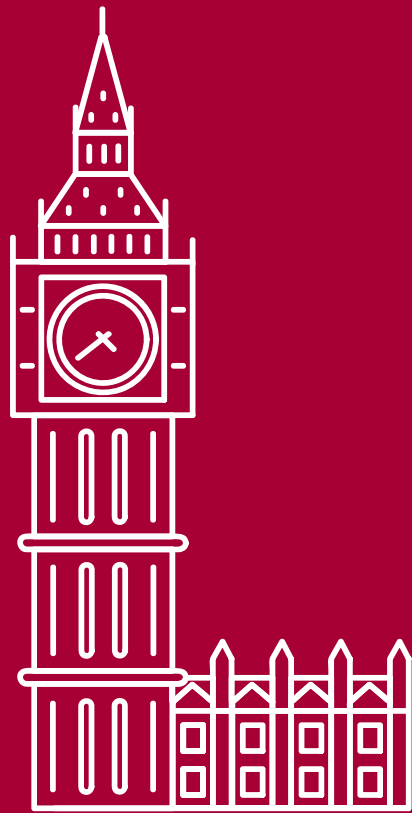


Queen's Speech 2022



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Today the Prince of Wales opened Parliament for the first time, after being granted special permission to read the Queen's Speech on Her Majesty's behalf. He was accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge and the Duchess of Cornwall. Not since 1963, when she was pregnant with Prince Edward, has the Queen herself not delivered the speech. A constitutionally important departure, the decision was taken as a result of the Queen's ongoing "episodic mobility problems".

Always an important political set-piece event, the Queen's Speech is an opportunity for the government to set out its priorities and legislative programme for the next parliamentary session. There is yet more pressure on the Prime Minister this time round as he seeks to firm up his leadership amid internal party challenges and draw a line under the crises currently defining his government—including a set of difficult local election results, and the rising cost of living. A total of 38 pieces of legislation proposed make this a mammoth Queen's Speech.

Seen by many as a chance to reset and relaunch his government's agenda, the main order of the day for Boris Johnson was to distance himself from these ongoing crises and show voters and his own party, that he could get the country "back on track". With the next election top of mind, there is a clear move from Number 10 to prioritise vote-winning measures. However, with few announcements directly aimed at tackling the cost of living, the Prime Minister will be judged by some to have fallen short of this aim. Instead of any direct support, the government's plan is to address cost of living issues by "turbo-charging" the economy.

Caught between appealing to Red Wall voters and shoring up more traditional Conservative support, the agenda outlined today skews more towards the latter but also indicates that the Government will take a more transactional approach, crafting the legislative agenda with future elections in mind. Key announcements include the heavily trailed Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which will "empower local leaders to regenerate their areas" and reform the planning system to "give residents more of an involvement in local development". Tellingly, plans for a more ambitious shake-up of local planning laws, which faced a serious backlash from Conservative MPs, have been dropped. A new Bill of Rights will placate some, delivering on a longstanding pledge to replace the Human Rights Act. On justice and crime, there will be new legislation giving police powers to "make the streets safer", and new powers to criminalise demonstrators who use disruptive tactics like locking or gluing themselves to objects. For business, the commitment to prioritise economic growth is perhaps the most important announcement, though one that cannot be legislated for. There is also a focus on post-Brexit opportunities, with the government pledging to repeal and reform EU regulations on businesses.

Overall, the true test of the agenda set out today will be if, when, and how voters see an impact on the ground, in their daily lives. Measures designed to boost the economy will take time to materialise, and Boris Johnson is not yet out of the woods. Labour's vision, which would see more support for households now and big-ticket items such as windfall taxes on energy firms, may well prove appealing to voters, particularly in those Red Wall areas. We may yet see more measures designed to tackle the cost of living as Boris Johnson seeks to make an impact in the relatively short window before the next election—an event which now looms large on the political horizon.

Bills carried over from the previous session

Title	Description
Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill	The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill 2021-22 was introduced on 8 June 2021. It is a Bill to make provision about the welfare of certain kept animals that are in, imported into, or exported from Great Britain, and will deliver manifesto commitments to strengthen animal welfare, including banning live exports, tackling puppy smuggling and banning the keeping of primates as pets without a licence.
Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill	The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill was presented in the House of Commons on 12 May 2021, following proposals set out in a Department for Education policy paper published in February 2021. The Bill would extend and strengthen existing legislation intended to uphold freedom of speech and academic freedom in registered higher education providers and students' unions.
High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill	The High-Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill 2021-22 is a hybrid bill. It will provide the powers to build and operate the next stage of the High Speed Two (HS2) network between Crewe and Manchester.
Draft Online Safety Bill	The draft Online Safety Bill was published by the Government on 12 May 2021. The purpose of the Bill is to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online by improving protections for users, especially children, whilst protecting freedom of expression.

New legislation announced

Title	Description
Public Order Bill	The Public Order Bill aims to make the streets safer by preventing a minority of protestors from using guerrilla tactics that cause misery to the hard-working public, disrupt businesses, interfere with emergency services, cost millions in taxpayers' money and put lives at risk.
Media Bill	The Media Bill will reform decades-old laws to boost our public service broadcasters, which develop talent and skills, drive growth in the creative industries across the UK and deliver distinctive, diverse British content. Likewise, it will enable a change of ownership of Channel 4 to give it the tools it needs to succeed in the future as a public service broadcaster while protecting its distinctiveness.
Transport Bill	The aim of the Transport Bill will be to simplify the railways to ensure a better and more reliable service for passengers, to support economic growth across the country and ensure the survival of the railways. Equally, it seeks to keep the UK at the forefront of transport innovation, helping deliver the reforms we have promised to decarbonise transport, transform the way we travel, and better connect communities.
Energy Security Bill	The Energy Security Bill will deliver the commitments in the British Energy Security Strategy and the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution to build a more secure, homegrown energy system that is cleaner and more affordable.
Draft Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill	The Draft Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill will protect consumers' hard-earned cash from scams and rip-offs and boost consumers' rights. It will also reform the UK's competition regime, putting the power in the hands of consumers and strengthening public and business confidence in the power of free markets to deliver prosperity. It will create a best-in-class competition regime, to make markets for consumer goods and services more competitive and dynamic, to ensure that consumers get the best deals and boost competition by introducing a new regime to address the far-reaching market power of a small number of very powerful tech firms.
Procurement Bill	The Procurement Bill will take advantage of the benefits of Brexit by reforming the UK's public procurement regime to create a simpler and more transparent system that better meets the country's needs, rather than being based on transposed EU directives. It will also boost business by making public procurement more accessible for new entrants such as small businesses and voluntary, charitable and social enterprises, enabling them to compete for public contracts.

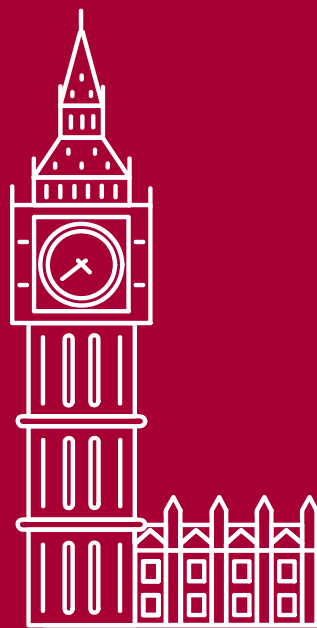
Title	Description
Brexit Freedoms Bill	The purpose of the Brexit Freedoms Bill is to fulfil the Government's manifesto commitment to end the supremacy of European law and seize the benefits of Brexit by ensuring regulation fits the needs of the UK, which in turn will enable economic growth.
Non-Domestic Rating Bill	The Non-Domestic Rating Bill will deliver manifesto commitments to review and create a fairer, more accurate business rates system, meaning businesses will have the confidence they are paying the right tax. It will also support businesses and employees to enhance productivity and energy efficiency by making improvements to their place of work.
Electronic Trade Documents Bill	The Electronic Trade Documents Bill aims to put electronic trade documents on the same legal footing as paper documents, removing the need for wasteful paperwork and needless bureaucracy. This will enable businesses to move from paper-based to digital-based transactions when buying and selling internationally, which will help business efficiency and support economic growth.
Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill	The Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill aims to ensure that the UK can comply with the obligations in the Free Trade Agreements with both Australia and New Zealand when they come into force by making the necessary changes to the UK's domestic procurement regulations.
Harbours (Seafarers Renumeration) Bill	The Harbours (Seafarers Renumeration) Bill's purpose surrounds protecting seafarers working aboard vessels visiting UK ports by ensuring the ports have powers ultimately to refuse access to ferry services that do not pay an equivalent to the National Minimum Wage to seafarers while in UK waters.
Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill	The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency bill aims to crack down on the kleptocrats, criminals and terrorists who abuse our open economy, ensuring we drive out dirty money from the UK. It will ensure these people, including Putin's cronies, do not benefit from the UK's open society and strengthen the UK's reputation as a place where legitimate businesses can grow and create jobs.
Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill	The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill aims to level up the UK, grow the economy in the places that need it most and regenerate our towns and cities – giving people the opportunities they want, where they live. It will also improve the planning system to give communities a louder voice, making sure developments are beautiful, green and accompanied by new infrastructure and affordable housing.

Title	Description
Financial Services and Markets Bill	The Financial Services and Markets Bill will maintain and enhance the UK's position as a global leader in financial services, ensuring the sector continues to deliver for individuals and businesses across the country. This will promote a competitive marketplace for the effective use of capital, supporting economic growth. This bill will also seize the benefits of Brexit, by establishing a coherent, agile and internationally respected approach to financial services regulation that best suits the interests of the UK.
Schools Bill	The Schools Bill will deliver a stronger and more highly performing school system that works for every child, regardless of where they live.
Product Security and Telecommunications and Infrastructure Bill	The Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill aims to improve cyber resilience and digital connectivity for individuals and businesses across the UK, further growing the economy. Equally, it will ensure that smart consumer products, including smart phones and televisions, are more secure against cyber-attacks and accelerate and improve the roll out of mobile and broadband networks so that more people can have good digital connectivity more quickly.
UK Infrastructure Bank Bill	The UK Infrastructure Bank Bill aims to finalise the creation of the UK Infrastructure Bank by establishing it in law with clear objectives to support regional and local economic growth and deliver net zero, and ensuring it has the full range of spending and lending powers.
Draft Audit Reform Bill	The Draft Audit Reform Bill aims to rebuild trust in the UK's audit, corporate reporting and corporate governance system and the insolvency regulatory framework. Likewise, it seeks to ensure accountability for those with key roles in that system and increase resilience and choice in the statutory audit market – reinforcing the UK's reputation as a world-leading destination for investment.
Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill	The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill aims to remove unnecessary barriers inherited from the EU to enable the development and marketing of precision bred plants and animals, which will drive economic growth and position the UK as the leading country in which to invest in agri-food research and innovation.
Social Housing Regulation Bill	The Social Housing Regulation Bill will increase social housing tenants' rights to better homes and enhance their ability to hold their landlords to account, addressing concerns that the Grenfell Tower tragedy raised.

Title	Description
Renters Reform Bill	The Renters Reform Bill seeks to fulfil the manifesto commitments to abolish so-called 'no fault' section 21 evictions and strengthen landlords' rights of possession, delivering on the levelling up mission to halve the number of non-decent rented homes by 2030 and create a rental market that is fairer and more effective for tenants and landlords.
Social Security (Special Rules for End of Life) Bill	The Social Security (Special Rules for End of Life) Bill aims to allow more people nearing the end of their life to get fast-tracked access to three key disability benefits.
National Security Bill	The National Security Bill aims to further protect our national security, the safety of the British public and our vital interests from those who seek to do the UK harm, in line with the manifesto commitment to ensure the security services have the powers they need. Additionally, this Bill will undertake the biggest overhaul of state threats legislation for a generation to provide our world class law enforcement and intelligence agencies with an enhanced suite of tools, powers and protections to tackle the full range of evolving state threats and prevent the exploitation of our civil legal aid and civil damage payments by convicted terrorists.
Conversion Therapy Bill	The Conversion Therapy Bill seeks to ban conversion therapy practices intended to change sexual orientation.
Modern Slavery Bill	The Modern Slavery Bill seeks to strengthen the protection and support for victims of human trafficking and modern slavery and increase the accountability of companies and other organisations to drive out modern slavery from their supply chains.
Draft Victims Bill (on Breeding) Bill	The Draft Victims Bill will put victims at the heart of the criminal justice system, ensuring their experiences are front and centre of the process and encouraging them to remain engaged in the criminal justice system, enabling justice to be done and making our communities safer. It will also ensure we have an effective justice system that serves society by restoring victims' confidence that their voices will be properly heard and that perpetrators will be brought to justice.
Draft Protect Duty Bill	The Draft Protect Duty Bill aims to keep people safe by introducing new security requirements for certain public locations and venues to ensure preparedness for and protection from terrorist attacks.

Title	Description
Draft Mental Health Act Reform Bill	The Draft Mental Health Act Reform Bill will ensure that patients suffering from mental health conditions have greater control over their treatment and receive the dignity and respect they deserve. It will also make it easier for people with learning disabilities and autism to be discharged from hospital.
Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill	The Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill will address the legacy of Northern Ireland's past by providing better outcomes for victims, survivors and their families, giving veterans the protections they deserve and focusing on information recovery and reconciliation.
Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill	The Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill will deliver a carefully balanced package of identity and language measures as negotiated by the Northern Ireland parties under the New Decade, New Approach Deal. This will recognise and celebrate Northern Ireland's national and cultural identities and accommodate cultural differences. It will also enhance and develop the Ulster Scots/Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland and recognise and protect the Irish language.
Data Reform Bill	The Data Reform Bill will take advantage of the benefits of Brexit to create a world class data rights regime that will allow us to create a new pro-growth and trusted UK data protection framework that reduces burdens on businesses, boosts the economy, helps scientists to innovate and improves the lives of people in the UK. The Bill aims to modernise the Information Commissioner's Office, making sure it has the capabilities and powers to take stronger action against organisations who breach data rules while requiring it to be more accountable to Parliament and the public and increase industry participation in Smart Data Schemes, which will give citizens and small businesses more control of their data. The Bill will also help those who need health care treatments, by helping improve appropriate access to data in health and social care contexts.
Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill	The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill aims to strengthen academic freedom and free speech in universities in England.
Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill	The Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill aims to stop public bodies from adopting their own approach to international relations.
Bill of Rights	The purpose of a British Bill of Rights is to ensure our human rights framework meets the needs of the society it serves and commands public confidence. It also aims to end the abuse of the human rights framework and restore some common sense to our justice system.

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