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An Introduction by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister

This Queen's Speech is all about backing people who work hard and want to get on in life.

Under Labour, Britain's problems went much deeper than our deficit. As new powers were rising across the globe, our economy was becoming less competitive; our tax and benefits system did not properly reward hard work; too many of our children were leaving school without the skills they needed to flourish.

Since this Government came in, we have been determined to turn our country around. We recognise that success doesn't lie in the anonymous forces of economics alone. Instead, it will be driven by the collective hard work of our people. Our purpose must be to unlock their potential and unleash their talents.

We have already made good progress. Millions of children are getting a better start in life because of our education reforms: higher standards expected, discipline being restored and a Pupil Premium introduced for the most disadvantaged. Our changes to welfare will help many escape a life on benefits, while ensuring support remains for those who need it most. We're making income tax fairer, cutting it for 24 million people and taking two million out of it altogether. And this has all been done while cutting a third of Labour's deficit.

We will continue to implement these reforms over the course of this Parliament. But further measures are needed to help people get on in life. In the next legislative session we will turn to these.

More still needs to be done to fire up our private sector and create the jobs people need. So our National Insurance Contributions Bill will cut the cost of recruiting new employees, particularly for small businesses. A Deregulation Bill will reduce the burden of unnecessary legislation on firms looking to grow. Legislation will be brought in to help businesses protect their intellectual property.

We also want to ensure that all businesses treat their customers fairly. A draft Bill on consumer rights will therefore be introduced, giving people greater confidence when spending their money.

If you have contributed all your life, you should be rewarded in retirement. So we will introduce a Bill to cap social care costs, meaning that pensioners do not have to sell their homes to fund their care. A Pensions Bill will also be brought in to create a simple, flat rate pension that encourages saving.

We want this country to attract people who will add to our national life— but those who will not should be deterred. That's why we are going to bring forward an Immigration Bill to clamp down on those from overseas who abuse our public services.

Finally, safe communities are thriving communities. In this session we will introduce a new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill that will do more to keep our neighbourhoods safe and secure. Our Offender Rehabilitation Bill will also transform

the way offenders are dealt with once they leave prison, tackling persistent reoffending.

In May 2010 we came together to govern in the national interest. We knew the road ahead would be tough and so it has proved to be. But three years on, our resolve to turn our country around has never been stronger. We know that Britain can be great again because we've got the people to do it. Today's Queen's Speech shows that we will back them every step of the way.

Prime Minister David Cameron MP
Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg MP

EMBARGOED
before Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech
to both Houses of Parliament 08 May 2013

**HER MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH TO BOTH HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT**

WEDNESDAY 08 MAY 2013

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government's legislative programme will continue to focus on building a stronger economy so that the United Kingdom can compete and succeed in the world.

It will also work to promote a fairer society that rewards people who work hard.

My Government's first priority is to strengthen Britain's economic competitiveness. To this end, it will support the growth of the private sector and the creation of more jobs and opportunities.

My Ministers will continue to prioritise measures that reduce the deficit – ensuring interest rates are kept low for homeowners and businesses.

My Government is committed to building an economy where people who work hard are properly rewarded. It will therefore continue to reform the benefits system, helping people move from welfare to work.

Measures will be brought forward to introduce a new Employment Allowance to support jobs and help small businesses. **[National Insurance Contributions Bill]**

A Bill will be introduced to reduce the burden of excessive regulation on businesses **[Deregulation Bill]**. A further Bill will make it easier for businesses to protect their intellectual property. **[Intellectual Property Bill]**

A draft Bill will be published establishing a simple set of consumer rights to promote competitive markets and growth. **[Draft Consumer Rights Bill]**

My Government will introduce a Bill that closes the Audit Commission. **[Local Audit and Accountability Bill]**

My Government will continue to invest in infrastructure to deliver jobs and growth for the economy.

Legislation will be introduced to enable the building of the 'High Speed Two' railway line, providing further opportunities for economic growth in many of Britain's cities.

[High Speed Rail (Preparation) Bill and High Speed Two Hybrid Bill]

My Government will continue with legislation to update energy infrastructure **[Energy Bill – carried over from previous session]** and to improve the water industry.

[Water Bill]

My Government is committed to a fairer society where aspiration and responsibility are rewarded.

To make sure that every child has the best start in life, regardless of background, further measures will be taken to improve the quality of education for young people.

Plans will be developed to help working parents with childcare, increasing its availability and helping with its cost.

My Government will also take forward plans for a new National Curriculum, a world class exam system and greater flexibility in pay for teachers.

My Government will also take steps to ensure that it becomes typical for those leaving school to start a traineeship or an apprenticeship, or to go to university.

New arrangements will be put in place to help more people own their own home, with Government support provided for mortgages and deposits.

My Government is committed to supporting people who have saved for their retirement.

Legislation will be introduced to reform the way long term care is paid for, to ensure the elderly do not have to sell their homes to meet their care bills. **[Care Bill]**

My Government will bring forward legislation to create a simpler state pension system that encourages saving and provides more help to those who have spent years caring for children. **[Pensions Bill]**

Legislation will be introduced to ensure sufferers of a certain asbestos-related cancer receive payments where no liable employer or insurer can be traced. **[Mesothelioma Bill]**

My Government will bring forward a Bill that further reforms Britain's immigration system. The Bill will ensure that this country attracts people who will contribute and deters those who will not. **[Immigration Bill]**

My Government will continue to reduce crime and protect national security.

Legislation will be introduced to reform the way in which offenders are rehabilitated in England and Wales. **[Offender Rehabilitation Bill]**

Legislation will be brought forward to introduce new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, cut crime and further reform the police. **[Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill]**

In relation to the problem of matching internet protocol addresses, my Government will bring forward proposals to enable the protection of the public and the investigation of crime in cyberspace.

Measures will be brought forward to improve the way this country procures defence equipment, as well as strengthening the Reserve Forces. **[Defence Reform Bill]**

My Ministers will continue to work in cooperation with the devolved administrations.

A Bill will be introduced to give effect to a number of institutional improvements in Northern Ireland. **[Northern Ireland Bill]**

Draft legislation will be published concerning the electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales. **[Draft Wales Bill]**

My Government will continue to make the case for Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Estimates for the public services will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government will work to prevent conflict and reduce terrorism. It will support countries in transition in the Middle East and North Africa, and the opening of a peace process in Afghanistan.

My Government will work to prevent sexual violence in conflict worldwide.

My Government will ensure the security, good governance and development of the Overseas Territories, including by protecting the Falkland Islanders' and Gibraltarians' right to determine their political futures.

In assuming the Presidency of the G8, my Government will promote economic growth, support free trade, tackle tax evasion, encourage greater transparency and accountability while continuing to make progress in tackling climate change.

Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

Building a stronger economy, reducing the deficit and promoting fairness

“My Government’s legislative programme will continue to focus on building a stronger economy so that the United Kingdom can compete and succeed in the world.”

“It will also work to promote a fairer society that rewards people who work hard.”

“My Government’s first priority is to strengthen Britain’s economic competitiveness. To this end, it will support the growth of the private sector and the creation of more jobs and opportunities.”

“My Ministers will continue to prioritise measures that reduce the deficit – ensuring interest rates are kept low for homeowners and businesses.”

“It will also work to promote a fairer society that rewards people who work hard.”

The Government’s objective is to equip the UK to succeed in a global race, to secure a stronger economy and a fairer society. This requires tough decisions to deal with the deficit and support an aspiration nation. Action already taken by the Government has helped keep interest rates at near record lows, helping families, businesses and the taxpayer.

While it is taking longer than anyone hoped, the Government has made significant progress in reversing the unprecedented rise in borrowing and the deficit has been reduced by a third over three years. Over one million private sector jobs have been created and employment is at record levels, exceeding the pre-crisis peak.

In a tough global climate, the UK economy is on the right track and the Government is committed to keeping costs down for households and businesses. Budget 2013 sets out measures to:

- Protect the economy and public finances
- Support growth
- Ensure fairness

The Government has reviewed the monetary policy and reaffirms the flexible inflation targeting framework with the two per cent inflation target. The updated remit clarifies the trade-offs that are involved in setting monetary policy and has requested the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) provides in its August 2013 Inflation Report an assessment of the merits of using intermediate thresholds in the operation and communication of monetary policy.

The economy and public finances: Delivering on plans to reduce the deficit, restore stability and rebalance the economy.

The UK economy is recovering from the most damaging financial crisis in generations, after a decade of growth built on unsustainable levels of debt. The Government inherited the largest deficit since the Second World War and the UK experienced one of the deepest recessions of any major economy. Across the world recovery over the past four years has been slower than forecast and the euro area is now in recession.

The Government's economic strategy set out in the June Budget 2010 is designed to protect the economy through the recent period of global uncertainty and provide the foundations for recovery. This strategy is restoring public finances to a sustainable path and the deficit has been reduced by a third of over the three years from 2009-10.

This strategy has helped the Government to equip the UK to compete in the global race. The UK has the fourth lowest corporation tax in the G20 and will reduce the rate by an additional one per cent in April 2015, to 20 per cent, the joint lowest in the G20. The UK has risen to eight in the 2012 World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report; and the 2012 KPMG Annual Survey of Tax Competitiveness looked at six key competitor economies and found that out of these the UK was the most commonly cited as being in the top three.

As a result of the difficult global economic conditions, and smaller contributions to growth from net trade and consumption, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has revised down its growth forecast for this year and the year after. Public sector net debt as a percentage of GDP is forecast to start falling in 2017-18. The OBR has

deemed that the Government remains on course to meet the fiscal mandate a year early. The deficit is predicted to fall in every year of the forecast.

The Government's judgement is that significant changes to the path of consolidation in the short term would constrain the automatic stabilisers, limiting their ability to support the economy. Budget 2013 is therefore fiscally neutral and reinforces the Government's commitment to deficit reduction.

Growth: equipping the UK to compete in the global race by building a stronger economy that supports aspiration and helps UK businesses to create jobs and people to own their own home.

The Government will:

- Give every business and charity a £2,000 allowance towards their National Insurance Contributions bill, from April 2014, benefitting 1.25 million businesses;
- Achieve the ambition for the UK tax system to be one of the most competitive in the world; including a further cut in corporation tax to 20 per cent from April 2015, the joint lowest in the G20;
- Increase capital investment plans by £3 billion a year from 2015-16; Public investment will be higher on average over this Parliament and the next than under the previous Government;
- Devolve a greater proportion of growth-related spending to local areas from April 2015, in response to Lord Heseltine's review.

Fairness: Building a fairer society, so we can help those who want to work hard and get on, to support aspiration and keep costs down for households and businesses.

The Government's economic and fiscal strategy is underpinned by its commitment to fairness, by ensuring that everybody pays their fair share. The Government will:

- Support those on low and middle incomes by increasing the income tax personal allowance by £560 to £10,000 from April 2014, meeting the Government's objective for the personal allowance one year early. This will save a typical basic rate taxpayer £705 a year in cash terms and will take 2.7 million people out of tax altogether;
- Provide further support for businesses and motorists by cancelling the fuel duty increase planned for 1 September 2013, so fuel duty stays frozen for nearly three and a half years. It will cost £7 less for a typical motorist to fill their tank from April 2013, and £10 less by the end of the Parliament;
- Help those who want to buy a home, with a £3.5 billion investment in a Help to Buy Shared Equity Scheme, open to all those who aspire to own a new build home, and the Help to Buy Mortgage Guarantee to increase the availability of mortgages on new or existing properties for those with small deposits;
- Introduce a new system of tax-free childcare vouchers to support working families with 20 per cent of childcare costs. The scheme will be phased in from 2015-16 and once fully phased in will provide support for children under 12, up to a limit of £6000 for each child per year;
- Ensure clarity and confidence for those saving for their retirement by introducing the single-tier State Pension in 2016-2017;
- Provide peace of mind for those who want to plan for old age by implementing the £72,000 cap on reasonable care costs in April 2016, a year ahead of plans;
- Reduce general beer duty by two per cent from 25 March 2013, worth one penny on a pint of beer; cancel the escalator for beer duty next year and instead increase it by inflation after Budget 2014, to support community pubs;
- Crackdown on tax avoidance and evasion, with a £4.6 billion package including a new tax information exchange agreement between the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey.

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Benefits

“My government... will therefore continue to reform the benefits system, helping people move from welfare to work.”

The Government is currently undertaking the most radical redesign of the benefits system this country has ever seen.

For too long, the current system has trapped people in dependency, with many of those on benefits believing that the financial risks of moving into work are too great. The current system is overly complex and there are also insufficient incentives to encourage people to start work or increase their hours.

Our reforms are about restoring fairness and affordability to the benefits system:

- Implementing Universal Credit – to simplify the welfare system and make work pay, changing the incentives in the benefit system so that it acts as a springboard into work rather than a trap.
- Introducing the benefit cap – so that households on out-of-work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households.
- Delivering the Work Programme – the biggest single payment by results employment programme Britain has ever seen, ensuring that the hardest-to-help individuals receive tailored support to enter and stay in work.
- Replacing Disability Living Allowance with the Personal Independence Payment – a fairer, more transparent and sustainable system, supporting disabled people who face the greatest barriers to live independent lives.
- Reforming Housing Benefit – to control Housing Benefit expenditure and improve work incentives, as well as encouraging people to make sensible

decisions about what accommodation they can reasonably afford.

We are ensuring that vulnerable individuals and families get the help they need, including better targeting support for those most in need. But we are also doing all we can to encourage people to make choices that have the potential to transform their lives, both ensuring that work rewards those who take it, and making clear that choosing not to work when you are able is no longer an option.

Together with vital pensions reforms – already introducing automatic enrolment into workplace pensions and bringing in the single tier pension from January 2016 – we are ensuring that, first that it pays to work, and then it pays to save. In doing so, we will help to reduce poverty and welfare dependency, setting people on a journey to independence.

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National Insurance Contributions Bill

“Measures will be brought forward to introduce a new Employment Allowance to support jobs and help small businesses.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would reduce the costs of employment and support small businesses aspiring to grow and expand the fight against abusive tax schemes by extending the General Anti-Abuse Rule to cover National Insurance Contributions (NICs).

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Reduce the costs of employment and support small businesses.
- Deter and tackle users of abusive tax schemes by extending the General Anti-Abuse rule to cover NICs.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Reducing employer NICs bills each year by, from April 2014, entitling every business and charity to a £2,000 Employment Allowance.
- Extending the General Anti-Abuse Rule to NICs, reinforcing the Government's commitment to tackle abusive avoidance.
- Strengthening legislation to prevent the use of offshore employment payroll companies (intermediaries) to avoid employer NICs.

- Removing the presumption for self-employment for limited liability partnership members.

Related documents:

- Budget 2013 announcement about the Employment Allowance:
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_income_nics.htm
- Budget 2013 Growth infographic including information about the Employment Allowance:
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/budget2013_growth_infographic.pdf
- General Anti-Abuse Rule:
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_avoidance_gaar.htm
- Legislation to block tax avoidance involving offshore:
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_27_13.htm

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992
- Social Security Administration Act 1992
- Social Security (Contributions) Regulations 2001

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to the whole of the UK.

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08 May 2013

Deregulation Bill

“A Bill will be introduced to reduce the burden of excessive regulation on businesses.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

The Deregulation Bill would be part of the Government’s agenda to reduce the burden of excessive or unnecessary regulation where primary legislation is required. The Bill will be published in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny. Many other regulations are being scrapped and reformed either administratively or via secondary legislation.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Reduce or remove burdens on businesses and Civil Society and facilitate growth
- Reduce or remove burdens on public bodies, the taxpayer or individuals
- Tidying up the statute book by repealing legislation that is no longer of any practical use.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Measures which will reduce or remove burdens on businesses and Civil Society and facilitate growth
- Measures which will reduce or remove burdens on public bodies, the taxpayer or individuals
- Good legislative housekeeping: repealing legislation that is no longer of any practical use

These include:

- A duty to require non-economic regulators to have regard to the impact of their actions upon growth
- Reducing the qualifying period for Right to Buy and Right to Acquire from five years to three years
- Exempting from health and safety law those self-employed whose work activities pose no potential risk of harm to others
- Removing a power for employment tribunals to make wider recommendations in successful discrimination cases under the Equality Act 2010
- No longer obliging councils to produce assessments after designating air quality zones

Related documents:

- The Red Tape Challenge:
<http://redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
- Non-economic Regulators: Duty to Have Regard to Growth:
<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/brdo/docs/publications-2013/13-684-growth-consultation.pdf>
- The Government's fifth statement of new regulation (SONR):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fifth-statement-of-new-regulation-sonr>

Existing legislation in this area:

The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013

Devolution:

UK-wide. All provisions in the Bill extend to England and Wales and some would also extend to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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08 May 2013

Intellectual Property Bill

“A further Bill will make it easier for businesses to protect their intellectual property.”

The purpose of this Bill is to:

- Implement reforms on the intellectual property framework for design in response to the recommendations of the Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property and Growth 2011.
- Support business in driving economic growth, innovation and encouraging enterprise. This will help business to better understand what is protected under design law through clarifying design ownership and strengthening design protection.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Simplify and strengthen design protection for the UK’s hugely important design sector.
- Make the Intellectual Property (IP) system clearer and more accessible to small and medium-sized businesses.
- Ensure the UK Intellectual Property system is operating efficiently

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Implementing the Unified Patent Court, part of which will be based in London. This would introduce a single patent system in almost all EU countries making it possible for British businesses to protect their inventions across countries in a single application. Any disputed applications would be held in the UK.

- Making it easier for business to understand what is protected under design law, in order to aid innovation and make investment in the design sector safer and clearer
- Making design ownership clearer to encourage trade in design intangible assets and reduce costs for business.
- Strengthening design protection through the introduction of criminal penalties for UK registered designs, helping designers enforce their rights
- Introducing a design rights opinion service with the aim of enabling more IP disputes to be settled without resorting to expensive and time-consuming litigation.
- Allowing the UK to share information on unpublished patent applications to help clear existing application backlogs and speed up clearance times. This would help speed up work between the UK and other patent offices.

Related documents:

- Consultation on Changes to the Patents Act 1977 – December 2012
<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/consult-2012-patact.pdf>
- Consultation on the Reform of the UK Designs Legal Framework – July 2012
<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/consult-2012-designs.pdf>
- Consultation on expansion of the IPO Patents Opinions Service – June 2012
<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/consult-2012-opinion.pdf>
- Government Response to the Designs Consultation – 30 April 2013
<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/hargreaves.htm>
- The Government Response to the Hargreaves Review – August 2011

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ipresponse-full.pdf>

- The Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property & Growth – May 2011

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ipreview-finalreport.pdf>

- Justice Committee's Report into the Post-legislative scrutiny of the FOI Act 2000

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/162298/post-legislative-assessment-of-the-foi-act.pdf.pdf

- Government response to Justice Committee's Report into Post-legislative scrutiny of the FOI Act 2000

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/162251/gov-resp-justice-comm-foi-act.pdf.pdf

- Government response to the IPO Patents Opinions Service Consultation – 30 April 2013

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/hargreaves.htm>

- Government response to the Changes to the Patents Act 1977 Consultation – 30 April 2013

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/hargreaves.htm>

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988
- Patents Act 1977
- Registered Designs Act 1949

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to the whole of the UK.

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Draft Consumer Rights Bill

“A draft Bill will be published establishing a simple set of consumer rights to promote competitive markets and growth.”

The purpose of this Bill is to:

- Give consumers clearer rights in law and to make sure that consumer rights keep pace with technological advances.
- Provide important new protections for consumers alongside measures to reduce regulation for business, all with the aim of making markets work better.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Give consumers greater confidence when buying products, knowing their rights if things go wrong, switching suppliers or making purchases by telephone or internet.
- Update the law to take account of purchases of digital content.
- Introduce new protections for consumers and businesses.
- Reduce burdens for businesses as there would be fewer and less costly disputes with their customers because the rights are clearer.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Consolidation of legislation in one place. This would bring together eight pieces of legislation on consumer rights and will cover goods, services, digital content and unfair contract terms.

- Provide clarity in areas where the law has not kept up with technological advances. For example, setting out clearer consumer rights for the quality of digital content like e-books and software.
- Easier access to compensation where there have been breaches of consumer or competition law. For example, new powers for enforcers (such as Trading Standards) to seek a court to require compensation to be paid to consumers where consumer law is breached.
- Measures which would deregulate and reduce costs to business. For example requiring that businesses would, in the majority of cases, receive notice of an inspection from Trading Standards.
- Measures which would enhance protection for consumers. For example making it easier for consumer to challenge where they have been misled into a contract.
- More powers for Trading Standards and other enforcement authorities to require traders, through the courts, to compensate consumers where they have breached consumer law.

Related documents:

Previous consultations during 2012 on the BIS website relating to consumer legislation reform:

- Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. *Enhancing Consumer Confidence by Clarifying Consumer law: Consultation on the supply of goods, services and digital content* (July 2012)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31864/12-937-enhancing-consumer-consultation-supply-of-goods-services-digital.pdf

- Law Commission & Scottish Law Commission. *Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts: a new approach? Issue Paper* (July 2012)
[http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/docs/unfair terms in consumer contracts issues.pdf](http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/docs/unfair_terms_in_consumer_contracts_issues.pdf)
- Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. *Consultation on extending the range of remedies available to public enforcers of consumer law* (November 2012)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/70185/13-501-private-actions-in-competition-law-a-consultation-on-options-for-reform-government-response1.pdf
- Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. *Enhancing Consumer Confidence through Effective Enforcement: consultation on consolidating and modernising consumer law enforcement powers* (March 2012)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31534/12-543-enhancing-consumer-confidence-effective-enforcement-consultation.pdf
- Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. *Enhancing Consumer Confidence through Effective*
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31535/12-699-enhancing-consumer-confidence-effective-enforcement-legislative.pdf

Existing legislation in this area is:

There are eight pieces of legislation relating to consumer law and over 60 relating to enforcement powers which we are proposing to consolidate in this Bill. We would consolidate the core consumer rights from:

- [Sale and Supply of Goods to Consumers Regulations 2002](#)

- Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts (Amendment) regulations 2001
- Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999
- Sale and Supply of Goods Act 1994
- Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982
- Sale of Goods Act 1979
- Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977
- Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act 1973
- The consumer rights from these Bills would be consolidated into the Consumer Bill of Rights, but many of the eight Bills will remain in force in respect of Business to Business contracts and consumer contracts.

Devolution:

- UK-wide. Consumer protection policy is not devolved to Scotland or Wales and is transferred to Northern Ireland, but we are expecting that Northern Ireland Executive will agree to extend the provisions.

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Local Audit and Accountability Bill

“My Government will introduce a Bill that closes the Audit Commission.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would close the Audit Commission, make new arrangements for the audit of local public bodies and increase local accountability

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Meet the Coalition Agreement pledge to reduce the cost and number of quangos, and save taxpayers' money from councils making sensible savings and tackling the deficit inherited from the last Administration.
- Follow through on the abolition of the Audit Commission. The Government has already abolished its expensive inspections and outsourced its audit contracts. This Bill would disband the residual Audit Commission and introduce a new local audit framework. This programme of reform would save an estimated £1.2 billion of taxpayers' money over ten years.
- Ensure a continued high standard of audit and encourage local bodies to deliver better value for money. The Bill would safeguard public interest reports and scrutiny rights for local taxpayers. There would also be continued protection for whistleblowers in the new audit regime.
- Deliver the Coalition Agreement pledge to impose tougher rules to protect the independent free press from unfair competition by town hall newspapers and propaganda.
- Meet the Coalition Agreement pledge to protect council tax payers – increasing powers for local taxpayers to veto excessive council tax rises by unelected local quangos.

The main elements of the Bill are:

Saving taxpayers' money on local audit

- The abolition of the Audit Commission would reduce the number and cost of public bodies. The Bill would localise the audit regime for local public bodies, as part of ending the interfering activities of the Audit Commission.

More direct democracy on council tax

- The Bill would extend the successful council tax referendum provisions introduced in the Localism Act. It would allow local taxpayers to veto excessive council tax rises by unelected local quangos – such as Waste Disposal Authorities, Integrated Transport Authorities, Pension Authorities and Internal Drainage Boards.

Tackling 'Town Hall Pravdas'

- The Bill would strengthen the legal status of the existing *Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity*, which some councils are currently ignoring. Healthy local democracy requires robust scrutiny by an independent local press.

Related documents:

- Draft Local Audit Bill
- Consultation document, *Protecting the independent press from unfair competition*
- Government response to Pre-Legislative Scrutiny Committee report (Cm 8566).

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011
- Companies Act 2006
- Audit Commission Act 1998

Devolution:

- The Bill extends to England and Wales, although it applies in the main to England and certain cross-border authorities.

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HS2 Hybrid Bill

"Legislation will be introduced to enable the building of the 'High Speed Two' railway line, providing further opportunities for economic growth in many of Britain's cities."

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would provide the Government with the legal powers to compulsorily acquire the land needed to construct the High Speed 2 (HS2) railway and operate it. On becoming an Act, it would give the Government deemed planning permission to deliver the scheme (the details of planning will still need to be developed on a site by site basis in coordination with the local planning authority).

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Give the Government the right to construct and maintain the railway, which includes powers of compulsory acquisition or temporary possession for the land required for the scheme.
- Give those affected by the proposed line the opportunity to petition Parliament and have their case heard by the Bill Select Committee.
- Give the best possibility of delivering the line on time.

The main elements of the Bill are:

Giving the Government powers to:

- Compulsorily acquire or temporarily take possession of land required for the scheme.
- Construct and maintain the railway.

- Provide deemed planning permission for the scheme.

Related documents:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-rail-investing-in-britains-future-decisions-and-next-steps>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-rail-a-catalyst-for-high-speed-britain>

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Railways Act 1993 (as amended by the 2005 Act) – Sets out the general rules on how railways in the UK operate

Devolution:

The Bill would main apply to England, but some measures will extend to Scotland and Wales

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High Speed Rail (Preparation) Bill

"Legislation will be introduced to enable the building of the 'High Speed Two' railway line, providing further opportunities for economic growth in many of Britain's cities."

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Provide Parliamentary authority for essential expenditure to pursue the project to build a High Speed Rail network from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds to the ambitious timetable that has been proposed.
- Provide a clear statement of the Government's commitment to driving forward with constructing a new High Speed Rail network.
- Demonstrate the Government and the country's commitment to driving forward with High Speed 2, a vital project for British jobs and prosperity.
- Allow expenditure on the construction design, ecological surveys and other essential preparatory work. The Bill would also allow for this type expenditure on preparatory work for future phases of a high speed rail network at the appropriate time.
- Require Government to report expenditure on the HS2 programme.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Provide the financial powers to proceed with the project quicker than otherwise possible and provide Parliamentary authority for expenditure on property compensation.
- Clearly show the Government's determination to deliver its flagship HS2 project as fast as possible.

- Demonstrate Parliament's backing for cracking on with this vital project which already enjoys cross party support.
- Smooth the way for the Hybrid Bill to be deposited with Parliament at the end of the year as planned.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Giving the Secretary of State the spending powers to finance work such as undertaking more detailed design work / letting contracts for designing the construction of the line and carrying out ground investigation and ecological surveys.
- Seeking Parliamentary authority for providing compensation for those affected by the construction and operation of the new high speed rail network.
- A Hybrid Bill would continue to be required in order to secure the necessary construction powers that are specific to the HS2 scheme.

Related documents:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-rail-investing-in-britains-future-decisions-and-next-steps>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-speed-rail-a-catalyst-for-high-speed-britain>

Existing legislation in this area is:

Section 6 of the Railways Act 2005 provides that the Secretary of State may provide financial assistance to any person for the purpose of securing the provision,

improvement or development of railway services or railway assets or for any other purpose relating to a railway or to railway services.

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to England, Scotland and Wales.

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Energy Bill

“My Government will continue with legislation to update energy infrastructure.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would reform the electricity market to deliver secure, clean and affordable electricity and ensure prices are fair.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Encourage £110 billion of private investment into the electricity sector, to ensure that, as older power plants close and electricity demand continues to increase, new cleaner energy infrastructure is built that will enable the UK to generate enough electricity to meet its needs, and to reduce carbon emissions.
- Enable energy consumers to get the best deal available to them from their suppliers, and clearer, simpler information on their bills.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- The Bill puts in place measures to secure the £110 billion investment needed in this decade alone to deliver a reliable diverse low-carbon technology mix.
- Contracts for Difference are long-term contracts that will provide stable and predictable incentives for companies to invest in low-carbon generation;.
- Investment Contracts are long-term contracts to enable early investment in advance of the Contracts for Difference regime coming into force in 2014.
- A Capacity Market will ensure the security of electricity supply.

Other elements of the Bill include:

- Measures to support Ofgem's proposals to enable consumers to get on the best energy tariff for them and to force energy companies to provide clearer and simpler information on bills.
- A measure to incentivise reductions in electricity usage from businesses and households
- The power to set a target range for the decarbonisation of the power sector.

Related documents:

- Can be found on the DECC Energy Bill website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/energy-bill>

Devolution:

The majority of provisions extend across Great Britain. A number of provisions, including the majority of the Electricity Market Reform proposals also extend to Northern Ireland.

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Water Bill

“My Government will continue with legislation... to improve the water industry.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

The Bill would make the water sector more resilient in the face of natural hazards such as droughts and floods, increase customer choice and support growth by encouraging investment and innovation.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Make our water supplies more resilient – including by encouraging development of new water sources or innovative treatment schemes, and making it easier for water companies to sell water to each other
- Increasing choice for business customers, with the potential for better customer service and cost savings
- Support growth by encouraging new investment, making it easy for new companies to enter the sector and reducing burdens on business.
- The Water Bill is also the best vehicle for taking measures to address the availability and affordability of flood insurance.

The main elements of the Bill are:

Reform of the water sector, including:

- Increasing choice in the retail market by allowing all business, charity and public sector customers to switch their water and sewerage supplier. This would encourage suppliers to offer a better range of tariffs and services for the customer e.g. one bill for organisations with multiple sites (rather than a bill for every site) or free water efficiency advice

- Making it much easier for new businesses to enter the water market to provide new sources of water or new approaches to treating waste water, known as “upstream” services
- Helping to join up the national water supply network by making it easier for water companies to buy and sell water from each other, so they can better manage drought situations
- Putting the resilience of water supply at the heart of decision making in the water sector
- Making it easier for developers to connect new developments to the water supply and sewerage system

Other elements of the Bill include:

- Taking action to tackle water companies’ unsustainable abstraction by changing compensation arrangements.
- Reducing bureaucracy by consolidating three licensing schemes (abstraction and impounding licensing, fish passage approvals and flood defence consents) into the Environmental Permitting Regime.
- Changes to some existing flood and drainage measures e.g. to encourage the uptake of Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Improving the co-ordination between water resource management and drought planning

Related documents:

- Draft Water Bill –
<http://www.officialdocuments.gov.uk/document/cm83/8375/8375.pdf>
- Water White Paper -
<http://www.officialdocuments.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>
- Cave Review -
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69462/cave-review-final-report.pdf

Existing legislation in this area is:

The key piece of legislation is the Water Industry Act 1991

Devolution:

The Bill applies to England and Wales; a small number of provisions extend to Scotland.

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Childcare

“To make sure that every child has the best start in life, regardless of background, further measures will be taken to improve the quality of education for young people.”

“Plans will be developed to help working parents with childcare, increasing its availability and helping with its cost.”

The Government has long accepted that there is a need to review the childcare system in the UK. The Government spends £5bn a year, yet parents have to pay increasingly high amounts to secure childcare, whilst those working with young children are too often poorly paid and poorly qualified. This Government’s ambition is for our childcare system to be the best in the world: for it to be high quality, affordable and to offer parents’ choice.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Childcare announced proposals on 29 January for raising quality in early years within *More Great Childcare*. This outlined proposals for:

- Raising the status and quality of the workforce;
- Freeing high quality providers to offer more places;
- Improving the regulatory regime; and
- Giving more choice to parents.

Two proposals in the announcement, the introduction of childminder agencies and paid for re-inspection are currently going through Parliament under the Children and Families Bill. In addition, there are measures in the Children and Families Bill to make it easier for schools to offer before and after school and holiday care, and to improve the accessibility of information about support – including childcare – for children with special educational needs.

A new tax-free Childcare scheme was announced by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister on 19 March, providing up to £1,200 per child to help with the cost of childcare (20% of yearly childcare costs up to £6,000) worth the equivalent to the basic rate of income tax. The scheme would support hardworking families and be available where all adults in the household work.

In June 2012 the Prime Minister announced a commission for childcare to look at issues of affordability and availability, and specifically:

- Before and after school and holiday care for school-age children;
- Regulation of the childcare sector; and
- The role of childcare in supporting families to move into sustained employment and out of poverty.

A call for evidence ran last summer to inform the work of the Commission on Childcare. The commission has also drawn on the knowledge and views of experts in the field, together with international evidence. The commission's findings will be announced shortly.

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National Curriculum

“My Government will also take forward plans for a new National Curriculum.”

We believe that all children, regardless of their background, have the right to be taught key subject knowledge as part of a broad and balanced education. We also believe that the role of the National Curriculum should be to define that key knowledge, and to do so in such a way that it affords teachers as much scope as possible to use their expertise and professional knowledge to design lessons that will inspire and enthuse their pupils. In recent years, however, the National Curriculum has departed from that purpose, instead moving towards prescribing the teaching of inessential material and generic skills at the expense of rigorous subject knowledge.

To redress this balance we have consulted on proposals to reform the National Curriculum by:

- Developing detailed programmes of study for primary English, mathematics and science, specifying the core knowledge which provides the foundations for all further learning. These programmes of study are intended to be a detailed guide for teachers to support them in bringing about a step-change in performance in these vital subjects.
- Slimming down programmes of study in other subjects by focusing only on the essential knowledge to be taught to give teachers more space and flexibility to design their lessons.
- Making languages compulsory at key stage 2 to enable schools to be more ambitious about teaching languages in secondary school.
- Replacing the discredited ICT curriculum with a new, ambitious computing curriculum.
- Disapplying aspects of the existing national curriculum for a limited period from September 2013, to give schools greater flexibility to prepare to teach the new National Curriculum.

The consultation on making languages compulsory at key stage 2 is completed and we have confirmed we will bring forward an Order in this Parliamentary session to implement that proposal. Subject to the outcome of further consultation on the secondary legislation required to bring the other proposed changes into force we will also bring forward further Orders and regulations as necessary to implement those changes.

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Exam System

“My Government will also take forward plans for ... a world class exam system...”

The standards of our examinations have fallen. There is an urgent need for reform to ensure that young people have access to qualifications that set expectations that match and exceed those in the highest performing jurisdictions. Over the last decade the number of candidates obtaining the best grades in GCSEs and A Levels has steadily increased yet international tests suggest that actual performance has stagnated at best.

To address weaknesses with GCSEs we have:

- Ended modularisation so that all external exams must be taken at the end of the course. This applies to all GCSEs that will be completed in 2014 (e.g. two-year courses starting in September 2012).
- Introduced specific marks for accurate spelling, punctuation and use of grammar (SPaG). This has applied to exams taken in English literature, geography, history and religious studies since January 2013.
- Stopped the practice of re-sitting of individual units.

However, we need to go further to have truly world-class qualifications, which meet the expectation of employers and further education. New GCSEs will be taught from September 2015, in: English language, English literature, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, combined science (double award), history and geography. Changes to remaining subjects should follow as soon as possible after that, with the aim of having them in place for teaching from 2016. The Secretary of State for Education has provided a steer on the characteristics of new GCSEs, in particular that they:

- Will be linear (with assessment at the end of the course).

- Will not force pupils to choose between higher and lower tier papers.
- Will test extended writing in subjects such as English and history, have fewer bite-sized overly structured questions, and in mathematics and science have a greater emphasis on quantitative problem-solving.
- Will keep controlled assessment and the use of exam aids to a minimum.

A level reform, in line with the changes to GCSEs, will be linear with all assessment at the end of two years. Universities will be more involved in advising on A level content, focusing on those subjects which are most commonly required for entry to leading universities¹. The first A levels in the facilitating subjects and some other high volume subjects will be developed for first teaching in September 2015.

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¹ The “facilitating subjects” identified by the Russell Group are: maths and further maths; English (literature); physics; biology; chemistry; geography; history; and languages (modern and classical).

Teachers' Pay

“My Government will also take forward plans for greater flexibility in pay for teachers.”

The Secretary of State wrote to the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) on 21 February 2012, asking it to make recommendations on:

- how the pay framework for teachers should best be made more market-facing in local areas;
- how the national pay scales, including the main and upper pay scales, should be reformed to more effectively link teachers' pay and performance, including arrangements for progression; and
- what other reforms should be made to teachers' pay and conditions in order to raise the status of the profession and best support the recruitment and retention of high quality teachers in all schools.

The STRB's report was published on 5 December 2012. Its main recommendations included:

- linking all pay progression to performance;
- removing automatic progression based on time-served;
- giving schools the option of not recommending pay progression
- if a teacher's performance is only satisfactory as opposed to good; and
- giving schools more scope to pay high performers more.

The Secretary of State accepted the STRB's recommendations on the grounds that they will:

- provide greater autonomy and more freedom for schools to spend their money as they see fit to meet their pupils' needs.
- remove the inflexibility of the current system.
- enable schools to develop pay policies that are tailored to their needs and attract and retain those teachers that have the greatest impact on their pupils.
- raise the status of the profession by enabling teachers to be rewarded in line with their performance and the most successful to progress faster than at present on the basis of annual appraisal.

The changes come into effect from September 2013. A revised School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), setting out the new arrangements for teachers' pay, and Departmental advice to help schools reflect these in their own policies are now available on the DfE website. A further revision is expected to be made available in August 2013 to update the pay tables.

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Traineeships and apprenticeships

“My Government will also take steps to ensure that it becomes typical for those leaving school to start a traineeship or an apprenticeship, or to go to university.”

The existing training and skills system in England works very well for the majority of young people. Most already choose to participate in post-16 education or training and achieve recognised qualifications, moving on to Higher Education, to sustainable employment and fulfilling careers.

However, some young people who are motivated and focused on employment, including apprenticeships, are unable to find work. This is a longstanding structural problem, with changes in the wider labour market reducing the opportunities for entry-level employment. In the fourth quarter of 2012, 153,000 16-18 year olds and 739,000 19-24 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET)².

Apprenticeships are at the heart of the Government’s drive to equip people with the skills that employers need. Since May 2010 there have been over 1 million Apprenticeship starts in England. All apprenticeships involve a job combined with learning.

The Future of Apprenticeships in England: Next Steps from the Richard Review sets out our long term vision to ensure apprenticeships are rigorous, responsive, and meet the changing needs of our economy. Our consultation will run until 22 May, and an implementation plan will be published in autumn 2013. Apprenticeship provisions in the Deregulation Bill will enable greater flexibility in delivery and increase employer involvement in the design and assessment of apprenticeships.

Traineeships will address employers’ concerns that some young people often lack the right skills and attitudes when they apply for an apprenticeship or other job. Many training providers already offer excellent activities to equip young people with these skills and attitudes, and our traineeships programme will build on their experiences.

² NEET Quarterly Brief (Quarter 4 2012) – February 2013

It will offer a combination of work placements, work skills training and English and maths, together with other flexible support to suit individual young people's needs.

We received over 450 responses from employers, providers and other organisations to the traineeships discussion paper that we published in January. We are continuing to work through the final details of the programme, drawing on all of these helpful responses, and will publish further information about the programme shortly.

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Mortgages / Help to Buy

“New arrangements will be put in place to help more people own their own home, with Government support provided for mortgages and deposits.”

The Government is committed to making the aspiration of home ownership a reality for as many households as possible. The Government wants current and future generations to experience the benefits of owning their own home, in the same way their parents were able to. Since the financial crisis, larger deposit requirements and falling equity values mean many credit-worthy households cannot get a mortgage, or are trapped in their existing homes unable to take the next step.

Budget 2013 announced Help to Buy, a major new package of measures to increase the supply of low-deposit mortgages for credit-worthy households, increase the supply of new housing and contribute to economic growth. There are two key elements to Help to Buy, the equity loan scheme and the mortgage guarantee scheme.

As of 1 April 2013 Help to Buy: equity loan was made available to all those who aspire to own a new build home, but struggle to access or afford the repayments on a low deposit mortgage. The Government will provide an equity loan worth up to 20 per cent of the value of a new build home, interest free for the first 5 years which will be repaid on sale or after 25 years.

The Government will also set up the Help to Buy: mortgage guarantee, which will be available from January 2014. Under this scheme, the Government will offer lenders the option to purchase a guarantee on mortgages on both new build and existing homes, where a borrower has a deposit of between 5% and 20%. By making more high loan-to-value (LTV) mortgages available, this scheme will support potential home owners who can afford interest repayments on a high LTV mortgage, but are unable to save up for the large deposits still required in the wake of the financial crisis.

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Care Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to reform the way long term care is paid for, to ensure the elderly do not have to sell their homes to meet their care bills.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would modernise the previously fragmented law so that it prioritises the wellbeing of individuals and enables all those needing health and social care to get good care.
- It would introduce a number of measures in response to the Francis Inquiry and establish Health Education England and the Health Research Authority as NDPBs, giving them the independence and stability they need to carry out their vital roles.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Help people better understand what care and support is on offer, help them plan for the future and ensure they know where to go for help when they need it;
- Reform care and support funding by creating a cap on care costs, extend the means test threshold for financial assistance and ensure no-one has to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for residential care. The Bill would give everyone peace of mind by protecting them from catastrophic costs;
- Prioritise people’s wellbeing and prevent or delay care needs from developing, rather than only intervening at crisis point, and to reduce people’s dependency on formal care services; and

- Give people complete confidence that wherever they go for treatment or care, they get the best care by taking immediate action to address a number of Robert Francis's findings.

The main elements of the Bill are:

Reform of social care

- Modernising more than sixty years of care and support law into a single, clear statute, which is built around the person not the service.
- Enshrining a right for the millions of carers in England to receive support from their local council. For the first time introduce a duty to meet carers eligible needs for support, and introduce a new adult safeguarding framework.
- Reforming how care and support is funded, including the creation of a cap on care costs which people would pay, and gives everyone peace of mind in protecting them from catastrophic costs.
- Simplifying the care and support system and creating a legislative framework that helps, not hinders, integrated care so that we achieve better results for people.
- Ensuring people needing care can move between local authority areas without the fear that their care will be interrupted.
- Providing a new legal entitlement for everyone to a personal budget, which they can receive as a direct payment if they wish to, giving people more control.
- Clarifying how people will be protected from their care being disrupted if their care provider goes out of business; and introducing new oversight of the providers that would be the most difficult to replace if they were to fail.

Legislative response to failings at Stafford Hospital

- Introducing Ofsted-style ratings for hospitals and care homes that would allow patients and the public to compare organisations or services in a fair and balanced way.
- Giving the new Chief Inspector of Hospitals at the CQC power to identify problems with the quality of care and ensure action is taken more effectively than before.
- Making it a criminal offence for providers to provide false and misleading information about their performance.

Creation of NDPBs

- The establishment through the Bill of Health Education England and the Health Research Authority as non-departmental public bodies will strengthen education and training for healthcare professionals and protect and promote the interests of people in health and social care research.

Related documents:

- Caring for our future: reforming care and support (white paper)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/caring-for-our-future-reforming-care-and-support>
- Joint Select Committee report into the draft Care & Support Bill:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/draft-care-and-support-bill/>
- Patients First and Foremost: The Initial Government Response to the Report of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/170701/Patients_First_and_Foremost.pdf

Existing legislation in this area is:

Health and Social Care Act 2012

Health and Social Care Act 2008

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to England only save for cross-border provisions in relation to care and support and the Health Research Authority's co-operation duties will apply across the UK

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Pensions Bill

"My Government will bring forward legislation to create a simpler state pension system that encourages saving and provides more help to those who have spent years caring for children."

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Pensions Bill would introduce a single-tier pension system, bring forward the increase in State Pension age to 67 and lay the framework for its regular review. It would also introduce a system for the automatic transfer of small pension pots and reform bereavement benefits.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Reform the UK pensions system and help people today save for their retirement
- Make it clearer to people what they will get from the state when they retire, reduce means-testing and provide a firmer foundation for saving
- Maintain the long-term sustainability of the system and help ensure it remains fair between generations

The main elements of the Bill are:

The single-tier State Pension

- A new flat rate pension set above the basic means test to replace the current two-tier system of basic State Pension and earnings-related additional State Pension, to be implemented from April 2016.

Changes to State Pension age

- Two measures in relation to State Pension age: one to bring forward the increase to State Pension age to 67 by eight years, to take place between 2026 and 2028; and another to enable a regular review of State Pension age in the light of rising life expectancy.

Providing for automatic transfer of small dormant pension pots and abolishing short service refunds

- A framework for a system of automatic transfers so that someone's pension pot will follow them to their new pension scheme when they change jobs. It also provides for abolition of short-service refunds for defined contributions trust-based schemes for people who leave a scheme within two years.

New objective for the Pensions Regulator

- A new statutory objective for the Pensions Regulator to consider minimising any impact on the sustainable growth of sponsoring employers.

The Bereavement Support Payment

- Reforming the existing suite of bereavement benefits through the introduction of the Bereavement Support Payment - a single benefit to support people following bereavement.

Related documents:

- The single-tier pension: a simple foundation for saving
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181229/single-tier-pension.pdf

- Bereavement Benefit for the 21st Century
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181257/bereavement-benefit-consultation-response.pdf
- Improving transfers and dealing with small pension pots
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/184963/gov-response-small-pots-automatic-transfers-consultation.pdf
- Automatic Transfers: consolidating pensions savings
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/automatic-transfers-consolidating-pension-savings>
- Call for evidence on the Pension Regulator objective:
Pensions and Growth
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/183264/pensions-and-growth-call-for-evidence.pdf.pdf
- Consultation on proposed technical changes to automatic enrolment – a suite of documents available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/workplace-pensions-proposed-technical-changes-to-automatic-enrolment>

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Pensions Act 2011
- Pensions Act 2008
- Pensions Act 2007
- Pensions Act 2004

Devolution:

- The Bill extends to England and Wales and to Scotland. The Bill also extends to Northern Ireland for purposes of amendment to legislation with UK-wide extent, but any such amendments do not deal with transferred matters.

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Mesothelioma Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to ensure sufferers of a certain asbestos-related cancer receive payments where no liable employer or insurer can be traced.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would establish a payment scheme for people with Diffuse Mesothelioma where their employer or employers' liability insurance company cannot be traced, and make provision about the resolution of certain insurance disputes.
- The Bill would make payments funded by a levy on live Employers' Liability insurers and follows consultation and agreement with the insurance industry, claimant lawyers and claimant representatives.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- around 3,500 mesothelioma victims across the UK, who are unable to claim compensation because they cannot trace a liable employer or employers' liability insurer, would be eligible to receive approximately £355m in payments in the first 10 years.
- a correction of an insurance market failure where insurers failed to keep adequate records of Employers' Liability insurance when exposures to asbestos were taking place.
- a scheme funded by a levy on insurers to support people with mesothelioma as they face the unique circumstances of this terrible disease. Payments would be in addition to the £200m the insurance industry already pays each year in compensating mesothelioma sufferers.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- A scheme of last resort funded by a levy on the UK Employers' Liability market to correct a market failure where insurers failed to keep adequate records of Employers' Liability insurance during historic times when exposures to asbestos were taking place.
- payment of the levy to be compulsory for all currently active employers'

liability insurers.

- anyone diagnosed with mesothelioma from 25 July 2012 can make a claim.
- a Technical Committee to decide disputes about whether a particular employer maintained insurance at the time of the person's exposure to asbestos, and provides for those decisions to be binding.

Related documents:

The agreement with the insurance industry to establish a new compensation scheme, subject to legislation, was announced last year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300m-support-for-future-mesothelioma-victims>

This followed a public consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/accessing-compensation-supporting-people-who-need-to-trace-employers-liability-insurance>

Existing legislation in this area is:

State support for sufferers of Mesothelioma are also available under the following Acts:

- The Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979
- The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 (the "Other Payments" bit set up the 2008 Mesothelioma Scheme).

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to the whole of the UK.

Press Office
Department for Work and Pensions
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London SW1H 9NA
020 3267 5123

Immigration Bill

“My government will bring forward a Bill that further reforms Britain’s immigration system. The Bill will ensure that this country attracts people who will contribute and deter those who will not.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would reform immigration law, including provisions to strengthen our enforcement powers and protect public services.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Stopping immigrants accessing services they are not entitled to.
- Making it easier to remove people from the UK and harder for people to prolong their stay with spurious appeals.
- Specifying that foreign nationals who commit serious crimes shall, except in extraordinary circumstances, be deported.

The main elements of the Bill are:

Access to services

- The Bill would enable tough action against businesses that use illegal labour, including more substantial fines.
- The Bill would regulate migrant access to the NHS, ensuring that temporary migrants make a contribution
- The Bill would require private landlords to check the immigration status of their tenants
- The Bill would prevent illegal immigrants from obtaining UK driving licences.

Enforcement and appeals

- The Bill would ensure that only those cases that raise the most important immigration issues would have a right of appeal.
- The Bill would close a number of gaps in enforcement officer's powers.

Article 8

- The Bill would contain provisions to give the full force of legislation to the policy we have already adopted in the Immigration Rules.
- The courts would therefore be required to properly reflect the balance given to the public interest when ruling on immigration cases.

Related documents:

Prime Minister's Immigration speech of 25th March 2013:

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/david-camerons-immigration-speech/>

Home Secretary UK Border Agency oral statement of 26th March 2013:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-uk-border-agency-oral-statement>

Article 8 House of Commons debate of 19th June 2012:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120619/debtext/120619-0002.htm>

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Immigration Act 1971
- British Nationality Act 1981
- Immigration Act 1988

- Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993
- Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- British Overseas Territories Act 2002
- Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
- Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004
- Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006
- UK Borders Act 2007
- Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007
- Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008
- Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009

Devolution:

Immigration is a reserved matter (UK wide). Where the bill deals with devolved matters we will engage with the Devolved Administrations as needed.

Press Office
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020 7035 3535

Offender Rehabilitation Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to reform the way in which offenders are rehabilitated in England and Wales.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would play a vital role in our plans to transform the way in which offenders are rehabilitated in England and Wales. It would extend statutory supervision after release to offenders serving short custodial sentences, allowing probation providers to deal with the causes of re-offending. This would mean that all offenders released from prison will receive at least 12 months’ statutory supervision.
- For sentences served in the community, the Bill would create greater flexibility for probation providers so that they are free to deliver innovative and effective interventions to tackle re-offending.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Reduce re-offending rates for the most prolific offenders.
- Support our plans to open up probation services to a wide range of providers (including private and voluntary sector providers) through competition and saving the taxpayer money through a system of payment by results for providers.

The main elements of the Bill are:

Creating supervision after release for offenders serving custodial sentences of less than 12 months:

- These offenders currently are not subject to any statutory interventions after release. The Bill would create an initial licence period then an extended period of supervision, the total length of which will be 12 months.

Extending supervision after release for offenders serving custodial sentences of 1-2 years:

- These offenders are currently subject to a licence period of between six and 12 months, depending on the length of sentence. The Bill would extend this period of supervision to 12 months in all cases.
- The Bill would apply extensions in supervision provisions to offenders who are sentenced when they are under 18, but who turn 18 before they are released.

Additional conditions during supervision periods:

- The Bill would provide for drug-abusing offenders to be required to attend treatment appointments, and expand the drugs that an offender can be required to be tested for from class A to class B.

Reforms to community orders and suspended sentence orders:

- The Bill would create a new rehabilitation activity requirement that can be imposed as part of sentences served in the community. This would provide a flexible requirement within which probation providers can require offenders to attend appointments or activities that support their rehabilitation. The Bill would also add similar flexibility to the existing attendance centre and accredited programme requirements.
- The Bill would require offenders serving sentences in the community to seek permission (rather than the existing requirement to give notification) before moving out of their local area. This would support continuity in the provision of

supervision and rehabilitation, but would also allow offenders to move for work or family reasons, for example.

Related documents:

- *Transforming Rehabilitation - a revolution in the way we manage offenders* (January 2013):

https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/transforming-rehabilitation/supporting_documents/transformingrehabilitation.pdf

- Government Response to the *Transforming Rehabilitation* consultation (to be published in May).

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012
- Offender Management Act 2007
- Criminal Justice Act 2003
- Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to England and Wales only (with provision through Order in Council to apply in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).

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London SW1H 9AJ
020 3334 3537

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill

“Legislation will be brought forward to introduce new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, cut crime and further reform the police.”

The purpose of the Bill:

- The Bill would contain a variety of measures including policies to tackle anti-social behaviour, forced marriage, dangerous dogs and illegal firearms used by gangs and in organised crime.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring a quick, effective response to anti-social behaviour focused on the rights of victims and giving people powers to make sure action is taken.
- Encouraging responsible dog ownership, by strengthening the law for tackling dogs that are dangerously out of control.
- Tackling the use of illegal firearms by gangs and organised crime groups.
- Strengthening the protection afforded to the victims of forced marriage.
- Enhancing the professional capabilities and integrity of the police, and continuing the process of modernising police pay and conditions.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Replacing and condensing the 19 existing powers to deal with anti-social behaviour into six faster, more effective ones, giving victims the power to ensure that action is taken to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour through the new Community Trigger, and a greater say in what form of sanction an offender receives out of court through the new Community Remedy;
- Strengthening the powers to tackle irresponsible dog ownership by extending to private places the offence of owning/being in charge of a dog that is dangerously out of control in a public place and providing that a dog attack on an assistance dog constitutes an aggravated offence;

- Increasing the maximum penalty for the illegal importation/exportation of firearms and creating a new offence of “possession for sale or transfer”;
- Tackling forced marriage by making forced marriage a criminal offence and criminalising the breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order;
- Replacing the Police Negotiating Board with a new Police Remuneration Review Body;
- Conferring on Police and Crime Commissioners responsibility for commissioning victims services, and rectifying anomalies in the framework of financial controls on chief officers and in the arrangements for the authorisation of British Transport Police firearms officers;
- Ensuring that the counter-terrorism border security powers contained in Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 strike a better balance between the need to protect public safety and the protection of individual freedoms;
- Strengthening public confidence in, and the operational effectiveness of, our extradition arrangements by amending the Extradition Act 2003, including by implementing recommendations of Sir Scott Baker’s review;
- Providing for the independent inspection of the Serious Fraud Office by Her Majesty’s Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate;
- Improving the speed and efficiency of the justice system’s response to low-level offending by enabling the police to prosecute uncontested minor offences of shoplifting;
- Extending the scope of the statutory witness protection scheme to cover other vulnerable individuals;
- Establishing in law a test of “clear innocence” for the purpose of determining eligibility for compensation for miscarriages of justice; and
- Ensuring that offenders sentenced to custody contribute to the costs of supporting victims by removing the power of magistrates’ courts to add additional days to a sentence of imprisonment in lieu of the Victims Surcharge.

Related documents:

- Draft Anti-social Behaviour Bill, Home Office, December 2012 (Cm (8495))

- The Draft Anti-social Behaviour Bill: pre-legislative scrutiny, Government response to the twelfth report from the Home Affairs Committee session 2012-13 HC836, April 2013 (Cm 8607)
- Tackling Irresponsible Dog Ownership: Summary of Responses to Consultation, Defra, February 2013:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tackling-irresponsible-dog-ownership>
- Draft Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, April 2013 (Cm 8601)
- Consultation on Changes to Firearms Controls: Summary of Responses, Home Office, October 2012:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/157824/consultation-response.pdf
- Forced Marriages – a Consultation: Summary of Responses, Home Office, June 2012: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/forced-marriage-consultation>

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Extradition Act 2003
- Police Reform Act 2002
- Police Act 1996
- Part 4A of the Family Law Act 1996 (as inserted by the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007)
- Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
- Firearms Act 1968

Devolution:

The Bill applies mainly to England and Wales, with certain provisions also extending to Scotland and Northern Ireland. The provisions relate to a mixture of transferred and non-transferred matters.

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Proposals on the investigation of crime in cyberspace

“In relation to the problem of matching internet protocol addresses, my Government will bring forward proposals to enable the protection of the public and the investigation of crime in cyberspace.”

The Government is committed to ensuring that law enforcement and intelligence agencies have the powers they need to protect the public and ensure national security. These agencies use communications data – the who, when, where and how of a communication, but not its content – to investigate and prosecute serious crimes. Communications data helps to keep the public safe: it is used by the police to investigate crimes, bring offenders to justice and to save lives.

This is not about indiscriminately accessing internet data of innocent members of the public.

As the way in which we communicate changes, the data needed by the police is no longer always available. While they can, where necessary and proportionate to do so as part of a specific criminal investigation, identify who has made a telephone call (or sent an SMS text message), and when and where, they cannot always do the same for communications sent over the internet, such as email, internet telephony or instant messaging. This is because communications service providers do not retain all the relevant data.

When communicating over the Internet, people are allocated an Internet Protocol (IP) address. However, these addresses are generally shared between a number of people. In order to know who has actually sent an email or made a Skype call, the police need to know who used a certain IP address at a given point in time. Without this, if a suspect used the internet to communicate instead of making a phone call, it may not be possible for the police to identify them.

The Government is looking at ways of addressing this issue with CSPs. It may involve legislation.

Background

The Government published its draft proposals last year. The cross-party Joint Committee that scrutinised our draft provisions, and the Intelligence and Security Committee, both recognised the need to tackle this problem in legislation. We are continuing to look at this issue closely and the Government's approach will be proportionate, with robust safeguards in place. This is not about indiscriminately accessing internet data of innocent members of the public, it is about ensuring that police and other law enforcement agencies have the powers they need to investigate the activities of criminals that takes place online as well as offline.

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Defence Reform Bill

“Measures will be brought forward to improve the way this country procures defence equipment, as well as strengthening the Reserve Forces.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would enable the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to fundamentally change the way it procures and supports defence equipment by reforming the Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) organisation and strengthening the arrangements for single source (non-competitive) procurement.
- The Bill would increase the size and role of our Reserve Forces. These measures would enable the MoD to deliver significant savings whilst also ensuring it continues to have a potent fighting force.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Making the procurement of defence equipment more efficient, whilst maintaining the high-levels of equipment support.
- Increasing the size of the Reserve Force and the support they receive so that by 2020 they play a greater role in defence and national security.

The main elements of the Bill are:

Improve the way we procure and support defence equipment

- Enabling the department to make radical changes to Defence acquisition, to provide our Armed Forces with the equipment they need in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Enhance the use of the Reserve Forces

- The Strategic Defence and Security Review (2010) detailed the plans for FutureForce 2020 which demanded that the Reserve Forces make an increased contribution to the defence and national security effort by 2020.
- A White Paper will be published in the coming months that will outline the enhanced experience and support we shall offer to Reservists and the better relationship, including financial incentives, for employers.

Related documents:

- The Future Reserves Green Paper (*“Future Reserves 2020: Delivering the Nation’s Security Together”*) was published 08 November 2012, and the consultation closed on 08 January 2013.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-reserves-2020-consultation>
- Lord Currie review of single source procurement – published 10 October 2011 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-into-single-source-military-equipment-contracts-published>

Existing legislation in this area is:

Four pieces of Primary Reserve Forces legislation:

- The Reserve Forces Act 1996
- The Reserve Forces (Safeguard of Employment) Act, 1985
- The Reserve Forces Act, 1980
- Reserve and Auxiliary Forces (Protection of Civil Interests) Act, 1951

Note: the Armed Forces Act 2006 and Armed Forces Act 2011 amended the Reserve Forces Act 1996

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to the whole of the UK.

Press Office
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London SW1A 2HB
020 7218 9000

Northern Ireland Bill

“A Bill to give effect to a number of institutional improvements in Northern Ireland.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would introduce a number of necessary technical changes that would improve the way politics and the institutions in Northern Ireland (NI) operate.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Make agreed changes to the institutions which would promote peace and greater stability over the longer term
- Provide greater transparency on political donations, in line with *Programme for Government* pledges regarding party funding
- Indicate the maturity of the Northern Ireland institutions and the ongoing political stability there, unprecedented in recent times.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Increasing transparency in donations and loans to NI political parties
- Ending the practice of Members of the NI Assembly (MLAs) holding a dual mandate to sit concurrently as Members of the House of Commons, or as Teachta Dála (TDs) in the Dáil Éireann
- Changes to appointment and dismissal processes for the NI Justice Minister
- Extending the length of terms of the NI Assembly to five years
- Determining the future size of the NI Assembly

- The potential devolution of functions relating to the NI Civil Service Commission, NI Human Rights Commission and district electoral areas.
- Improving the administration of elections in NI, following recommendations made by the Electoral Commission and Chief Electoral Officer for NI.

Related documents:

- Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC) pre-legislative scrutiny report on the NI Bill (March 2013)
- NIO Consultation: *Measures to Improve the Operation of the Northern Ireland Assembly* (August 2012)
- NIO Consultation: *Donations and Loans to the Northern Ireland Political Parties* (August 2010)

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Northern Ireland Act 1998

Devolution:

The Bill is specific to Northern Ireland. However, as a technical matter much of the Bill extends to the whole of the UK.

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Draft Wales Bill

“Draft legislation will be published concerning the electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- The Bill would make a number of changes to the way in which the National Assembly for Wales is elected.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Reduce the likelihood of an Assembly election coinciding with, and being overshadowed by, a parliamentary election.
- Give greater choice to political parties and candidates during Assembly elections, by giving them the option to stand in both a constituency and on a regional list.
- Ensure Assembly Members cannot also be MP at the same time, and are therefore able to dedicate their time to one set of constituents.

The main elements of the Bill are:

Five year fixed terms:

- Moving the National Assembly for Wales from four to five-year fixed terms to reduce the likelihood of Assembly elections coinciding with parliamentary elections.

Overtake ban on dual candidacy:

- Allowing candidates for elections to the National Assembly for Wales to stand in both a constituency and on a regional list.

Introduce a ban on multiple mandates:

- Preventing Assembly Members from also being MPs.

Related documents:

- Green Paper on future electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/137727/Green-Paper-on-Electoral-Reform-8.pdf
- Written Ministerial Statement on future electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/153777/Written-Ministerial-Statement-Commons-12-March-2013.pdf

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Government of Wales Act 2006.

Devolution:

The Bill is specific to Wales. However, as a technical matter much of the Bill extends to the whole of the UK.

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Scotland within the United Kingdom

“My Government will continue to make the case for Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom.”

Before the end of 2014 people in Scotland will take one of the most important decisions in the history of Scotland and the whole of the United Kingdom (UK)- whether to stay in the UK, or leave and become a new, separate and independent State.

The UK Government, along with many others, believes that both Scotland and the UK are better served by maintaining their partnership. A strong Scotland is good for the whole of the UK, and being part of a strong UK is good for Scotland.

It is crucial that the referendum debate is properly informed. People in Scotland expect and deserve good information on which to base their decision. The Scotland analysis programme is a cross-government programme of work examining how Scotland contributes to and benefits from being part of the UK, and how the rest of the UK benefits from its partnership with Scotland. The programme will support the debate on Scotland’s future within the UK, informed by expert and legal opinion and open to scrutiny when it is published.

The first paper, published in February, examined the legal and constitutional framework the UK currently has, how that benefits Scotland (and other parts of the UK) and the implications if people voted to leave. As the paper made clear, there are a number of key legal issues, and some profoundly important legal principles that will determine and underpin any political negotiations. The most important of these is that the UK would be the continuing state, and an independent Scotland would be a new and separate state.

The second paper, published in April, considered the difficult choices an independent Scotland would face with respect to its currency and monetary arrangements. The paper concluded that an independent Scottish state would have four main currency options. It could: continue to use sterling with a formal agreement with the continuing

UK (sterling currency union); use sterling unilaterally, with no formal agreement with the continuing UK (“sterlingisation”); join the euro; or introduce a new Scottish currency. All of the alternative currency arrangements would be likely to be less economically suitable for both parties relative to the current arrangements

The series of papers will continue to be published in the build-up to the referendum looking in detail at key issues in the Scottish independence debate including the UK’s economy and public finances, its place in the world, and wider important policy issues such as energy, defence and security, and welfare and pensions.

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Foreign Affairs – Overseas Territories

“My Government will ensure the security, good governance and development of the Overseas Territories, including by protecting the Falkland Islanders’ and Gibraltarians’ right to determine their political futures.”

The Government published a White Paper, “*The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability*” in June 2012 setting out its overall approach to the remaining 14 UK Overseas Territories.

The Government is committed to the security of the Falkland Islands and to ensuring that the Islanders’ rights and wishes are respected.

The referendum on 10-11th March, 2013 proved beyond doubt that the Islanders wish to remain a UK Overseas Territory in line with existing constitutional arrangements, with a 99.8% yes vote and a 92% turnout.

The Government will continue to ensure that the Islanders are able to develop their economy, including oil exploration, without outside interference or harassment, and will rebut false Argentine rhetoric in whatever forum it emerges.

Tensions over Gibraltar have increased in the last year due to a local fishing dispute and unlawful incursions by Spanish police and naval vessels into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

Our objectives are to maintain UK sovereignty, ensure Gibraltar’s security and prosperity and calm tensions with a view to better cross-border relations and cooperation.

Press Office

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH

020 7008 3100

Estimates for Public Service

“Estimates for the public services will be laid before you.”

All public spending requires parliamentary authority. By approving the Estimates laid before it, Parliament allows the Government to use resources and draw money from the Consolidated Fund.

Under long-established constitutional practice it is for the Crown (the Government) to demand money, the House of Commons to grant it and the House of Lords to assent to the grant.

Parliamentary control over spending is primarily exercised by the House of Commons and it is for that reason that the sentence in the Queen’s Speech is addressed to Members of the House of Commons. Parliament provides approval for spending either through authority voted annually in response to Estimates laid before the House of Commons by the Government or through charging spending by statute directly on the Consolidated Fund, known as 'Consolidated Fund Standing Services', or on other funds (such as the National Loans Fund).

Through approval of the Estimates, Parliament gives statutory authority for both the consumption of resources and for cash to be drawn from the Consolidated Fund (the Government's general account at the Bank of England). The process of authorisation is known as ‘Supply procedure’.

The Main Estimates are presented to Parliament around the start of the financial year to which they relate (they are presented within five weeks of the Chancellor’s Budget Statement). Departments are then able to submit Supplementary Supply Estimates in February or March to seek authority for any changes to spending plans that occur after the Main Estimates are presented.

The Commons has the opportunity to debate the content of the Estimates during 'Estimates Day' debates, for which up to three days are available in each session. Debates take place in June or July on the Main Estimates and in February or March

on the Supplementary Estimates. Following such debates, resolutions to approve the Estimates are proposed by HM Treasury Ministers and voted on by the Commons. A bill (becoming either a Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act or a Supply and Appropriation (Anticipation and Adjustments) Act) to provide formal legislative authority for the spending plans is then immediately introduced and is not subject to further debate (as provided for in House of Commons Standing Orders (Nos. 54-56)). The bills are agreed to by the House of Lords without debate under the constitutional practice referred to above.

Spending during the first months of a financial year (before that year's Main Estimates are given statutory effect) is by a Vote on Account, which is approved at the same time as the previous financial year's supplementary estimates.

Related documents:

- Central Government Supply Estimates, Supplementary Estimates 2012-13 (HC 894), published on 13 February 2013.
- Estimates are presented several times a year and are followed by Supply legislation. The most recent is the Supply and Appropriation (Anticipation and Adjustments) Act 2013 (given Royal Assent on 26 March 2013).

Devolution:

Estimates for public services apply to the whole of the United Kingdom.

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020 7276 0102

Gambling (licensing and advertising) Bill

“Other measures will be laid before you.”

This Bill would extend the scope of the regulatory regime currently governing remote gambling, providing greater consumer protection for people in Great Britain.

The purpose of this Bill is to:

- Currently remote gambling operators based in the UK are required to hold a Gambling Commission licence, while overseas operators are regulated in the jurisdiction in which they are based. With this Bill, remote gambling would be regulated at the point of consumption. All operators selling or advertising into the British market, whether from here or abroad, would be required to hold a UK Gambling Commission licence.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Increase protection for UK consumers, as all remote gambling operators will be:
 - subject to robust and consistent regulation
 - required to support action against illegal activity and corruption in sport
 - required to contribute to research, education and treatment in relation to British problem gambling
 - required to comply with licence conditions that protect children and vulnerable adults
- Level the regulatory field for all remote operators - allowing British-based operators to compete on an equal footing.

The main elements of the Bill are to:

- All operators selling into the British market, whether based here or abroad, would be required to hold a Gambling Commission licence to enable them to transact with British consumers and to advertise in Great Britain.
- The Bill would bring greater consistency to the regulatory system for remote gambling operators and be easier for consumers to understand. The proposals would extend important protection measures to British-based consumers, regardless of where the operator is based.
- The new licensing arrangements would also mean that, for the first time, overseas based operators would be required to inform the Gambling Commission about suspicious betting patterns involving British customers, to help fight illegal activity and corruption in sports betting.

Related documents:

- Draft legislation published: on GOV.UK
- CMS Select Committee, Publication of report: Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the Draft Gambling (Licensing and Advertising) Bill, 1 May 2013
- CMS Select Committee, Evidence session: Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the Draft Gambling (Licensing & Advertising) Bill, 29 January & 12 February 2013
- Written Ministerial Statement on Remote Gambling Policy Proposals: GOV.UK
- Private Member's Bill debate, 25 January 2013

Existing legislation in this area is:

- Gambling Act 2005

Devolution:

The Bill would mainly apply to England and Wales and Scotland. However, it would also introduce the offence of advertising of unlicensed remote gambling which would only apply in Northern Ireland (NI) – overseas remote operators would need to hold a UK Gambling Commission licence in order to advertise to consumers in NI. This offence would bring advertising of remote gambling in NI in line with the position in Great Britain.

Press Office
Department for Culture Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ
020 7211 2210

European Union Approvals Bill

“Other measures will be laid before you.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- A minor, technical Bill to provide authorisation for the UK to support measures and programmes in the European Union, under the European Union Act 2011.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Allow the UK to support three programmes in Brussels.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Authorisation to support three programmes:
- **Pericles** – a programme for exchange, assistance and training in the protection of the Euro against counterfeiting. The UK benefits directly from training and information exchange under the programme.
- **Historical archives** - proposed Regulation to ensure that access to the historical archives of the European institutions, both in paper and digital format, will be available in the future from a single location at the European Union Institute in Florence. This will help ensure transparency and accountability of the European institutions.
- **Europe for Citizens** – aims to promote remembrance of Europe’s history, particularly the wars and totalitarian regimes of the 20th century. It also aims to develop understanding of the EU, its history and policy-making processes and encourage civic participation in the EU.

Related documents:

- European Union Act 2011 factsheet –
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-act-2011-one-page-fact-sheet>

Existing legislation in this area is:

- European Union Act 2011
- European Union (Approvals) Act 2013

Devolution:

The Bill extends to the UK

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