

**Appendix B****Queen's Speech 2017****21 June 2017**

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The Speech sets out the government's agenda for the coming, two year-long session, outlining proposed policies and legislation.

- 1. Brexit bills**
- 2. Other bills and measures of interest for LBS**
- 3. What's missing?**
- 4. Full list of bills and measures**
- 5. General elections 2017 - results at a glance**

**1. Brexit bills**

The speech began with reference to no less than **eight** Brexit-related Bills:

*A repeal bill*

This will repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and transpose current EU laws into UK law, to ensure legal continuity when the UK leaves the EU. Ministers used to refer to this as the 'great repeal bill', but now it has become simply the 'repeal bill'.

*A customs bill*

This will replace EU customs rules and allow the UK to impose its own tariffs after Brexit.

*A trade bill*

This will allow the UK to operate its own trade policy after Brexit. This may face opposition from those MPs determined to keep the UK in the EU customs union.

*An immigration bill*

This will allow the UK to set its own immigration policy. The government is saying that free movement will go but, beyond saying that the new system will be "fair and sustainable", it does not seem to be giving any new details today of what will be in the legislation. This is likely to be one of the most contentious bills of the session.

*A fisheries bill*

This will enable the UK to take control of its fishing waters after Brexit and to set fishing quotas. But the government does not seem to be saying anything new today on the tricky issue of what compromises it might strike to allow EU boats to fish in UK waters.

*An agriculture bill*

This will set up a system to support farmers after Brexit takes them out of the common agriculture policy. But there is no detail provided today about how it will operate, or how generous it will be.

*A nuclear safeguards bill*

This will set up a nuclear safeguards regime to compensate for the fact that Brexit will take the UK out of Euratom, a separate treaty governing safety in the civil nuclear power industry.

*An international sanctions bill*

This will allow the UK to continue applying international sanctions, because after Brexit it will no longer be bound by EU sanctions policy.

**2. Other bills and measures of interest for LBS***Draft Domestic Abuse and Violence Bill*

This will establish a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner; create a consolidated new domestic abuse civil prevention and protection order regime; and ensure that if abusive behaviour involves a child, then the court can hand down a sentence that reflects the devastating life-long impact that abuse can have on the child. The Courts Bill will also end direct cross examination of domestic violence victims by their alleged perpetrators in the family courts. *Women's Aid* has heralded this draft bill as a '[once-in-a-generation opportunity](#)'.

*Draft Tenants' Fees Bill*

This will prevent landlords from charging letting fees and will cap holding deposits.

*Commission for countering extremism*

The government will establish a statutory Commission for Countering Extremism with the aim of identifying examples of extremism (and exposing them); helping the government identify new policies to tackle extremism; and supporting public sector and civil society in 'promoting and defending pluralistic values across all our communities.'

*Mental health reform*

The government will 'review the mental health legislative landscape and publish recommendations on where new policy could provide greater rights for those experiencing mental health problems so they can live lives free from discrimination', paving the way for a new Mental Health Bill/Act in due course.

*Social care*

The government will bring forward proposals for a consultation on the future of the social care system. This consultation 'will set out options to improve the social care system and to put it on a more secure financial footing, supporting people, families and communities to prepare for old age, and address issues related to the quality of care and variation in practice.'

**Appendix B***Public finances*

The accompanying notes to the speech sets out the following:

We will reflect on the message voters sent at the General Election – while always remembering that we have to balance the books and eliminate the deficit we inherited following the financial crisis. This is to ensure that future generations do not pay when we fail to live within our means.

The government reiterates its commitment to a modern Industrial Strategy and makes reference to valuing the work of public sector workers - whilst at the same time stressing the need for low taxes for working people and restating its desire to produce a balanced budget by the mid-2020s.

**THE SPEECH DOESN'T GIVE MUCH INDICATION RE: A SOFTENING OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE POLICY.***Schools and technical education*

The government wants to 'make sure all children, regardless of where they live or their background, can get a world-class education that unlocks talent and creates opportunity. We want to make Britain the world's Great Meritocracy: a country where everyone has a fair chance to go as far as their talent and their hard work will allow, where advantage is based on merit not privilege.' The government also intends to invest more money into technical education including the implementation of the July 2016 Post-16 Skills Review (including new technical education routes, i.e. T-Levels) and Institutes of Technology, *as per* the Industrial Strategy.

*Housing*

'Proposals will be brought forward to... help ensure more homes are built'. The aspiration is to: tackle the increasing lack of affordability by bringing more properties onto the market and slow the rise in housing costs relative to wages; pursue the measures set out in the February 2017 Housing white paper (i.e. releasing more land, building faster, building more, supporting people in need of help etc); and increase transparency re: the ownership of land AND increase transparency and fairness for leaseholders.

**3. What's missing?**

There are a number of high profile policies from the Conservative Party's 2017 manifesto that haven't made it into the Queen's Speech:

- Local government finance - no mention of the reform of business rates OR of the trailed fair funding review. The *Local Government Chronicle (LGC)* has reported that the policy of 100% business rates retention has been '[effectively suspended indefinitely](#).' The LGA maintains that the failure to reintroduce the Local Government finance bill, which fell at the end of the last session due to the election being called, is '[hugely concerning](#)'. DCLG have indicated that the Fair Funding Review can continue

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and therefore the 'needs and distribution' element of the business rates devolution could be re-shaped for this purpose. Legislation is not required for this.

- Social care - no mention of the £100,000 asset floor, dubbed 'the dementia tax' during the election campaign.
- More funding for mental health nurses - the government had proposed dedicated funding to pay for an extra 10,000 mental health nurses in England.
- Abolition of the triple-lock on pensions.
- Abolition of winter fuel payments.
- Abolition of free school meals for primary school children.
- The extension of grammar schools.
- Energy price cap - instead the government is promising only to 'closely examine' markets that are ripping customers off and says it's 'prepared to act where necessary.'
- Fox hunting.
- Police cuts - plans to shake up the formula currently used to allocate money to the police will not go ahead, in order to protect budgets for bigger forces.

#### 4. [Full list of bills and measures](#)

##### *Delivering Brexit*

1. Repeal Bill
2. Customs Bill
3. Trade Bill
4. Immigration Bill
5. Fisheries Bill
6. Agriculture Bill
7. Nuclear Safeguards Bill
8. International Sanctions Bill

##### *Building a stronger economy*

9. Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill
10. Space Industry Bill
11. High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Bill
12. Smart Meter Bill
13. National Insurance Contributions Bill

##### *Making our country fairer*

14. Travel Protection Bill
15. Draft Tenants' Fees Bill
16. Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill
17. Civil Liability Bill
18. Courts Bill

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19. Financial Guidance and Claims Bill
20. Goods Mortgages Bill

*Making our country safer and more united*

21. Armed Forces (Flexible Working) Bill
22. Data Protection Bill
23. Draft Patient Bill

*Other legislative measures*

24. EU (Approvals) Bill

*Non-legislative measures*

25. Brexit - engagement with parliament and the devolved administrations and business
26. Counter terrorism review
27. Commission for countering extremism
28. Public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire
29. Independent Public Advocate
30. Mental health reform
31. Social care
32. Digital Charter
33. Public finances
34. Schools and technical education
35. Northern Ireland
36. National living wage and workers' rights
37. Tackling the gender pay gap and discrimination
38. Critical national infrastructure
39. Housing
40. Foreign affairs
41. Armed forces
42. Consumer markets, including the energy market

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