituency names
getConstituency  
*Get information for a constituency*

**Description**
Get information for a constituency

**Usage**
getConstituency(name = NULL, postcode = NULL)

**Arguments**
- name  
  Name of constituency
- postcode  
  A postcode
  One of name or postcode is required.

**Value**
A data.frame with columns
- name  
  Constituency name
- pa_id  
  Constituency identifier
- bbc_constituency_id  
  BBC numeric identifier
- guardian_election_results  
  URL for election results
- guardian_id  
  Guardian numeric identifier
- guardian_name  
  Guardian name identifier

getDebates  
*Get information about parliamentary debates*

**Description**
Get information about parliamentary debates

**Usage**
getDebates(type = c("commons", "westminsterhall", "lords", "scotland", "northernireland"), date = NULL, search = NULL, person = NULL, gid = NULL, order = c("d", "r"), page = NULL, num = NULL)
getGeometry

Arguments

type  location of the debate. Defaults to the House of Commons
date  Date on which debates are required
search  A search string
person  A person identifier to specify which speaker’s contributions are required
gid  A speech/debate identifier to restrict to a particular debate
order  whether to order results by date or relevance. Defaults to date
page  which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
num  Number of results to return

Value

A complex data.frame of debate information. Documentation is somewhat lacking, and many columns contain data.frames so you’ll have to dig around.

getGeometry  Return geometry information for a constituency

Description

From TheyWorkForYou: "This currently includes, for Great Britain, the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the bounding box of the constituency, its area in square meters, the bounding box itself and the number of parts in the polygon that makes up the constituency. For Northern Ireland, as we don’t have any better data, it only returns an approximate (estimated by eye) latitude and longitude for the constituency’s centroid."

Usage

getGeometry(name)

Arguments

name  Name of constituency

Value

A data.frame with columns

- parts number of connected parts of the constituency
- area area in square meters
- min_lat minimum latitude in the constituency
- centre_lat latitude of the central point of the constituency
- max_lat maximum latitude in the constituency
- min_long minimum longitude in the constituency
• centre_long longitude of the central point of the constituency
• max_long maximum longitude in the constituency
• srid_n
• min_e
• centre_e
• max_e
• min_n
• centre_n
• max_n

getHansard  Search Hansard

Description

This needs much more documentation.

Usage

getHansard(search = NULL, person = NULL, order = c("d", "r"),
page = NULL, num = NULL)

Arguments

search  A search string
person  A person identifier
order  whether to order results by date or relevance. Defaults to date
page  which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
num  Number of results to return

Value

Search results
getLord

**Description**

Get information about a Lord

**Usage**

getLord(id)

**Arguments**

- **id**: Person identifier

**Value**

A data.frame with columns:

- **member_id**: Member identifier
- **house**: Which chamber: 1: The House of Commons, 2: The House of Lords.
- **constituency**: Constituency represented
- **party**: Party
- **entered_house**: Date when entered the House of Lords
- **left_house**: Date when left the House of Lords or 9999-12-31 if still in office
- **entered_reason**: Why they entered
- **left_reason**: Why they left
- **person_id**: Person identifier
- **lastupdate**: Date TheyWorkForYou updated this information
- **title**: Title, e.g. 'Baroness'
- **given_name**: First names
- **family_name**: Family name
- **lordofname**: Location associated with title
- **full_name**: First names then family name
getLords

Get information about Lords

Description

Get information about Lords

Usage

getLords(date = NULL, party = NULL, search = NULL)

Arguments

date ISO-style date, e.g. "1990-01-02", to compile a list of Lords for
party Restrict list to Lords in this party
search A search term

Value

A data.frame with columns

- member_id Member identifier, dependent on position
- person_id Person identifier
- name Name of Lord
- party Party
- office NULL if no offices held, or a list with one element: a data.frame with column head-
ings:
  - dept The committee or commission name
  - position Job role, e.g. Member or Leader,
  - from_date Date tenure in office began
  - to_date Date tenure in office ended, or 9999-12-31 if still in office

getMLA

Get information on a Member of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)

Description

Get information on a Member of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)

Usage

getMLA(id = NULL, postcode = NULL, constituency = NULL, always_return = NULL)
getMLAs

Arguments

id A MLA identifier
postcode A postcode, which specifies a region represented by the MLA
county A constituency
always_return whether to try to return an MP even if the seat is vacant or it before an election

Value

a data.frame with rows representing the MLA's spells in the Assembly and columns

- member_id Member identifier for each spell in the Assembly
- house 1: House of Commons, 2: House of Lords, 3: Legislative Assembly (NI), 4: Scottish Parliament
- constituency Constituency represented
- party Party
- entered_house Date MP entered Parliament
- left_house Date MP left Parliament, or 9999-12-31 if still in place
- entered_reason Reason MP entered, e.g. general_election
- left_reason Reason MP left, e.g. general_election_standing
- person_id Person identifier
- lastupdate When TheyWorkForYou last updated this information
- title Title, if any
- given_name First name
- family_name Family name
- full_name First name and family name
- url URL path relative to TheyWorkForYou's hostname
- image URL path to jpg relative to TheyWorkForYou's hostname
- image_height Image height in pixels
- image_width Image width in pixels

getMLAs Get information on Members of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)

Description

Get information on Members of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)

Usage

getMLAs(date = NULL, party = NULL, search = NULL)
getMP

Arguments

date The date for which the MLAs are required
party Restrict MLAs to those in a party
search A search string

Value

A data.frame with columns

- member_id Member identifier for each spell in the Legislative Assembly
- person_id Person identifier
- name Full name of MLA
- party Party represented
- constituency Name of MLA's constituency

getMP

Get information about a Member of Parliament

Description

Returns

Usage

getMP(id = NULL, postcode = NULL, constituency = NULL,
      always_return = NULL)

Arguments

id An MP identifier
postcode A postcode, used to identify a constituency and thereby an MP
constituency Name of a constituency
always_return whether to try to return an MP even if the seat is vacant or it before an election

Value

a data.frame with rows representing the MP’s spells in Parliament and columns

- member_id Member identifier for each spell in parliament
- house 1: House of Commons, 2: House of Lords, 3: Legislative Assembly (NI), 4: Scottish Parliament
- constituency Constituency represented
- party Party
- entered_house Date MP entered Parliament
getMPInfo

- left_house Date MP left Parliament
- entered_reason Reason MP entered, e.g. general_election
- left_reason Reason MP left, e.g. general_election_standing
- person_id Person identifier
- lastupdate When TheyWorkForYou last updated this information
- title Title, if any
- given_name First name
- family_name Family name
- full_name First name and family name
- url URL path relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
- image URL path to jpg relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
- image_height Image height in pixels
- image_width Image width in pixels

---

### Description

Unless you want all the four hundred or so fields available about an MP you should probably specify the ones you want in a comma-separated string to `fields`.

### Usage

```r
getMPInfo(id, fields = NULL)
```

### Arguments

- `id` An MP identifier
- `fields` A comma separated character vector of field names

### Details

Note that unlike other functions in this package the result is a list

### Value

A list
getMPs

Get information about Members of Parliament

Description

Get information about Members of Parliament

Usage

getMPs(date = NULL, party = NULL, search = NULL)

Arguments

date Date for which the MP list is constructed
party Restrict to MPs in this party
search A search string

Value

a data.frame with columns

• member_id Member identifier
• person_id Person identifier
• name MP’s first names then family name
• party Party
• constituency Constituency represented
• office NULL if no offices held, or a list with one element: a data.frame with column headings:
  – dept The committee or commission name
  – position Role, e.g. Member,
  – from_date Date tenure in office began
  – to_date Date tenure in office ended, or 9999-12-31 if still in office

or an empty list if parliament is dissolved.
getMPsInfo

Get more information about a Member of Parliament

Description
Get more information about a Member of Parliament

Usage
getMPsInfo(ids, fields = NULL)

Arguments
ids A character vector of comma-separated MP identifiers
fields A comma separated character vector of field names

Value
A list of list of MP information

getMSP

Get information on a Member of the Scottish Parliament

Description
Get information on a Member of the Scottish Parliament

Usage
getMSP(id = NULL, postcode = NULL, constituency = NULL,
always_return = NULL)

Arguments
id Person identifier
postcode A postcode, which specifies the constituency whose MSP is required
constituency Name of a constituency
always_return whether to try to return an MP even if the seat is vacant or it before an election
Value

a data.frame with rows representing the MP’s spells in Parliament and columns

- **member_id** Member identifier for each spell in parliament
- **house** 1: House of Commons, 2: House of Lords, 3: Legislative Assembly (NI), 4: Scottish Parliament
- **constituency** Constituency represented
- **party** Party
- **entered_house** Date MP entered Parliament
- **left_house** Date MP left Parliament, or 9999-12-31 if still in place
- **entered_reason** Reason MP entered, e.g. general_election
- **left_reason** Reason MP left, e.g. general_election_standing
- **person_id** Person identifier
- **lastupdate** When TheyWorkForYou last updated this information
- **title** Title, if any
- **given_name** First name
- **family_name** Family name
- **full_name** First name and family name
- **url** URL path relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
- **image** URL path to jpg relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
- **image_height** Image height in pixels
- **image_width** Image width in pixels

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### getMSPs

Get information about Members of the Scottish Parliament

**Description**

Get information about Members of the Scottish Parliament

**Usage**

```r
getMSPs(date = NULL, party = NULL, search = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- **date** The date for which the MSPs are required
- **party** Restrict MSPs to those in a party
- **search** A search string
Value

A data.frame with columns

- member_id Member identifier for each spell in the Scottish parliament
- person_id Person identifier
- name Full name of MSP
- party Party represented
- constituency Name of MSP’s constituency

getPerson (id)

Arguments

id A person identifier

Value

a data.frame with rows representing the person’s spells in the whatever legislative body they are members of, with columns

- member_id Member identifier for each spell in the Assembly
- house 1: House of Commons, 2: House of Lords, 3: Legislative Assembly (NI), 4: Scottish Parliament
- constituency Constituency represented
- party Party (in that spell)
- entered_house Date MP entered Parliament
- left_house Date MP left Parliament, or 9999-12-31 if still in place
- entered_reason Reason MP entered, e.g. general_election
- left_reason Reason MP left, e.g. general_election_standing
- person_id Person identifier
- lastupdate When TheyWorkForYou last updated this information
- title Title, if any
- given_name First name
- family_name Family name
- full_name First name and family name
**getWMS**  
*Get written ministerial responses*

**Description**

Get written ministerial responses

**Usage**

```r
getWMS(date = NULL, search = NULL, person = NULL, gid = NULL, 
order = c("d", "r"), page = NULL, num = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- **date**  
  Date for which responses are required
- **search**  
  A search string
- **person**  
  A person identifier to specify which minister provided the answers
- **gid**  
  A response identifier to return
- **order**  
  Whether to order results by date or relevance. Defaults to date
- **page**  
  Which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
- **num**  
  Number of results to return

**Value**

A list of information about written ministerial responses

**getWrans**  
*Get written answers to questions*

**Description**

The output of this function needs documentation.

**Usage**

```r
getWrans(date = NULL, search = NULL, person = NULL, gid = NULL, 
order = c("d", "r"), page = NULL, num = NULL)
```
Arguments

date    Date for which answers are required
search  A search string
person  A person identifier to specify who provided the answers
gid     A written question and answer identifier to return
order   whether to order results by date or relevance. Defaults to date
page    which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
num     Number of results to return

Value

A data.frame with two columns

* entry a data.frame
* subs a data.frame

. The entry data.frame has columns

* epobject_id
* htype
* gid
* hpos
* section_id
* subsection_id
* hdate
* htime
* source_url
* major
* minor
* video_status
* colnum
* body

. subs is a list containing data.frames with all the columns in entry and in addition

* excerpt
* listurl
* commentsurl
* totalcomments
* comment
get_api_key

Get the API key

Description
Get the current API key or request it if not present. When you provide a key it will be stored as a local environment variable TWFY_API_KEY and also in your ~/.Renviron, making it available for all subsequent R sessions.

Usage
get_api_key()

Details
API keys can be requested at http://theyworkforyou.com/api/key.

Value
The current API key

set_api_key

Set the API key

Description
This function manually sets or resets the API key. It is mostly useful for updating your key as all API function calls will ask for a key and store it locally and in ~/.Renviron any time they do not find one.

Usage
set_api_key(api_key)

Arguments
api_key a new API key

Value
Nothing
Description

twfy is an R wrapper around the API of TheyWorkForYou, a parliamentary monitoring site that scrapes and repackages Hansard (the UK’s parliamentary record) and augments it with information from the Register of Members’ Interests, election results, and voting records to provide a unified source of information about UK legislators and their activities. <http://www.theyworkforyou.com> for details.

Details

twfy functions currently mirror the structure and naming scheme of the API as documented at http://theyworkforyou.com/api/. While the package attempts where possible to provide more detail on structure of the API’s return values, this is not guaranteed to be correct and the link above should be your primary source of documentation.
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