

Queen's Speech 2007 - 2008

6 November 2007

The Government has unveiled its programme of legislation for the forthcoming Parliamentary session.

Apprenticeships (draft) Bill – to give 16 to 18-year-olds an entitlement to an apprenticeship.

Children and Young Persons Bill – to give councils powers to organise children's care in different ways and ensure children do not move schools in years 10 and 11, except in exceptional circumstances.

Citizenship and Immigration (draft) Bill – to take forward any recommendations from the review of citizenship by former Attorney General Lord Goldsmith.

Climate Change Bill – to create a legal framework to reduce the UK's carbon dioxide emissions up to 2050 and beyond. Provides for pilot schemes by councils to cut household waste.

Constitutional Renewal (draft) Bill – to rebalance power between Parliament and the government and give MPs more power to hold the government to account. It will also provide Parliament with more power to ratify treaties and decide on troop deployment.

Counter Terrorism Bill - to give new powers to the police and intelligence services in the fight against terrorism.

Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill – to introduce tougher sentences for repeat offenders and a new immigration status for people convicted of terrorism or serious offences. To amend the law on self-defence.

Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill – to allow the government to use money held in bank and building society accounts which have not been used for 15 years to provide more youth facilities, financial inclusion and social investment.

Education and Skills Bill – to ensure all 16 to 18-year-olds stay in some form of education or training by 2015.

Energy Bill – to provide greater incentives for renewable energy generation, whilst making it easier for private firms to invest in offshore gas supply infrastructure and in carbon capture research and provisions on nuclear waste and decommissioning financing.

EU Reform Treaty Bill – to bring into UK law the EU Reform Treaty, which is due to be signed by EU heads of government in December 2007.

Health and Social Care Bill – to create Ofcare to regulate adult social care and reform professional regulation.

Housing and Regeneration Bill – to merge the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships to create the Homes and Communities Agency. It will also implement the recommendations of the Cave Review of Social Housing Regulation.

Human Tissue and Embryology Bill – to ensure the creation and use of all human embryos outside the body is regulated. Also proposes a ban on selecting the sex of babies for non-medical reasons and would recognise same-sex couples as legal parents of children conceived through the use of donated sperm, eggs or embryos.

Local Transport Bill – to give local authorities greater freedom and choice to set their transport policies.

Pensions Bill – to ensure eligible workers are automatically enrolled into a pension scheme and a minimum employer contribution introduced.

Planning Reform Bill – to establish a separate planning system for major infrastructure projects and simplifying the planning system for minor home improvements.

Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill – to reduce unnecessary burdens placed on business by local authority regulations and the creation of a Local Better Regulation office.

Other measures

Channel Tunnel Rail Link (Supplementary Provisions) Bill – to clarify the legal and regulatory position of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, ahead of the restructuring of the company which built the link.

Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill – to set up the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, which will replace the Child Support Agency. It will also set up a scheme to pay a lump sum to help people suffering from the asbestos-related disease mesothelioma, who are not yet eligible for compensation. This was carried over from previous session.

Crossrail Bill – to allow for the new transport scheme which stretches from east to west across London (first introduced in February 2005).

Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) (draft) Bill – to allow the UK to ratify the 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property.

EC Finance Bill – to change the way the UK finances the annual EC budget allowing the UK to make payments direct from the government's own bank account – the Consolidated Fund. This will amend the European Communities Act 1972.

Employment Bill – to simplify, clarify and build a stronger enforcement regime for key aspects of employment law.

Heritage Protection Draft Bill – to establish a unified protection system.

Marine (draft) Bill – to set up a new system of planning for marine and offshore developments.

Marine Navigation and Port Safety (draft) Bill – to give lighthouse authorities more powers to operate a modern service and clarifies the existing framework for port safety.

National Insurance Contributions Bill – to harmonise the upper earnings limit for national insurance contributions with the higher rate income tax threshold.

Sale of Student Loans Bill – to sell the student loan book, which is expected to raise £6 billion over three years. This was announced in the 2007 Budget.

Banking System – to bring forward legislation to protect depositors and ensure confidence in the banking system.

Work-life Balance – to bring forward proposals to help people achieve a better balance between work and family life

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