
Queen's Speech 2022: Grayling analysis



Today's Queen's Speech, the first given on her behalf by Prince Charles, began with an acknowledgement of the cost-of-living crisis facing the country. However, the overall narrative of the legislative programme was more fragmented than we might have expected, given the Government's stated priorities of tackling cost of living increases, meeting ambitious Net Zero targets, and levelling up the country post-Brexit.

A series of big infrastructure Bills will be introduced, with a new Transport Bill reforming Britain's railways and promoting take-up of both electric and autonomous vehicles, an Energy Security Bill to codify the recent Energy Security Strategy, with plans to bring down the cost of heat pumps and support trials of hydrogen heating, and a UK Infrastructure Bank Bill to put the new body on a statutory footing.

Seizing Brexit opportunities also featured heavily, with legislation planned to codify the Australia and New Zealand Free Trade Agreements and to make it easier to diverge from previous EU law.

As with the previous Queen's Speech, there were several Bills intended to tackle the

'woke' agenda and position the Conservatives effectively with socially conservative voters in the Red Wall. These include legislation to ban public bodies from boycotting goods and services, a bill to jail protestors who glue themselves to roads, and a return of proposals to ban student unions from 'no-platforming' speakers, as well as a pledge to end historic prosecutions relating to the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

There were so many bills that not all featured in Prince Charles' speech to both Houses of Parliament. Even the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's banner policy, the privatisation of Channel 4, did not warrant a mention.

A question remains as to whether such a wide range of proposed laws, many framed to appease specific interest groups within the Conservative parliamentary party, adds to a cohesive programme for government. The set of Bills announced today will keep both Houses of Parliament busy over the coming months, but we should expect further changes to legislative priorities as both Government and Opposition parties move to an election footing ahead of 2024.

Full list of Bills and legislative announcements

Bills

- **Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill:** To reform regulations relating to the welfare of kept animals, including prohibiting the export of live cattle, sheep, pigs and goats and restricting imports of certain pet animals.
- **Bill of Rights:** To establish the primacy of UK case law over the European Court of Justice and to tackle spurious human rights cases.
- **Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill:** To ban public bodies from boycotting goods or services that the UK Government itself has not boycotted or banned.
- **Brexit Freedoms Bill:** to enable Ministers to amend, repeal and replace retained EU law via secondary legislation.
- **Conversion Therapy Bill:** to ban conversion therapy practices intended to change sexual orientation (but not gender identity) and to protect people at risk from being taken abroad
- **Data Reform Bill:** To allow the UK to reform and streamline its data protection regime and deviate from EU rules including GDPR.
- **Digital Competition Bill:** To introduce a new regulatory regime to promote competition and innovation and to place the Digital Markets Unit on a statutory footing.
- **Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill:** To further strengthen powers to tackle illicit finance and reduce economic crime, including introducing identity verification, providing Companies House with further investigation and enforcement powers and tackle the abuse of limited partnerships.
- **Electronic Trade Documents Bill:** To enable the legal recognition of electronic versions of trade documents, including bills of lading and bills of exchange, on the same basis as paper documents.
- **Energy Security Bill:** to continue the energy price cap post-2023, enable the first ever large-scale hydrogen heating trial and bring down the cost of heat pumps.
- **Financial Services and Markets Bill:** To establish a new approach to financial services regulation to enhance the UK's position as a global leader in financial services.
- **Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill:** To enable gene-edited plants to be treated differently to genetically modified organisms to reduce the UK's reliance on pesticides.
- **Harbour (Seafarers' Remuneration) Bill:** To allow ports to refuse access to ferry services that do not pay an equivalent to the National Minimum Wage to seafarers while in UK waters.
- **Higher Education Bill:** To introduce a Lifelong Loan Entitlement equivalent to four years of post-18 education to be used for a wider range of studies.
- **Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill:** To prevent universities and students' unions from 'no-platforming' speakers
- **High Speed Rail (Crewe-Manchester) Bill:** To extend High Speed Two between Crewe and Manchester.
- **Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill:** To deliver a new cultural framework for Irish-language and Ulster Scots speakers.
- **Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill:** to lay the foundations for all parts of England to benefit from devolution deals by 2030, introduce a new levy on housebuilders to fund local schools and roads and to provide new powers to councils to let out unused properties.

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- **Media Bill:** To enable private sector ownership of Channel 4, to update the public broadcasting framework and to give Ofcom new powers to draft and enforce a video-on-demand code.
 - **Modern Slavery Bill:** To compel all companies with a turnover over £36m to publish an annual report on the steps they have taken to prevent modern slavery in their operations and supply chains.
 - **National Security Bill:** To reform espionage laws to tackle modern threats, introduce new offences and expand the ability to prosecute to tackle state threats at earlier stages.
 - **Non-Domestic Rating Bill:** To accelerate revaluations of business rates to every three years.
 - **Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill:** to establish a new Independent Commission for Reconciliation to investigate deaths during the Troubles and to provide immunity from prosecution for individuals who cooperate with this Commission.
 - **Online Safety Bill:** To improve the regulation of potentially harmful content on the internet, including new legal requirements on search engines and new powers to Ofcom.
 - **Procurement Bill:** To reform government procurement processes to make it easier for SMEs to access government contracts.
 - **Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill:** To make provisions about the security of products that connect to the internet and electronic communications infrastructure.
 - **Public Order Bill:** to enable police to prosecute protestors who target transport infrastructure and to extend stop-and-search powers.
 - **Renters Reform Bill:** To end 'no fault' evictions of tenants.
 - **Schools Bill:** to introduce compulsory registers for home-schooling, to allow councils to establish their own academy trusts, to tackle illegal schools and reform school funding.
 - **Social Housing Regulation Bill:** To give the Social Housing Regulator powers to intervene with landlords performing poorly on consumer issues, including complaints handling and decency of homes.
 - **Social Security (Special Rules for End of Life) Bill:** To expand fast-tracked benefits for people who are terminally ill.
 - **Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill:** To implement Free Trade Agreements in UK law.
 - **Transport Bill:** To create Great British Railways and enact the rail reforms outlined in the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail, to enable the introduction of automated vehicles and to support the rollout of electric vehicle charging points.
 - **UK Infrastructure Bank Bill:** To establish the UK Infrastructure Bank on a statutory footing.

Draft Bills

- **Draft Audit Reform Bill**
- **Draft Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill**
- **Draft Mental Health Act Reform Bill**
- **Draft Protect Duty Bill**
- **Draft Victims' Bill**

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