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AN INTRODUCTION BY THE PRIME MINISTER

This is a One Nation Queen's speech from a One Nation Government. It sets out a clear programme of reform, using the strength of our economy to deliver security for working people, increase life chances for the most disadvantaged and strengthen our national security.

With this Government economic security always comes first. We have made huge progress in turning our economy around over the last six years. The deficit has been cut by almost two-thirds, we now have the highest employment rate in our history and this year we have seen the number of people claiming unemployment benefits fall to its lowest since 1975. Our economy has grown by over 13 per cent in this period, with over 900,000 more businesses and 764,000 fewer workless households.

But there is far more to be done to entrench our strong economic performance. Last year at the election, we made clear commitments to the British people – and this Queen's speech delivers on them, setting out the next steps of our Long-Term Economic Plan. To help create jobs, we will make Britain a world leader in the digital economy, with new obligations on broadband providers to make sure everyone in Britain has access to an affordable high speed internet connection. To back business, we will make sure Britain has first-class infrastructure, especially when it comes to the transport of the future. To support aspiration and promote home ownership, we will meet our commitment to build a million new homes across the country by reforming planning. And because we want to make sure every part of our country shares in our rising prosperity, we will legislate for a dramatic devolution of power to local areas, giving them complete control over business rate revenues to use as they wish to stimulate economic growth.

These reforms will help people get on. But to spread life chances to everyone, we have to go further in tackling the barriers to opportunity. With this Government, the number of people living in poverty has fallen; the number of students from low income backgrounds going to university has risen; hope has returned to communities that were once written off. But there are still too many people left behind – and they need deeper, more intensive help.

In the past six years, whether in education or welfare, this Government has consistently demonstrated that we will take on difficult arguments, make difficult choices and undertake big and bold reforms to spread opportunity. This Queen's speech is no different. At its heart are major changes to adoption and social work, so children in care are not doomed to a life of poverty. There are reforms to schools, so excellence that comes with more teacher freedom is spread to every community. There is an expansion of higher education, so just as we uncapped the number of student places we now encourage the new universities that will help educate the next generation. And because this Government sees the potential in everyone, we will finally undertake the long-overdue change that our prisons need. No longer will they be warehouses for criminals; we want them to be incubators of changed and reformed lives.

We also know that we cannot deliver opportunity for all and extend life chances, unless we also tackle the menace of extremism. We should be proud of the fact that today Britain is already one of the most successful multi-racial, multi-faith democracies anywhere on earth. But we must also recognise that extremists – both violent and non-violent – are trying to drive our country apart. So this Queen's speech stands up for our liberal values by taking on the extremists with new powers to disrupt their activities, while protecting young people in unregulated schools from those who preach a message of intolerance and separatism.

An important part of the platform for everything we hope to achieve is national security. We cannot extend opportunity or help working people if our country is not safe. So this Queen's speech also makes the choice to strengthen our national security. We will invest in Britain's armed forces, honouring our NATO commitment to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence. To support global stability and prevent new threats to our security, we will also meet our commitment on international development spending. And in an ever more dangerous and unstable world, where the threats to our country are increasing not diminishing, we will secure the long-term future of our nuclear deterrent and give our security and intelligence agencies the powers they need to keep us safe.

This is a Queen's speech that uses the strong foundations of our economy to make a series of bold choices that will improve lives across the country. It is a One Nation Queen's speech from a progressive, One Nation, Conservative Government.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

**before Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech
to both Houses of Parliament on 18 MAY 2016**

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

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2016

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

My Government will use the opportunity of a strengthening economy to deliver security for working people, to increase life chances for the most disadvantaged and to strengthen national defences.

My Ministers will continue to bring the public finances under control so that Britain lives within its means, and to move to a higher wage and lower welfare economy where work is rewarded.

To support the economic recovery, and to create jobs and more apprenticeships, legislation will be introduced to ensure Britain has the infrastructure that businesses need to grow. **[Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill]**

Measures will be brought forward to create the right for every household to access high speed broadband. **[Digital Economy Bill]**

Legislation will be introduced to improve Britain's competitiveness **[Better Markets Bill]** and make the United Kingdom a world leader in the digital economy. **[Digital Economy Bill]**

My Ministers will ensure the United Kingdom is at the forefront of technology for new forms of transport, including autonomous and electric vehicles. **[Modern Transport Bill]**

To spread economic prosperity, my Government will continue to support the development of a Northern Powerhouse.

In England, further powers will be devolved to directly elected mayors, including powers governing local bus services. **[Bus Services Bill]**

Legislation will also allow local authorities to retain business rates, giving them more freedom to invest in local communities. **[Local Growth and Jobs Bill]**

My Government will support aspiration and promote home ownership through its commitment to build a million new homes.

Following last week's Anti-Corruption Summit in London, legislation will be introduced to tackle corruption, money laundering and tax evasion. **[Criminal Finances Bill]**

My Government will continue work to deliver NHS services over seven days of the week in England. Legislation will be introduced to ensure that overseas visitors pay for the health treatment they receive at public expense. **[NHS (Overseas Visitors Charging) Bill]**

New legislation will be introduced to tackle some of the deepest social problems in society, and improve life chances.

A Bill will be introduced to ensure that children can be adopted by new families without delay, improve the standard of social work and opportunities for young people in care in England. **[Children and Social Work Bill]**

To tackle poverty and the causes of deprivation, including family instability, addiction and debt, my Government will introduce new indicators for measuring life chances. Legislation will be introduced to establish a soft drinks industry levy to help tackle childhood obesity. **[Finance Bill 2017]**

Measures will be introduced to help the lowest-income families save, through a new Help to Save scheme, and to create a Lifetime ISA to help young people save for the long-term. **[Lifetime Savings Bill]**

My Government will continue to reform public services so they help the hardest-to-reach.

A Bill will be brought forward to lay foundations for educational excellence in all schools, giving every child the best start in life. There will also be a fairer balance between schools, through the National Funding Formula. **[Education for All Bill]**

To ensure that more people have the opportunity to further their education, legislation will be introduced to support the establishment of new universities and to promote choice and competition across the higher education sector. **[Higher Education and Research Bill]**

My Government will legislate to reform prisons and courts to give individuals a second chance. **[Prison and Courts Reform Bill]**

Prison Governors will be given unprecedented freedom and they will be able to ensure prisoners receive better education. Old and inefficient prisons will be closed and new institutions built where prisoners can be put more effectively to work. **[Prison and Courts Reform Bill]**

Action will also be taken to ensure better mental health provision for individuals in the criminal justice system.

My Government will continue to work to bring communities together and strengthen society.

Legislation will be introduced to prevent radicalisation, tackle extremism in all its forms, and promote community integration. **[Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill]**

National Citizen Service will be placed on a permanent statutory footing. **[National Citizen Service Bill]**

My Government will continue to safeguard national security.

My Ministers will invest in Britain's armed forces, honouring the military covenant and meeting the NATO commitment to spend 2% of national income on defence.

They will also act to secure the long-term future of Britain's nuclear deterrent.

My Government will continue to play a leading role in world affairs, using its global presence to tackle climate change and address major international security, economic and humanitarian challenges.

My Government will continue to work to resolve the conflict in Ukraine. It will play a leading role in the campaign against Da'esh and to support international efforts to bring peace to Syria through a lasting political settlement.

Britain's commitment on international development spending will also be honoured, helping to deliver global stability, support the Sustainable Development Goals and prevent new threats to national security.

Prince Philip and I look forward to welcoming His Excellency the President of Colombia on a State Visit in November.

My Government will continue with legislation to modernise the law governing the use and oversight of investigatory powers by law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies. **[Investigatory Powers Bill]**

Legislation will strengthen the capability and accountability of the police service in England and Wales. **[Policing and Crime Bill]**

My Government will hold a referendum on membership of the European Union. Proposals will be brought forward for a British Bill of Rights. **[Bill of Rights]**

My Ministers will uphold the sovereignty of Parliament and the primacy of the House of Commons.

My Government will continue to work in cooperation with the devolved administrations to implement the extensive new powers in the Scotland Act and establish a strong and lasting devolution settlement in Wales. **[Wales Bill]** My Government will work in

Northern Ireland to secure further progress in implementing the Stormont House and Fresh Start Agreements.

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

Other measures will be laid before you.

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a One Nation Queen's speech from a One Nation Government. It uses the opportunity of a strengthening economy to:

- deliver security for working people;
- increase life chances for the most disadvantaged; and,
- strengthen our national security.

1) Delivering security for working people

This is the next step in our long-term economic plan for our country. Whether it is continuing to bring the public finances under control so that Britain lives within its means; delivering the infrastructure that British business needs to carry on creating jobs; making our country a world leader in the digital economy; spreading prosperity across our country and building a Northern Powerhouse; or supporting aspiration by promoting home ownership, this is a Queen's speech that delivers on the Government's promise of providing security at every stage of people's lives.

Digital Economy Bill

This Bill will modernise our climate for enterprise, making sure Britain remains at the forefront of the global 21st century economy so that our businesses continue to create jobs and our families remain financially secure. It will include:

- Giving every household a legal right to a fast broadband connection.
- New laws to help telecommunications providers build the infrastructure needed for faster broadband and better mobile networks.
- Allowing consumers to be automatically compensated when things go wrong with their broadband service.

Modern Transport Bill

This Bill will put Britain at the forefront of the modern transport revolution, so that we create new jobs and fuel economic growth around the country. It will include:

- Legislation to enable the future development of the UK's first commercial spaceports.
- New laws to make the UK ready to pioneer driverless cars.
- New rules to bring safe commercial and personal drone flight for households and businesses a step closer.

Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill

This Bill will reform planning and give local communities more power and control to shape their own area so that we build more houses and give everyone who works hard the chance to buy their own home. It will include:

- Measures to reform and speed up the planning process by minimising delays caused by pre-commencement planning conditions.
- A new statutory basis for the independent National Infrastructure Commission, to help invest in Britain's long-term future.
- Streamlined processes supporting neighbourhoods to come together to agree plans that will decide where things get built in their local area.

Local Growth and Jobs Bill

This Bill will deliver the biggest change in local finance for decades, giving local authorities full control of the money they raise through business rates, so they can attract business and investment to their local areas. It will include:

- A transfer of up to £13 billion to councils through allowing them to retain 100% of the business rates they collect.
- New measures to allow combined authority mayors to levy business rate supplements in order to fund infrastructure projects where there is the support of local business.

2) Increasing life chances for the most disadvantaged

At the heart of this Queen's speech are bold reforms that tackle some of the deepest social problems in our country and remove all barriers to opportunity. Giving children in care the best possible start in life; reforming our prisons; transforming the education system; and helping people save - this is a Queen's speech aimed at giving everyone in our country the chance to get on.

Children and Social Work Bill

This Bill will tackle state failure and transform the outcomes of children in care, so that we give all of them the hope of a better future. It will include:

- Changes to the considerations that courts must take into account in adoption decisions, tipping the balance in favour of permanent adoption where that is the right thing for the child - helping to give children stability.
- A new system of regulating social workers by setting up a specialist regulator for the profession with a clear focus on driving improvement and introducing more demanding professional standards.
- A new 'Care Leavers Covenant', underpinned by statutory duties, to make sure local authorities set out clearly the entitlements for care leavers – including housing, jobs and healthcare.

Education for All Bill

This Bill will deliver the next phase of our transformation of education, extending the principles of freedom and accountability across the country so that we encourage excellence everywhere and give every child the best start in life. It will include:

- New laws to expand the academies programme in the poorest performing local authority areas.
- A new funding formula to deliver fair funding for every school and pupil in the country.
- Measures to make schools accountable for the provision and progress of excluded pupils so that those currently let down by the system are given an excellent education.

Higher Education and Research Bill

This Bill will deliver the biggest supply-side reforms to the higher education sector for a quarter of a century, so that we open more universities and give more young people - from all backgrounds – the chance to succeed. It will include:

- Measures to make it easier for new high quality universities to open, boosting competition to improve teaching quality.
- Reform of university funding that will link funding for universities to the quality of teaching rather than student numbers, with graduate employment prospects tracked so students can be sure they are getting value for money.
- New requirements on all universities to publish detailed information about application, offer and progression rates, broken down by ethnicity, gender and socio-economic background. This will shine a spotlight on universities that need to go further and faster on social mobility and spur further action to ensure all institutions reach out to disadvantaged groups.

Prison and Courts Reform Bill

This Bill will bring about the biggest reform of our prisons since Victorian times, ensuring they are not just a place of punishment but also rehabilitation, so everyone has the chance to get on the right track and we show as a society we believe in the best in everyone. It will include:

- New powers for Prison Governors to allow them unprecedented levels of control over all aspects of prison management.
- A complete overhaul of education, health and training to reduce re-offending and give people the chance of a fresh start.
- New performance measures to assess prisons' current performance, long-term direction and progress.

Lifetime Savings Bill

This Bill will help people to save and make plans for the future, so we build the financial resilience and security of people across the country – especially the young and those on low incomes. It will include:

- The new Help to Save scheme, which will help those from low incomes build up their savings. Workers in receipt of working tax credits or Universal Credit who save up to £50 a month will receive a Government bonus of 50% - to a maximum of £600 – after two years.
- A new Lifetime ISA for young people, with a Government top up bonus of 25% on all savings up to £4,000 a year.

National Citizen Service Bill

This Bill will see the expansion of the Government's hugely successful National Citizen Service so more young people can mix with people of other backgrounds, and learn what it means to serve their community. It will include:

- A new statutory framework to deliver the programme, which will benefit from a £1.2 billion cash injection.
- A new duty on schools and local authorities to promote the scheme to all young people and their parents.

3) Strengthening our national security

This Queen's speech recognises the duty of government to keep our country safe. So it invests in Britain's armed forces; secures the long-term future of our nuclear deterrent; and gives our security and intelligence agencies the powers they need to protect us.

Bill of Rights

This Bill will support and reinforce Britain's long-standing commitment to human rights and restore common sense to the way human rights law is applied. It will include:

- Measures to reform and modernise the UK human rights framework.
- Protections against abuse of the system and misuse of human rights laws.

Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill

This Bill gives law enforcement agencies new powers to protect vulnerable people – including children – from those who seek to brainwash them with extremism propaganda so we build a stronger society around our shared liberal values of tolerance and respect. It will include:

- Stronger powers to disrupt extremists and protect the public.

- Powers to intervene in intensive unregulated education settings which teach hate and drive communities apart.
- A new civil order regime to restrict extremist activity, following consultation.
- Closing loopholes so that Ofcom can continue to protect consumers who watch internet-streamed television content from outside the EU on Freeview.

Criminal Finances Bill

This Bill will cement the UK's leading role in the fight against international corruption, crack down on money laundering and people profiting from crime, so that we root out corruption. It will include:

- Measures to reform proceeds of crime legislation to allow the Government to recoup more illicit income.
- A new criminal offence for corporations that fail to stop staff facilitating tax evasion.
- New rules to toughen the UK's anti-money laundering regime.

Policing and Crime Bill

This Bill is the next phase in our reform of the police, reforming out-of-date complaints and disciplinary procedures, so we increase public confidence in the people who keep us safe. It includes:

- A new duty to on all three emergency services to collaborate, to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- New authority for chief officers to designate wider powers on police staff and volunteers, so they can make best use of their workforce.
- A stronger oversight role for PCCs over local complaints, giving them an explicit responsibility for ensuring the effective and efficient delivery of the local police complaints system, and extending HM Inspector of Constabulary's remit to enable it to inspect private contractors.

Investigatory Powers Bill

This Bill will fill holes in our security apparatus so that we give law enforcement agencies the tools they need to protect the public in the digital age, while building confidence in the public that powers are operated sensibly. It includes:

- Plugging gaps in the abilities of law enforcement agencies to monitor people's online communications when investigating crime or terrorism.
- Tough new safeguards for the use of investigatory powers.

- Establishing a world-leading oversight regime of law enforcement agencies and the security services.

1) DELIVERING SECURITY FOR WORKING PEOPLE

Digital Economy Bill

“Measures will be brought forward to create the right for every household to access high speed broadband.

“Legislation will be introduced to ... make the United Kingdom a world leader in the digital economy.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Make the UK a world leader in digital provision – a place where technology ceaselessly transforms the economy, society and government.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- To enable the building of world-class digital infrastructure including fast broadband and mobile networks.
- To support new digital industries.
- To reform the way government uses data to deliver public services.
- Strengthen protections for citizens in the digital world.
- This delivers on the manifesto pledge to roll out universal broadband and better mobile phone connections, to ensure everyone is part of the digital economy (p.14).

The main elements of the Bill are:

Fast broadband

- A power to introduce a new Broadband Universal Service Obligation – giving all citizens and businesses the legal right to have a fast broadband connection installed. This would work similarly to the landline telephone USO, and just like for landlines there would be a reasonable cost threshold above which the very remotest properties may be expected to contribute to the cost of the installation. The Government expects the minimum speed to be at least 10Mbps initially, and the Bill would also include a power to direct Ofcom to review the speed over time to make sure it is still sufficient for modern life.
- A new Electronic Communications Code – to cut the cost and simplify the building of mobile and superfast broadband infrastructure.
- New and simpler planning rules for building broadband infrastructure.

Empowering consumers

- A new power for Ofcom to order communications providers to release data (such as customer complaints and broadband speeds data) in the interests of the consumer and competition. This would give consumers clear household-level information about broadband speeds from different providers, to help them make informed choices.
- New measures to make switching providers easier for consumers by allowing Ofcom to require communications companies to coordinate switches on behalf of customers. This would mean consumers would only have to deal with their new provider in order to switch.
- A new right for consumers to automatic compensation when things go wrong with their broadband service.

Protecting intellectual property

- Support for digital industries by addressing difference in online/offline copyright laws.
- Enable registered design owners to give notice of their rights more cheaply and flexibly.

Government data and digital services

- Use of data by Government to deliver better public services and produce world-leading research and statistics.
- Consult on better sharing of publicly-held data sets to improve service delivery whilst maintaining safeguards on privacy.
- New powers for public authorities to share information to combat the public sector fraud which costs the country billions.
- Public authorities empowered to cut the billions of overdue debts owed to government by allowing early identification of and help for people with debts spread over a number of public agencies.
- The UK Statistics Authority given easier secure access to data to produce more timely and accurate national and official statistics.
- Researchers provided with a more complete and accurate evidence base to inform analysis and enable better policy design and delivery.

Protecting citizens in the digital economy

- Protection for consumers from spam email and nuisance calls by ensuring consent is obtained for direct marketing, and that the Information Commissioner is empowered to impose fines on those who break the rules.
- Protection of children from online pornography by requiring age verification for access to all sites containing pornographic material.

Devolution:

Communications, broadcasting and intellectual property are reserved matters.

Key Facts:

- The Government estimates that changes to the Electronic Communications Code will result in more than £1 billion of savings for the communications sector over a 20-year period, which they can pass onto consumers.
- The publicly funded Superfast Broadband Programme has already ensured that coverage has been extended to an extra 4 million homes. A Universal Service Obligation set at 10Mbps could still benefit up to one million UK premises who might otherwise be left behind.
- 1 in 5 children aged 11-17 surveyed in February 2015 said they had seen pornographic images that had shocked or upset them.

Modern Transport Bill

"My Ministers will ensure the United Kingdom is at the forefront of technology for new forms of transport, including autonomous and electric vehicles."

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Cut red tape and put the right framework in place to allow innovation to flourish.
- Create the conditions that drives innovation and puts the UK at the forefront of modern global transport developments as part of the country's long term economic plan.
- Maintain and extend the UK's role as a world-leading transport manufacturing base.
- Ensure new technology delivers better, safer journeys, while keeping Britain at the cutting edge of international transport technology.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Reducing congestion, which has been estimated to cost the UK economy £20 billion every year.
- Modern transportation can make much more efficient use of our roads, railways and airspace, cutting congestions, speeding up journeys for people and goods and boosting the UK's economy.
- The UK exported 1.2 million cars last year. This Bill would put the UK at the forefront of autonomous and driverless vehicles ownership and use.
- Setting the framework for the UK's first spaceport and autonomous vehicles, paving the way for commercial spaceflight and drone operations in the UK and boosting our world-leading satellite industry.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Encouraging potential investors in autonomous vehicles, spaceplane operations and spaceports, creating highly skilled jobs and spurring innovation across the economy.
- Legislation that will put the UK at the forefront of safe technology in the autonomous vehicles industry, such as drones, and spaceplanes.
- Ensuring appropriate insurance is available to support the use of autonomous and driverless vehicles.

- Improving protection for customers by updating ATOL, the UK's financial protection scheme for holidays by clarifying the 1992 legislation that pre-dates people booking their holidays on the internet.

Devolution:

Some of the Bill's provisions would apply only to Great Britain, others to the United Kingdom.

All aviation and maritime is reserved so applicable to all the UK, however, autonomous and driverless vehicles measures would apply to Great Britain only.

Key facts:

- Trials of automated and driverless cars are currently taking place in Bristol, Greenwich, Milton Keynes and Coventry (The 4 Cities Driverless Car Trials), and we expect to see vehicles (cars and/ or pods) driving themselves later this year)
- Since the launch of the Plug-In Car Grant in January 2011, there have been 60,755 eligible electric cars registered.
- The Teals Group's market study estimates that drone production will soar from current worldwide production of \$4 billion annually to \$414 billion, totalling \$93 billion in the next ten years. With addition of military drone research spending this would rise to \$123 billion over the decade.

Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill

“To support the economic recovery, and to create jobs and more apprenticeships, legislation will be introduced to ensure Britain has the infrastructure that businesses need to grow.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Support the Government’s ambition to deliver one million new homes, whilst protecting those areas that we value most including the Green Belt.
- Deliver the homes and infrastructure that this country needs.
- Transform the way we plan for major infrastructure projects in this country.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Further empower local communities to plan the homes and infrastructure that they need.
- Drive more effective and efficient delivery of housing and infrastructure that local communities need, and make the process clearer, faster and fairer.
- Support long term economic growth through an overarching and independent assessment of the long-term infrastructure needs of the nation.
- This will help deliver the manifesto pledge to invest over £100 billion in our infrastructure over this Parliament (p.14).

The main elements of the Bill are:

Neighbourhood Planning

- To further strengthen neighbourhood planning and give even more power to local people.
- The new legislation would also strengthen neighbourhood planning by making the local government duty to support groups more transparent and by improving the process for reviewing and updating plans.

Planning Conditions

- To ensure that pre-commencement planning conditions are only imposed by local planning authorities where they are absolutely necessary.

- Excessive pre-commencement planning conditions can slow down or stop the construction of homes after they have been given planning permission.
- The new legislation would tackle the overuse, and in some cases, misuse of certain planning conditions, and thereby ensure that development, including new housing, can get underway without unnecessary delay.

Compulsory Purchase

- To make the compulsory purchase order process clearer, fairer and faster for all those involved.
- Including reform of the context within which compensation is negotiated – often a very significant and complex part of finalising a compulsory purchase deal. Our proposals, on which we have already consulted, would consolidate and clarify over 100 years of conflicting statute and case law. We would establish a clear, new statutory framework for agreeing compensation, based on the fundamental principle that compensation should be based on the market value of the land in the absence of the scheme underlying the compulsory purchase.

National Infrastructure Commission

- To establish the independent National Infrastructure Commission on a statutory basis.
- The Commission would provide the government with expert, independent advice on infrastructure issues by setting out a clear, strategic vision on the future infrastructure that is needed to ensure the UK economy is fit for 2050.
- To unlock economic potential across the UK and ensure that growth and opportunities are distributed across the country, boosting productivity and competitiveness through high-quality infrastructure.

Land Registry

- The new legislation would enable the privatisation of Land Registry, which would support the delivery of a modern, digitally-based land registration service that will benefit the Land Registry's customers, such as people buying or selling their home.
- It could also return a capital receipt to the Exchequer to help reduce national debt.

Devolution:

The Bill's substantive provisions apply across England and Wales. The measure relating to the National Infrastructure Commission would apply across the UK in line with current infrastructure decision-making responsibilities.

Key facts:

- We've already seen a revolution in neighbourhood planning, with 193 neighbourhood plans approved at referendum and nearly 2,000 groups involved, covering around ten million people.
- Plans for housebuilding are more than 10% higher in the first areas with a neighbourhood plan as opposed to only the council's Local Plan.

Local Growth and Jobs Bill

“Legislation will also allow local authorities to retain business rates, giving them more freedom to invest in local communities.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Grow the economy by giving local councils an incentive to support business and develop their local economy.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Allowing local authorities to retain 100% of their business rates. This will further increase the incentive for them to grow their local economies.
- Strengthening local councils' powers to cut business rates for local firms and give combined authority Mayors the power to raise additional funding for infrastructure where they have the support of local businesses.
- This delivers on the manifesto commitment to devolve powers and budgets to boost local growth in England (p.13).

The main elements of the Bill are:

Business Rates Retention system

- The Bill would put in place the framework for the delivery of the scheme, and legislate for the set of responsibilities that will be devolved to local authorities as a result of the reforms.

Local Tax Flexibilities

- The Bill would strengthen local areas the ability to reduce the business rates tax rate.
- The Bill would give the ability to combined authority mayors to levy a supplement on business rates bills to fund new infrastructure projects, provided they have the support of the business community through the Local Enterprise Partnership. This is similar to the decision of local businesses in London to make a contribution towards Crossrail 1.

Devolution:

The Local Growth and Jobs Bill would apply only to England.

Key Facts:

- These reforms would allow local government to retain 100% of local taxes, including all £26 billion of revenue from business rates, to spend on local government services.
- Since 2013, local government has retained 50% of the business rates it raises, providing a direct link between business rates growth and the amount of money councils have to spend on local people and local services.
- 10 Devolution Deals have been agreed so far with local areas across the country, devolving more powers and, in nine areas, establishing newly-elected Mayors.

Better Markets Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to improve Britain’s competitiveness”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Open up markets, boost competition, give consumers more power and choice and make economic regulators work better.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Giving consumers more power and choice through faster switching, and more protection when things go wrong.
- Simplifying the way economic regulators operate to make things more straightforward for business and cut red tape.
- Speeding up decisions from the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to benefit both businesses and consumers.
- This will help deliver the manifesto commitment to increase competition and consumer choice in the energy market (p.57).

The main elements of the Bill are:

Consumer Power

- To encourage consumers to switch providers and get a better deal, supporting the manifesto commitment to help keep bills as low as possible.

Environment for competition

- To speed up the decision making process for competition investigations and make the whole process easier for businesses and better for consumers.
- To give the competition authorities more powers to take on anti-competitive behaviour.
- To improve the landscape for economic regulation.

Open Markets

- To take steps to ensure open and competitive markets which keep costs low and deliver for bill payers, including delivering the manifesto commitment to act quickly on the Competition and Market Authority's final recommendations to promote competition in the energy market.

- To help businesses by simplifying regulatory processes and removing unnecessary requirements.

Devolution:

The Bill's substantive provisions would apply to all regulation made by UK ministers where Westminster has legislative competence, and to all regulatory functions except where functions are devolved.

Key Facts:

- Opening up markets to new entrants leads to new and innovative products and services at lower costs, which benefits consumers across the UK. For example, opening up the market for international telephone calls in the 1990s led to a decrease in prices of up to 90% by 2002.
- Building on the commitment to cut £10 billion of red tape over this Parliament, the Government established the principle that, where appropriate, enforcement action is a last resort and regulators should start by helping businesses do the right thing.
- This Bill will make switching providers easier. Many households could save up to £390 a year by switching just three providers.

Bus Services Bill

“In England, further powers will be devolved to directly elected mayors, including powers governing local bus services.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- To give elected mayors and local transport authorities the power to improve bus services for the people who use them.
- Mayoral combined authorities would be given London-style powers to franchise local services.
- Data about routes, fares and times would be made available across the country to app developers to give passengers better information about how to make the most of local bus services.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Local authorities would be able to use new powers to set required standards of service with bus providers, including branding, ticketing and the frequencies of services.
- New powers to franchise services would be made available to combined authorities with directly elected Mayors to allow them to take control of their services as Transport for London does in London. Applications from other local authorities will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Passengers across the country would be given real time information about timetables and fares to enable them to make the most of bus services in their area.
- Bus companies would be required to make data freely available. This would allow app developers to produce new journey planners and other products.
- This delivers on the manifesto pledge to devolve more powers over transport to large cities which choose to have elected mayors (p.13).

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Stronger arrangements to allow local government to work in partnership with bus operators.
- New franchising powers that are clearer and simpler to use.

- A requirement on all operators to make data about routes, fares and times open and accessible to allow app makers to develop products for passengers to plan journeys.

Devolution:

The Bus Services Bill would apply to England only.

Key Facts:

- Local buses outside of London account for 73% (26,200) of the total number of buses within England (35,800).
- There are over 800 bus operators in England, but head to head competition is limited. In its local bus market investigation (in 2011), the Competition Commission found that many local markets are highly concentrated, with the five largest bus operators running 69% of all local bus services.

NHS (Overseas Visitors Charging) Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to ensure that overseas visitors pay for the health treatment they receive at public expense.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Meet the manifesto commitment to recover costs from migrants who use the NHS by extending the rules on charging migrants and overseas visitors for NHS treatment, to ensure that only UK residents - who live here lawfully and make a financial contribution to this country - will get free NHS care.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Overseas visitors and migrants would be charged for NHS services they are not entitled to and tighter residency rules would mean fewer European visitors will be entitled to free NHS care.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Measures that would ensure cost recovery is effective and efficient and the full cost of care is recovered and can be put back into the NHS.
- Measures that would extend the number of services for which the NHS can charge overseas visitors and migrants.
- Measures that would mean that fewer people coming to the UK from the EEA are eligible for free NHS healthcare.
- Further details will be brought forward when the Bill is published.

Devolution:

Some measures may require legislative consent motions. The Government is working closely with officials in the devolved administrations. However, due to the pre-election period in the devolved administrations, Ministerial agreement on the extent of the legislation will not be in place until late May at the earliest.

Key facts:

- This Government was the first to clamp down on migrants abusing our NHS. This Bill would enable us to go further by increasing the number of NHS services for which overseas visitors and migrants are charged and the number of people who can be charged. Anyone who does not have a sufficiently close relationship with the UK would have to pay.

- The Government has already introduced the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) for non-EEA nationals who apply for a visa to stay in the UK for six months or longer; financial incentives for NHS trusts to improve the rate at which they recover costs from visitors from European Economic Area (EEA) countries with European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC); and simplified the system to make it easier for staff to check the status of patients.
- The Government consulted in 2015 on a range of options to extend charges for NHS services.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/overseas-visitors-and-migrants-extending-charges-for-nhs-services>

Pensions Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

Further reform Britain's private pensions system by:

- Providing essential protections for people in Master Trusts - multi-employer pension schemes often provided by external organisations.
- Removing barriers for consumers who want to access their pension savings flexibly.
- Restructuring the delivery of financial guidance to consumers.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Providing better protections for members in Master Trust pension schemes – including millions of automatically enrolled savers.
- Capping early exit charges to ensure that excessive charges do not prevent occupational scheme members from taking advantage of pension freedoms.
- Providing more targeted support for consumers by restructuring the delivery of public financial guidance through the creation of two new bodies and directing more funding to the front line.
- This helps deliver the manifesto pledge to give you the freedom to invest and spend your pension however you like (p.65).

The main elements of the Bill are:

Master Trusts

- Master Trusts would have to demonstrate that schemes meet strict new criteria before entering the market and taking money from employers or members.
- Creating greater powers for the Pensions Regulator to authorise and supervise these schemes and take action when necessary.

Cap on early exit charges

- Capping early exit fees charged by trust-based occupational pension schemes.
- Creating a system that enables consumers to access pension freedoms without unreasonable barriers.

Restructuring financial guidance

- A new pensions guidance body would be created, bring together the Pensions Advisory Service, Pension Wise and the pensions services offered by the Money Advice Service, providing access to a straightforward private pensions guidance service for customers.
- A new money guidance body would replace the Money Advice Service and be charged with identifying gaps in the financial guidance market to make sure consumers can access high quality debt and money guidance.

Devolution:

Master Trusts, exit charges, pensions guidance body

There are no devolved administration interests in respect of Scotland or Wales. Northern Ireland makes its own legislation in relation to pensions.

Money guidance body

The new guidance bodies will operate UK wide, and financial services is a reserved matter. However, devolved administration issues may arise due to links with financial education (devolved). These are not likely to be contentious and we are in discussion with the devolved administrations.

Key Facts:

- We have already seen over six million people automatically enrolled into workplace pensions since 2012, reversing the downward trend in private pensions participation.
- As of January 2016, almost 400,000 pension pots have been accessed flexibly under the new freedoms with many providers offering their customers a range of options.
- Data collected by the Financial Conduct Authority shows that currently nearly 700,000 (16%) customers in contract-based schemes who are able to flexibly access their pension could face some sort of early exit charge.

2) INCREASING LIFE CHANCES FOR THE MOST DISADVANTAGED

Children and Social Work Bill

"A Bill will be introduced to ensure that children can be adopted by new families without delay, improve the standard of social work and opportunities for young people in care in England."

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Ensure that the state delivers on our collective responsibility to help children leaving care make a good start in adult life, through a new 'Care Leavers' Covenant' underpinned by a statutory duty requiring local authorities to publish the services and standards of treatment care leavers are entitled to.
- Tip the balance in favour of permanent adoption where that is the right thing for the child - helping to give children stability.
- Drive improvements in the social work profession, by introducing more demanding professional standards, and setting up a specialist regulator for the profession.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring children in care have the support they need as they move into adult life.
- Increasing the number of children being adopted from care to a permanent home when it is in their best interests.
- Giving frontline services more freedom to work together to safeguard children and trial innovative approaches to deliver more effective care.
- This delivers on the manifesto pledge to raise the quality of children's social work and to protect children (p.35).

The main elements of the Bill are:

Looked-after children and care leavers

- Standards for how local authorities should act as a 'corporate parent' to support children in care and as they move into adult life.
- A requirement on local authorities to consult on and publish a 'local offer' to care leavers, setting out the services they are entitled to.
- An extension to the right to a Personal Adviser, someone who will make sure

care leavers receive the support they need as they transition into adulthood, to all who want one up to the age of 25.

Adoption

- Ensuring courts and local authorities take better account of a child's need for stability up to the age of 18 when making decisions about their future.
- A duty on local authorities and schools to promote educational achievement for adopted children and those in the long-term care of family members or guardians.

Regulation of social workers

- A specialist regulator for social work, to enable a clear focus on standards and effective training and development.

Children's safeguarding

- Better protection of children by ensuring that lessons are learned from serious child safeguarding cases.
- Support for innovation in children's social care by allowing local authorities to pilot new, innovative approaches.

Devolution:

The majority of the Bill covers devolved matters and applies to England only.

The provisions concerning adoption decisions apply to both England and Wales.

Decisions of the court are a reserved matter. Decisions of adoption agencies are devolved matters and we have engaged the Welsh administration on these clauses.

Key Facts:

- One in four prisoners have been in care. 70% of Britain's sex workers have been in care, and a third of people in care become homeless in the two years immediately after they leave care.
- The number of looked after children has been increasing steadily to almost 70,000 last year. 10,000 children leave foster or residential care each year and 39% of former care leavers aged 19-21 were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in 2015.
- Currently around 90,000 qualified social workers in England, of whom around 27,000 work in child and family social work. Sir Martin Narey's 2014 review found that too many people were entering the profession lacking the knowledge and skills able to operate effectively.

Education for All Bill

“A Bill will be brought forward to lay foundations for educational excellence in all schools, giving every child the best start in life. There will also be a fairer balance between schools, through the National Funding Formula.”

The purpose of this Bill is to:

- Spread educational excellence everywhere, so that all children and young people, regardless of location, prior attainment or background get an excellent education.
- Move towards a system where all schools are academies, and all schools are funded fairly.
- Improve outcomes for pupils who are let down, by fundamental reforms to alternative provision for excluded pupils.
- Deliver the vision that will be set out in the forthcoming Skills Plan through ambitious reform to technical education. These changes will focus on closing the major productivity gap between our economy and other leading economies.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Convert schools to academies in the worst performing local authorities and those that can no longer viably support their remaining schools, so that a new system led by good and outstanding schools can take their place.
- Setting the foundation for a system in which all schools are academies, putting our great school leaders in charge of running and improving schools to improve results.
- Embedding excellence for every pupil, through fundamental reforms to educating excluded children; and reforming technical education through a strong employer-led system with high quality qualifications which support clear line of sight to skilled employment.
- Meeting the manifesto commitment to make school funding fairer, with fundamental reform to ensure that schools with the same kinds of pupils get the same funding.

The main elements of the Bill are:

A school-led system

- Moving towards a system where every school is an academy through powers

to convert schools to academies in under-performing and unviable local authorities.

- Making the process of becoming an academy swifter and smoother for schools and local authorities.
- Setting out a new role for local authorities, by shifting responsibility for school improvement from the LA to great heads and others in the school system.

Fair funding

- Redressing historical unfairness in school funding through a National Funding Formula which would allocate funding fairly and efficiently.

Excellence for every pupil

- Making schools responsible for finding the right provider for their excluded pupils, and accountable for their education.

Devolution:

Education is a devolved matter. The vast majority of the substantive issues in the bill would apply to England only. We are in discussions with the devolved administrations regarding any reserved matters.

Key Facts:

- Over a quarter of all schools are now academies or free schools, 19% of primary schools and 66% of secondary schools. Over the last five years more than 3,600 schools have voluntarily chosen to become academies.
- Results in primary sponsored academies open two years have improved on average by ten percentage points since opening, double the rate of improvement in local authority maintained schools over the same period.
- Nearly 65% of children in secondary converter academies achieve five or more good GCSEs (including English and Maths), 7% above the national average.

Higher Education and Research Bill

“To ensure that more people have the opportunity to further their education, legislation will be introduced to support the establishment of new universities and to promote choice and competition across the higher education sector.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver greater competition and choice by making it easier for new, high quality universities to set up, ensuring that students receive value for money and that our higher education system is giving employers the skills they need.
- Cement the UK's position as a world leader on the research and innovation stage and maximise the Government's investment of over £6 billion a year in research and innovation.
- This will help deliver the manifesto pledge to increase access to higher education and ensure our universities remain world-leading (p.35).

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- More choice for students by levelling the playing field for new, high quality providers. The Bill would make it simpler, quicker and easier for high quality new innovative and specialist institutions to set up, award degrees and compete alongside existing institutions. This would promote innovation and competition and foster better quality provision.
- Ensuring that everyone with the potential to succeed at university, irrespective of their background, would be able to choose from a wide range of high-quality universities. Alongside the Bill, the Teaching Excellence Framework would put in place incentives that would drive up the standard of teaching in all universities, and give students clear information about where teaching is best and what benefits they can expect to gain from their course.
- Ensuring world-leading research and innovation for the UK by building on the strengths of the current system. The Bill would make sure the UK research and innovation system is sufficiently strategic and agile to meet future challenges, and would deliver national capability that drives discovery and growth. For the first time we would provide legal protection for the dual support system in England.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Making it easier and quicker for new high quality providers to start-up, achieve degree awarding powers and secure university status. The Bill would also ensure tough and rigorous tests for providers who want to enter the

system and enable their students to receive funding. Poor quality or financially unsustainable providers would not be allowed to enter.

- A new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) will raise teaching standards so students and employers get the skills they need and will, for the first time, ensure that funding of teaching in higher education is linked to quality, not simply quantity – a principle that has long been established for research.
- Putting more information into the hands of students by requiring universities to publish detailed information about application, offer and progression rates, broken down by ethnicity, gender and socio-economic background. This would shine a spotlight on universities that need to go faster on widening participation and social mobility and will ensure that universities take further action to recruit from disadvantaged groups.

Devolution:

The Bill's substantive provisions related to arrangements for Higher Education would apply largely to England-only. The main exception to the England-only status is funding for research from Research Councils who operate across the UK.

Key facts:

- The UK needs more highly skilled graduates. Over half of job vacancies between now and 2022 are expected to be in occupations most likely to employ university graduates.
- Despite having some of the best universities in the world, employers are suffering skills shortages, especially in high skilled STEM areas; at the same time at least 20% of employed graduates are in non-professional roles.
- And we know we need to do more to give students more choice – over a third (34%) of graduates said they would make a different decision if they knew what they knew now. Over 60% of students said they feel their course is worse than expected and a third don't believe it represents value for money.

Prison and Courts Reform Bill

“My Government will legislate to reform prisons and courts to give individuals a second chance.

“Prison Governors will be given unprecedented freedom and they will be able to ensure prisoners receive better education. Old and inefficient prisons will be closed and new institutions built where prisoners can be put more effectively to work.

“Action will also be taken to ensure better mental health provision for individuals in the criminal justice system.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Reform our prisons to ensure they are places of rehabilitation, with governors given the freedom to find better ways of improving education, healthcare and security for prisoners and improve life chances for all.
- Reform our courts and tribunals to ensure delivery of faster and fairer justice for users by making better use of technology and modernising working practices.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Delivering the manifesto commitment to reform our prison system, by devolving greater autonomy to governors, trusting them to run their jail in the way they see fit – including enabling prisons to be established as independent legal entities (p.59-60).
- Taking advantage of new technology to make our court system fit for purpose in the 21st century, speeding up cases for litigants and reducing costs.

The main elements of the Bill are:

Prisons

- Creation of Reform Prisons, driving a revolution in education, training, healthcare and security for prisoners, led by governors with the power to enter into contracts and establish their own Boards with external expertise.
- New freedoms will be backed with a new regime of openness across the previously opaque world of the prison estate as prisons are required to produce statistics on areas such as prisoner education, reoffending and employment on release.

Courts

- Measures to meet the Government's manifesto commitment to modernise the Courts and Tribunals service, reducing delay and frustration for the public.

Devolution:

Most of the bill provisions would apply to England and Wales. Where the bill deals with devolved matters we would engage with the devolved administrations as needed.

Key facts:

- 46% of all prisoners will re-offend within a year of release.
- 47% have no formal qualifications at all on entry to prison, 42% were expelled or permanently excluded from school and 13% report never having had a job.

National Citizen Service Bill

“National Citizen Service will be placed on a permanent statutory footing.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- To support the manifesto commitment to expand National Citizen Service by encouraging thousands more young people to take advantage of the skills-building programmes offered (p.45).
- Put the National Citizen Service (NCS) on a statutory footing.
- Strengthen links between young people and schools, local governments and central governments to promote participation in the programme.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Using schools to reach every eligible young person and their parents to raise awareness of NCS and give every young person the chance to participate.
- Using local authorities to inform young people and parents about NCS, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Using government's existing contact points with young people and parents to promote the programme and support other government policy through doing so.
- Providing the right level of accountability for the NCS delivery body and improving the administrative and funding arrangements between government and the body.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Creating a new statutory framework to deliver the NCS.
- Putting a duty on all secondary schools, including academies, sixth-form colleges and independent schools to promote the NCS to young people and their parents.
- Putting a duty on local authorities to promote the NCS to young people and their parents.
- Putting a duty on relevant Secretaries of State to report annually on how they have promoted the NCS to eligible young people and parents.

Devolution:

We are in discussions with the devolved administrations about extending the Bill to their jurisdictions by legislative consent motion.

Key facts:

- Since NCS began, over 200,000 young people have taken part in this life changing opportunity. NCS is the fastest growing youth movement in this country for a century with a 46% increase in the number of participants between 2013 and 2014.
- 7 in 10 participants felt more confident about getting a job as a result of NCS in 2014. NCS is now recognised by UCAS.
- 21% of NCS participants were eligible for free school meals, compared with around 8% of young people of the same age in the general population and 27% from non-white backgrounds compared to 19% of the general population.

Lifetime Savings Bill

“Measures will be introduced to help the lowest-income families save, through a new Help to Save scheme, and to create a Lifetime ISA to help young people save for the long-term.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Enable the Government to create a new Help to Save scheme, which would support those on the lowest incomes who are trying to save for a rainy day.
- Enable the Government to create a new Lifetime ISA, providing savers with a bonus on savings that can be used for a first home, or retirement, or both.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Supporting those on the lowest incomes who are trying to save for a rainy day.
- Encouraging the next generation to get into the habit of regular saving and help them to simultaneously save for a first house and for their retirement, without having to choose one over the other.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Under the Help to Save scheme, workers in receipt of working tax credits or Universal Credit who save up to £50 a month would receive a Government bonus of 50% - to a maximum of £600 – after two years. Savers who continue to use the scheme for a further two years could earn up to another £600.
- For adults under 40, the Government would top-up subscriptions to a Lifetime ISA with a bonus of 25% on all savings up to £4,000 a year: a tax free payment of up to £1,000 a year.
- Lifetime ISA account holders could access some or all their funds to buy their first home (worth up to £450,000), or from age 60 without charge.

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- Help to Save would support working families on low incomes to build up a rainy day fund: Almost half of adults in the UK (21 million individuals) have less than an average week's wages (£500) in savings according to Money Advice Service research.

- The Lifetime ISA would provide savers with the flexibility to save towards a first home and retirement at the same time:
 - In 2014-15, 3.9 million adults under the age of 40 saved into an ISA. Only 12% of these were higher rate or additional rate taxpayers.
 - In 2014, 87% of first time buyers were aged under 40.

Soft Drinks Industry Levy

“Legislation will be introduced to establish a soft drinks industry levy to help tackle childhood obesity.”

The purpose of this legislation is to:

- Introduce a new soft drinks industry levy in the Finance Bill 2017 targeted at producers and importers of soft drinks that contain added sugar from April 2018.

The main benefits of the legislation would be:

- To encourage companies to reformulate by reducing the amount of added sugar in the drinks they sell, moving consumers towards lower sugar alternatives, and reducing portion sizes. Under this levy, if producers change their behaviour, they will pay less tax.

The main elements of the legislation are:

- Childhood obesity is a national problem and the UK currently has one of the highest overall obesity rates amongst developed countries. As part of efforts to tackle this problem the Government will invest the revenue from the levy in giving school-aged children a brighter and healthier future.
- This is the first step in this Government's comprehensive national childhood obesity strategy that will be published in full later this year. A consultation will be held in due course on the technical details of the tax.

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to the whole of the UK.

In England, revenue from the soft drinks industry levy will be used to:

- Double the primary school PE and sport premium from £160 million per year to £320 million per year from September 2017 to help schools support healthier, more active lifestyles.
- Provide up to £285 million a year to give 25% of secondary schools increased opportunity to extend their school day to offer a wider range of activities for pupils, including more sport.
- Provide £10 million funding a year to expand breakfast clubs in up to 1,600 schools starting from September 2017, to ensure more children have a nutritious breakfast as a healthy start to their school day.

Key facts:

- The estimated cost to the UK economy today from obesity is approximately £27 billion, with the NHS currently spending over £5 billion on obesity-related costs.
- In England 1 in 10 children are obese when they start primary school, and this rises to 2 in 10 by the time they leave. Experts predict that within a generation over half of all boys, and 70% of girls could be overweight or obese.
- A can of cola typically has nine teaspoons of sugar in it. Some popular drinks have as many as 13.

Small Charitable Donations Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Allow thousands of charities and community amateur sports clubs to maximise fundraising power by reforming the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme to ensure it supports the maximum number of charities and donations possible.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Simplifying the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme and making it easier to claim, to allow more charities, particularly small or new charities, to benefit.
- Providing greater support for grassroots community charities by allowing groups who normally operate from a community building to benefit from a top-up to donations collected away from that building.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Ensuring the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme meets the intended policy objectives, while reducing the administrative burden for charities, and ensuring fairness for all charities.
- The consultation, which will inform the elements of the Bill, covers:
 - Factual understanding and accessibility of the current scheme rules.
 - Simplifying and removing eligibility conditions and criteria to allow newer and smaller charities to benefit sooner.
 - Rules concerning how charities connected with community buildings can benefit from the scheme.

Devolution:

The Bill would apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts:

- The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme allows charities the benefits of Gift Aid on small cash donations by allowing them to obtain a top-up payment where it is not feasible or practical to obtain a Gift Aid declaration, such as bucket collections.
- This means that where the basic rate of income tax is 20%, a small donations income of £5,000 will entitle the charity to a top-up payment of £1,250 per year (increasing to £2,000 from April 2016).

- The scheme has become a valued additional revenue stream for charities. In 2014-15 19,300 charities claimed a total of £21 million of Government support through the scheme.

3) STRENGTHENING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

Bill of Rights

“Proposals will be brought forward for a British Bill of Rights.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Reform the UK human rights framework.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- To continue protecting fundamental human rights. It would also better protect against abuse of the system and misuse of human rights laws and would restore common sense to their application.
- This will deliver on the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a British Bill of Rights and reform human rights law (p.60).

The main elements of the Bill are:

- These rights would be based on those set out in the European Convention on Human Rights, while also taking into account our common law tradition.
- The government will consult fully on the proposals when they are published in due course.

Devolution:

Revising the Human Rights Act can only be done by the UK Parliament, but we will consult fully before bringing forward proposals.

Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to prevent radicalisation, tackle extremism in all its forms, and promote community integration.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Provide stronger powers to disrupt extremists and protect the public.

The main benefits of these clauses would be:

- To enable the Government and law enforcement agencies to protect the public against the most dangerous extremists.
- To ensure the Government and law enforcement agencies have a full range of powers to deal with extremism.
- This will help deliver on the manifesto pledge to tackle all forms of extremism, so our values and our way of life are properly promoted and defended (p.61).

The main elements of the clauses are:

- The introduction of a new civil order regime to restrict extremist activity, following consultation.
- Safeguarding children from extremist adults, by taking powers to intervene in intensive unregulated education settings which teach hate and drive communities apart and through stronger powers for the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- We will also close loopholes so that Ofcom can continue to protect consumers who watch internet-streamed television content from outside the EU on Freeview.
- We will consult on powers to enable government to intervene where councils fail to tackle extremism.
- The Government will consider the need for further legislative measures following Louise Casey's review into integration in those communities most separated from the mainstream.

Devolution:

The legislation would apply in England and Wales. The position in Scotland is yet to be finalised.

Key Facts:

- In the last year, we have stepped up our efforts to safeguard those at risk of radicalisation. We have considerably increased our programme of Prevent activity through our network of Prevent professionals, working with over 2,790 different institutions, and engaging nearly 50,000 individuals over the course of 2015.
- 130 community based projects aimed at reducing vulnerabilities to extremist narratives were delivered in 2015, reaching over 25,000 participants. Over half of these projects were delivered in schools, aimed at increasing young people's resilience to terrorist and extremist ideologies.
- The Prime Minister said in July 2015 'We need to put out of action the key extremist influencers... we are going to introduce new narrowly targeted powers to enable us to deal with these facilitators and cult leaders and stop them peddling their hatred.'

Criminal Finances Bill

“Following last week's Anti-Corruption Summit in London, legislation will be introduced to tackle corruption, money laundering and tax evasion.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Allow the Government to recoup more criminal assets by reforming the law on proceeds of crime, including provisions to strengthen our enforcement powers and protect the public.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- To implement a more effective regime to support reporting of suspicious financial activity.
- To make it easier to seize illicit funds.
- To improve coordination between the public and private sectors to tackle criminal financial behaviour.
- This will help deliver on the Government's manifesto pledge to crack down on tax evasion and tackle economic crime (p.11).

The main elements of the Bill are:

- The introduction of a criminal offence for corporations who fail to stop their staff facilitating tax evasion.
- Improving the operation of the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime to encourage better use of public and private sector resources against the highest threats; to target entities that carry out money laundering instead of individual transactions; and to provide the National Crime Agency (NCA) with new powers.
- Improving the ability of law enforcement agencies and courts to recover criminal assets more effectively, particularly in cases such as those linked to grand corruption.

Devolution:

Money laundering is a reserved matter (UK wide). Where the bill deals with devolved matters we would engage with the devolved administrations as needed.

Key Facts:

This Government has done more than any other to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing, recovering a record £224m in 2015/16. But there is more to do and we are committed to doing it.

- Last year over 350,000 suspicious activity reports (SARs) were filed with the UK Finance Unit in the National Crime Agency. The Bill will enhance the operation of the SARs regime to ensure resources can be targeted against the highest threats, and will provide the NCA with new powers.
- Under the UK G8 Presidency, the Prime Minister committed as part of the transparency agenda to carry out a National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. This led to the Action Plan for Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Finance, which outlines the most significant reforms to the Government's work in this area for over a decade. The Bill will put into place a number of measures contained within this plan.

Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Introduce legislation that would enable the UK to accede to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- To make a strong statement about the UK's commitment to protecting cultural property in times of armed conflict.
- To enshrine in legislation the procedures related to cultural protection that the Armed Forces already follow.

The main elements of the Bill are:

The Bill would introduce a number of measures that would enable the UK to ratify the Convention and its two Protocols:

- Introduction of offences designed to protect cultural property in the event of an armed conflict at home and abroad. These include an offence of making such property the object of attack.
- Introduction of the Blue Shield as an emblem that signifies cultural property protected under the Convention and its two Protocols.
- Introduction of an offence of dealing in cultural property that has been illegally exported from occupied territory and a provision for such property to be seized and returned to the occupied territory after the close of hostilities, where appropriate.
- Introduction of immunity from seizure for cultural property in the UK which is being transported for safekeeping during a conflict between two or more other states.

Devolution:

The legislation would apply to the whole of the UK.

The provisions of the Bill principally relate to culture which is devolved under all the devolution settlements; Legislative Consent Motions would be required from all the devolved legislatures. Part 4 relating to exports controls is reserved.

Key Facts:

- The UK would be the first permanent member of the UN Security Council to ratify both the Convention and its two Protocols.
- The Government already supports the protection of cultural heritage in global conflict zones and announced a £30 million Cultural Protection Fund last year.
- £3 million of the Cultural Protection Fund is already dedicated to the British Museum's Iraqi Rescue Archaeology Programme, training Iraqi archaeologists in conservation and protection techniques.

OTHER BILLS

Wales Bill

“My Government will continue to work in cooperation with the devolved administrations to ... establish a strong and lasting devolution settlement in Wales.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver a clearer, more stable devolution settlement for Wales and devolve important new powers to the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Government.

The main benefits of the Bill would be to:

- Make Welsh devolution clearer by introducing a reserved powers model to clarify the division of powers between the National Assembly for Wales and Westminster.
- Make Welsh devolution stronger by devolving important powers to the National Assembly for Wales over energy, transport and elections in Wales.
- Give the National Assembly for Wales control over its own affairs, including what it should be called, its size, electoral system and voting age.
- Reflect the permanence of the Assembly and the Welsh Government in statute.
- Remove the requirement in the Wales Act 2014 for a referendum before a proportion of income tax is devolved.
- This delivers on the manifesto pledge to implement the St David's Day Agreement and legislate accordingly (p.70).

The main elements of the Bill are:

- A new reserved powers model for Welsh devolution, including a list of policies that remain reserved to Westminster.
- Transitional arrangements for the move from the current conferred powers model to the new reserved powers model.
- Powers devolved to Welsh Ministers over consenting for all onshore wind in Wales and up to 350 megawatts for all other onshore and offshore energy projects.

- Powers devolved to the Assembly over areas such as ports, taxi regulation, the registration of bus services, speed limits and sewerage services in Wales.
- The devolution of licensing for onshore oil and gas exploration to Wales, enabling the Assembly to decide whether exploration for shale oil and gas takes place in Wales.
- Provisions to place the Assembly and Welsh Government on a statutory footing and enshrine the legislative consent process in law.
- Devolving control over the Assembly's own affairs, including what it should be called, its size and the electoral system used to elect its members.
- Repeal of the requirement for a referendum before a proportion of income tax is devolved.

Devolution:

The legislation would apply mainly in Wales.

Key facts:

- The Bill would replace the conferred powers model introduced by the Government of Wales Act 2006 with a reserved powers model like the system already in place for Scotland.
- The St David's Day Agreement to deliver a clearer and stronger devolution settlement for Wales was published in February 2015.
- The draft Wales Bill was published in October 2015.

BILLS CONTINUING FROM 2015/16 SESSION

High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to:

- Provide the Government with the legal powers to construct and operate Phase One of High Speed 2 (HS2). On becoming an Act, it would give the Government deemed planning permission for the railway between London and the West Midlands.
- This will help deliver on the Government's manifesto commitment to build High Speed 2 (p.11).

Key points:

HS2 will:

- Free up space on our crowded rail network, which is vital to sustainable economic growth.
- Improve connectivity, helping to rebalance the economy.
- Help stimulate urban regeneration, create new jobs and boost skills.

Investigatory Powers Bill

“My Government will continue with legislation to modernise the law governing the use and oversight of investigatory powers by law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies.”

The purpose of this Bill is to:

- Modernise our law and ensure it is fit for purpose in a digital age, and introduce enhanced authorisation and oversight arrangements.
- Ensure the police and security and intelligence agencies have the powers they need to continue to protect the British public from the many threats we face.
- This will deliver on the manifesto pledge on communications data to strengthen the ability to disrupt terrorist plots, criminal networks and organised child grooming gangs (p.63). This will help deliver on the Government's manifesto pledge to crack down on tax evasion and tackle economic crime (p.11).

Key points:

- The Bill brings together all of the powers already available to law enforcement and the security and intelligence agencies to obtain communications and data about communications. It makes these powers – and the safeguards that apply to them – clear and understandable.
- The Bill radically overhauls the way these powers are authorised and overseen. It introduces a ‘double-lock’ for the most intrusive warrants, including interception and all of the bulk capabilities, so that these cannot come into force until they have been approved by a judge. And it creates a powerful new Investigatory Powers Commissioner to oversee how these powers are used.
- The Bill ensures powers are fit for the digital age. The Bill makes a new provision for the retention of internet connection records in order for law enforcement to identify the communications service to which a device has connected. This would restore capabilities that have been lost as a result of changes in the way people communicate.

Policing and Crime Bill

“Legislation will strengthen the capability and accountability of the police service in England and Wales.”

The purpose of this Bill is to:

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces, including through closer collaboration with other emergency services, and to enhance the democratic accountability of police forces and fire and rescue services.
- Build public confidence in policing by strengthening protection for people under investigation by, or who come into contact with, the police.
- This delivers on the manifesto pledge to enable fire and police services to work more closely together (p.59) and to take further steps to protect children from sexual exploitation (p.60).

Key points:

- The Bill would facilitate closer collaboration between emergency services to drive efficiency and achieve better value for money for the taxpayer. While there are some good examples of joint working around the country, the picture is patchy and there is considerable scope for doing more.
- Both the current police complaints system and police disciplinary system are too complex and lack transparency. The Bill would simplify the complaints

system and make reforms to the disciplinary regime to increase transparency and independence. Together these reforms would deliver greater public confidence in the systems that hold the police to account.

- At present there is an over reliance on the use of police cells as ‘places of safety’ when dealing with people experiencing a mental health crisis. The Bill bans the use of police cells as places of safety for under 18s.

LAW COMMISSION BILLS

Intellectual Property (Unjustified Threats) Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Reform the law of unjustified threats of infringement proceedings for patents, trade marks and design rights. Deliver the Law Commission's detailed recommendations for reform.
- Help deliver the manifesto commitment to make the UK the best place in Europe to innovate, patent new ideas and set up and expand a business (p19).

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- To make it easier for innovative businesses to settle IP disputes and avoid litigation.
- To protect businesses against the misuse of threats to intimidate or gain an unfair commercial advantage, where there has been no infringement.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- To make a clearer distinction between approaches made to different parts of the supply chain, forcing the rights holder to focus their allegations on the source of the alleged infringement.
- To exempt professional legal advisers from liability for making threats, if they are acting on instructions from a client and in their professional capacity, so that they can help settle disputes.

Devolution:

Intellectual property is a reserved matter; the provisions of the Bill will apply to the whole of the UK.

Key Facts:

This Bill will:

- Reform the law relating to unjustified IP threats, following a detailed consultation and report by the Law Commission.
- Help business negotiate fairly over IP disputes, but protect those businesses who can be most harmed by unjustified threats.

- Bring much-needed consistency and certainty across a complex area of IP law.

Draft Law of Property Bill

The Government will bring forward proposals to respond to the recommendations of the Law Commission's report on *Making land work: easements, covenants and profits à prendre* (2011) to simplify the law around land ownership.

NON LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Constitutional Affairs

Scotland

"My Government will continue to work in cooperation with the devolved administrations to implement the extensive new powers in the Scotland Act."

We are delivering for the people of Scotland, who voted to remain part of a United Kingdom, with the economic and security benefits that brings. The Scotland Act 2016, which received Royal Assent in March 2016, delivers in full the all-party Smith Commission Agreement, creating a lasting devolution settlement for Scotland within a strong United Kingdom.

The Act transfers a raft of significant new powers to the Scottish Parliament, making it one of the most powerful devolved parliaments in the world. It is now up to the Scottish Government to use these new powers for the benefit of people in Scotland.

The transfer of powers is underpinned by a fiscal framework agreed earlier this year, which is fair to taxpayers in Scotland and across the United Kingdom.

We will work closely with the Scottish Government to implement these new powers.

Northern Ireland

"My Government will work in Northern Ireland to secure further progress in implementing the Stormont House and Fresh Start Agreements."

In September, the Government acted decisively in convening a fresh round of cross-party talks in Northern Ireland which led to the Fresh Start Agreement on 17 November. The agreement was underpinned by up to half a billion pounds of extra spending power for the Executive, on top of the £2 billion in the December 2014 Stormont House Agreement.

Good progress has been made on implementing the Agreements. Key achievements to date include:

- Legislation to reform welfare and to establish the new Independent Reporting Commission on paramilitary activity passed in Westminster.
- A panel established to make recommendations for a paramilitarism strategy.
- A new task force to support efforts to tackle cross-border organised crime.

The Government will work closely with the incoming Northern Ireland Executive and the new Irish Government to deliver the remaining commitments. These include

further steps to tackle paramilitary activity, the financial reforms which will support the devolution of corporation tax powers, and continued work to build consensus for the creation of the new institutions to address the legacy of Northern Ireland's past.

Wales

The draft Wales Bill was published on 20 October. The Government will introduce the Bill to Parliament this session - further details are set out above.

UK Parliament

“My ministers will uphold the sovereignty of Parliament and the primacy of the House of Commons”

Last year Lord Strathclyde was asked to come forward with proposals to secure the decisive role of the House of Commons in the passage of secondary legislation. Lord Strathclyde’s report was published in December 2015. The Government is considering Lord Strathclyde’s recommendations carefully and will respond in due course.

Parliamentary sovereignty is one of the most fundamental principles of the constitution and the Government is committed to ensuring that it is upheld.

Overseas Electors

The Government will legislate to meet the manifesto commitment to extend the franchise for British citizens living abroad to vote in UK parliamentary and European parliamentary elections.

The Bill would enable British citizens who have been resident overseas for more than 15 years to continue to vote in UK elections.

Home building

“My Government will support aspiration and promote home ownership through its commitment to build a million new homes.”

This Government is delivering a step change in housing supply and extending the dream of home ownership to those who aspire towards it. Our policies have already seen the largest annual growth in housing for 28 years, and will reverse the decade-long decline in home ownership levels.

Housing Supply

- Over 704,000 additional homes have been delivered between 2010 and 2015 in England.
- In the year to 31 December 2015, the reformed planning system has given permission for 253,000 new homes, up 53% on the year to December 2010.
- Starts on new homes in the past year totalled 143,560 – up by 6% on previous year.
- Over 277,000 affordable homes provided in England between 2010 and 2015.
- Twice as many council homes were built between 2010 – 2015 as there were between 1997 – 2010.
- And we’re maintaining this momentum with figures showing that the number of new homes in England rose by 25% between 2014 and 2015 – the highest annual percentage increase in 28 years.
- Figures also show that the number of new build homes completed by private housebuilders have risen 20% on the previous year, while those completed by housing associations are up 27% over the same period.
- Last week the largest private housebuilders in England stated their commitment to doubling their output in 2010 by 2019.
- We are now providing a targeted funding package of £2.3 billion to support the building of up to 60,000 Starter Homes by 2020.
- £1.2 billion of this funding is to remediate brownfield land for at least 30,000 starter homes– bringing more land into the system.
- We will shortly be launching a £3 billion Home Building Fund - £2 billion focused on long term loans to unlock a pipeline of 160,000 to 200,000 homes over the long term, and £1 billion to support small developments and custom builds.

- And we are exploring new opportunities to finance development, making the best use of Government resources through a £10 billion Housing Guarantee Scheme – with £3.5 billion to support delivery of new affordable homes, and the same amount to support delivery of purpose built private rented homes. £3 billion is being held in reserve for either scheme depending on demand.

Home Ownership

- Since 2010 government-backed schemes have helped over 290,000 households to buy a home - almost half of these (over 150,000) were helped through Help to Buy schemes.
- We have extended Help to Buy: Equity Loan for five years to 2021 with a further £8.6 billion, aiming to help up to 145,000 more households to buy new-build homes, and we have launched London Help to Buy, increasing the equity loan in London from up to 20% to up to 40%. This will help over 10,000 households to purchase a new build home.
- We will deliver 200,000 Starter Homes at a minimum 20% discount for young first time buyers between the ages of 23 and 40.
- Right to Buy helped over 1.9 million households realise their aspirations to own their homes – over 57,000 social housing sales under Right to Buy since April 2010, with nearly 50,000 of those under the re-invigorated scheme.
- We have secured a historic deal with housing associations to give their tenants the opportunity to buy their home with an equivalent discount to the Right to Buy.
- Autumn Statement 2015 confirmed £8 billion to deliver over 400,000 affordable starts, including £4.1 billion for 135,000 new Help to Buy: Shared Ownership properties by 2021.

Garden cities, towns and communities

- We are supporting a new wave of garden cities, towns and communities in Bicester, Basingstoke, Didcot, Ebbsfleet, North Essex and North Northamptonshire. Together, these have the potential to deliver over 100,000 homes with strong communities at their heart.
- We encourage local areas and local communities who want to make new garden villages, towns, or cities, a key part of their offer on housing growth to read and respond to the locally led garden villages, towns and cities prospectus that closes on 31st July 2016.

Key Facts:

- 86% of people say if they had a free choice they would choose to buy (2011).
- First-time buyers borrowed £3.4 billion, up 3% on January and 21% on February last year. This totalled 22,000 loans, up 3% month-on-month and 11% year-on-year.

International Development Spending

“Britain’s commitment on international development spending will also be honoured, helping to deliver global stability, support the Sustainable Development Goals and prevent new threats to national security.”

Delivering 0.7%, along with 2% on defence, a permanent seat at the UN Security Council and the UK’s role as a founder member of the G7, demonstrates Britain’s global leadership.

This Government is proud of its commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on overseas development. It is both a powerful demonstration of the UK’s moral commitment to helping the world’s most vulnerable, and also firmly in the UK’s national interest.

At least 50% of DFID’s budget will be spent in fragile states and regions in every year of this Parliament. This is a major investment in global stability, including in regions of strategic importance to the UK, such as the Middle East and South Asia.

Recent crises, from our response to the Ebola epidemic to our use of our aid budget to support refugees in Syria and the surrounding region, have proved why aid is so important for us as well as for the countries we assist.

We are leading the global effort to save millions of girls from child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation.

We have distributed 47 million bed nets and contributed to malaria deaths falling by 60% over the last 15 years.

Key facts:

- This Government is committed to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on overseas development.
- We have supported 11 million children through school and helped more than 60 million people get access to clean water, better sanitation and improved hygiene conditions.
- At least 50% of DFID’s budget will be spent in fragile states and regions in every year of this Parliament.

Life Chances Strategy

“To tackle poverty and the causes of deprivation, including family instability, addiction and debt, my Government will introduce new indicators for measuring life chances”

This Government is committed to an all-out assault on the root causes of poverty – not just the symptoms – so that everyone, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to realise their potential.

Following on from the Prime Minister’s speech in January, our forthcoming Life Chances Strategy will set out our comprehensive plan for transforming the life chances of disadvantaged children and their families and will include a set of indicators for measuring them.

The Welfare Reform and Work Act introduces new statutory life chances measures for the two factors that we know can make the biggest difference to disadvantaged children:

- Children in workless households and;
- Children’s educational attainment.

Our new approach to poverty will require a relentless focus on a wide range of complex factors that can prevent people from achieving their full potential.

Our record on worklessness so far:

- The employment rate is at a record high of 74.1% - a record 31.4m in work.
- Children living in workless households at a record low. Around 450,000 fewer children are living in workless households compared with 2010.
- The Government has introduced major, structural changes to the welfare and tax systems to make sure that work always pays for families. This includes Universal Credit, Tax Changes and the National Living Wage.

Our record on education so far:

- 1.4 million more children are being taught in ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ schools compared with 2010.
- Since the introduction of the phonics check in 2012, 120,000 more children are on track to become excellent readers.
- 4 out of 5 children achieving the national expected standard or higher in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2. 1 in 4 exceed expected standard compared with 1 in 5 in 2012.

- The proportion of pupils taking core academic subjects at GCSE has increased by 78% since 2010.

Key facts:

- The forthcoming Life Chances Strategy will set out this Government's new approach to tackling poverty and transforming the life chances of the most disadvantaged children and families.
- The Strategy will include a set of measures on the root causes of poverty and will also be an opportunity to say more about how we can tackle deep rooted social problems to transform lives so that everyone can realise their full potential.

National Security

**“My Government will continue to safeguard national security.
My Ministers will invest in Britain’s armed forces, honouring the military covenant and meeting the NATO commitment to spend two per cent of national income on defence.
They will also act to secure the long-term future of Britain’s nuclear deterrent.”**

2% spending

The UK is committed to meeting the NATO guideline to spend 2% of GDP on defence every year of this decade.

We have a £35 billion Defence budget – the biggest in the EU. Our budget is the fifth largest in the world and the second largest in NATO, and we are one of five countries in NATO meeting the NATO 2% GDP guideline.

The Ministry of Defence's budget will rise by 0.5% above inflation every year to 2020-21. The Armed Forces and Security and Intelligence Agencies will have access to up to £1.5 billion a year by 2020/21 in the new Joint Security Fund.

In 2010, we were staring into a £38 billion budgetary black hole. Since then we've put our finances back on track. Our plans will deliver more ships, more planes, more troops at readiness, better equipment for Special Forces, and more on cyber to help Britain safe.

The Strategic Defence & Security Review in November laid out a clear and affordable strategy for delivering one of the most capable armed forces in the world, including:

- An expeditionary force of 50,000 by 2025;
- A £1.9 billion cyber investment;
- New capabilities for Special Forces;
- A commitment to spending over £178 billion on equipment and equipment support; £12 billion more than in previous plans.

Key facts:

- We have a £35 billion Defence budget – the biggest in the EU, the fifth largest in the world and the second largest in NATO – and we are one of five countries in NATO meeting the NATO 2% GDP guideline.
- The Ministry of Defence's budget will rise by 0.5% above inflation every year to 2020-21.

- From April, the Ministry of Defence budget increased in real terms for the first time in 6 years.

Armed Forces Covenant

This Government has done more than any before it to ensure our Armed Forces feel valued and that their contribution is recognised.

We've enshrined the Armed Forces Covenant in law to help ensure fair treatment for those who serve their country.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly. We're working with businesses, local authorities, charities and community organisations to support the forces through services, policy and projects.

Last year the Government awarded over £100 million to schemes that benefit personnel, veterans and their families.

Key facts:

- Last year alone the Government awarded around £100 million through the Armed Forces Covenant to schemes that benefit personnel, veterans and their families.
- Achievements include: giving £85.5 million to help over 5,600 personnel to buy or improve their home through the Forces Help to Buy scheme; amending the Schools Admission Code in England to prioritise Service children in the admissions process; and embedding the principles of the Covenant into the NHS constitution in England.
- Every local authority in mainland Great Britain and two in Northern Ireland have signed a community Covenant and more than 760 organisations have signed a Corporate Covenant.

Nuclear deterrent

UK Nuclear Deterrence policy is set out in the 2006 White Paper as amended by both the 2010 and 2015 Strategic Defence Security Reviews (SDSR). The Government was elected on a manifesto which included a commitment to build four new nuclear-armed submarines to replace the Vanguard class.

Parliament supported the UK Nuclear Deterrence policy by a vote in March 2007. There have been two subsequent votes: 20 January 2015 and 24 November 2015. A further debate and vote is planned during this Parliament.

We estimate that four new submarines will cost £31 billion to build, test and commission, spread over 35 years. On top of which we are setting a contingency of £10 billion. On average, that amounts to 0.2% per year of government spending (20 pence in every £100 the Government spends for a system that will provide a capability through the 2050s and beyond).

The 2010 SDSR stated that we could safely manage and maintain the Vanguard boats into the early 2030s. The revised cost and schedule of the Successor Programme included in the 2015 review reflects the greater understanding we now have about the detailed design of the submarines and their manufacture. We have also moved away from a traditional single ‘Main Gate’ approach, which is not appropriate for a programme of this scale and complexity, to a staged investment programme.

Key facts:

- We estimate that four new submarines will cost £31 billion to build, test and commission, spread over 35 years. On top of which we are setting a contingency of £10 billion.
- The revised cost and schedule of the Successor Programme included in the 2015 SDSR reflects the greater understanding we now have about the detailed design of the submarines and their manufacture.
- We have also moved away from a traditional single ‘Main Gate’ approach for Successor, which is not appropriate for a programme of this scale and complexity, to a staged investment programme.

Northern Powerhouse

“To spread economic prosperity, my Government will continue to support the development of a Northern Powerhouse”

The Northern Powerhouse is the government's vision for the North of England. It is built on the solid economic theory that while the individual cities and towns of the North are strong, if they are enabled to pool their strengths, they could be stronger than the sum of their parts.

We are investing in better transport to connect up the North; backing strengths in science and innovation; investing in culture, housing and the quality of life to make the North a magnet for new businesses and talented people; and devolving powers and budgets and creating powerful new elected mayors who will give people in northern cities and towns a strong voice.

Northern Powerhouse

We have already made significant progress on our work to build the Northern Powerhouse, including:

- Making major transport commitments including spending £15 billion on transport across the north in his Parliament and giving the go ahead to High Speed 3 between Leeds and Manchester. We've also created Transport for the North and given it the resource (£200 million) and leadership (John Cridland is the new Chair) it needs so the region now has a single joined up body who will shape the investment that will transform transport across the north. Our vital roads investment includes an extra £161 million to accelerate the transformation of the M62 and £75 million to improve other road links across the North including the A66 and A69.
- Agreeing historic Northern Powerhouse devolution deals in Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Tees Valley and the North East. These 5 areas will have their own Mayors from 2017 giving people in the north a powerful new voice and more control over decisions that affect them like transport, housing and skills. These mayors will cover 54% of the population of the North, backed by over £4 billion of new funding from central government.
- Investing in science from giving £235 million to support the Sir Henry Royce Institute to £20 million for the National Centre for Ageing Science and Innovation in Newcastle.
- Making investments to improve quality of life with investments in arts and culture such as £78 million for the Factory in Manchester and £13 million to back Hull's City of Culture as well as introducing programmes to tackle education imbalances with £20 million a year for the Northern Powerhouse Schools Strategy which aims to tackle the gap between northern schools and the rest of the country.

- Opening up investment opportunities to international investors including promoting over £24 billion worth of opportunities in the north to Chinese investors and we have committed £15 million to support further Northern Powerhouse trade missions, including to key emerging economies.
- Supporting hardworking people in the North with around 700,000 people across the North expected to benefit from the new National Living Wage by 2020 and employment growing faster in the North than the South over the last year.

And other stories to tell:

- **Employment:** In the face of significant global turbulence, the most recent employment statistics show the highest employment rate ever (74.1%) across the country with new records across the whole of the Northern Powerhouse where we reached record employment rates in the North East and North West.
- **Flooding:** Many communities in the North were badly affected by last year's floods so as part of our £700 million boost to flood defences, £150 million will be invested in schemes in Leeds, Cumbria, Calder Valley and York while a further £130 million will be spent repairing roads and bridges damaged by floods across the region.
- **Backing business:** This government has announced 44 Enterprise Zones since 2012, of which 17 are in the North. To date, these Northern Enterprise Zones are estimated to have attracted 150 businesses, and created nearly 6,000 jobs. It is a vote of confidence in the North that great British companies such as Burberry are investing in the Northern Powerhouse, announcing plans recently to open a new factory in Leeds.

Seven day NHS

“My Government will continue work to deliver NHS services over seven days of the week in England.”

Benefit

We are committed to providing the seven day NHS that patients want and deserve. The NHS has always provided some services seven days a week, but we need to go further to make sure that people can access high quality care, seven days a week, in a time and a place that is convenient to them:

- People will be able to see a GP in the evenings and on weekends to suit their busy lives. It will be easier for people to get advice and treatment from GP practices, which in turn should reduce pressure on other parts of the system.
- Patients who need urgent or emergency hospital care will have access to the same level of consultant assessment, diagnostic tests, review and treatment seven days a week. This means, for example, they will be seen by consultant no more than 14 hours after arrival at hospital and have seven day availability of diagnostic tests with a one hour turnaround for the most critically ill patients.
- NHS111, the NHS non-emergency number, will become an integrated and more personalised urgent care service – the “front door” to advice, assessment and treatment.

At the last Spending Review, the Government committed to an additional £10 billion a year by 2020 to the NHS, meaning we can implement the NHS's own ambitious plan to transform services for the future.

NHS England's GP Forward View announced £500 million of recurrent funding by 2020/21 to extend primary care capacity across England. This forms part of the proposed increase in recurrent funding of £2.4 billion in general practice services by 2020/21.

Doctors and GPs across the country are already leading this change, with 17.2 million patients having benefited so far from extended GP access, and hospitals such as Salford and Northumbria showing the benefits of a seven day approach for staff and patients. By March next year a quarter of the population will be covered by hospitals delivering the key seven day services clinical standards.

Key facts:

- Care needs to become consistent throughout the week, as the NHS is busier than ever before and we need to ensure every patient gets the best care. Compared to 2009/10, in 2014/15 there were:
 - 1.9 million more A&E attendances;

- 1.6 million more operations;
 - 7.8 million more out-patient appointments;
 - 4.7 million more diagnostic tests;
 - Over 645,000 more GP referrals seen by a specialist for suspected cancer;
 - 245,000 more calls to NHS 111 being answered within a minute.
- We have committed an extra £10 billion a year by 2020-21 to fund the NHS's own plan for the future and want to make sure the right staff and support are available to deliver seven day services in hospitals.
- Seven day services in hospitals will be implemented across the parliament in a phased way. Ten areas have committed to implement the clinical standards for a quarter of the population by March 2017. This will rise to 50% of the population by March 2018 and everyone by 2020.

UK Economy and Fiscal

“My Ministers will continue to bring the public finances under control so that Britain lives within its means, and to move to a higher wage and lower welfare economy where work is rewarded.”

Summary

In uncertain times, and with the global economy slowing, the government is delivering security for working people and taking the next bold steps in our long-term economic plan. The employment rate has reached record highs and the deficit has been cut by almost two-thirds as a share of GDP. But, with productivity growth weaker than forecast, the government has set out long-term solutions to long-term problems, investing in education, building the infrastructure the UK needs, and supporting the savings of the next generation. It is vital we continue working through the plan that is delivering growth at home and security from risks abroad.

Economy

The Government is sticking to our long-term economic plan that is delivering the jobs and growth that give people the security they deserve:

- The UK was the fastest growing major advanced economy in 2014, and the second-fastest in 2015 after the United States.
- The economy grew 2.3% in 2015 following 2.9% growth in 2014, the strongest growth since the crisis.
- GDP is now 7.3% above its pre-crisis peak.
- The employment rate reached a record high of 74.1% in 2015.

Public finances

The Government’s first duty to the next generation is to put the public finances on a sustainable footing, which provides the bedrock of security for working people. Significant progress has been made in fixing the public finances:

- The deficit has been cut by almost two-thirds as a share of GDP since its post-war peak in 2009-10, reaching 3.9% of GDP by the end of 2015-16.
- The OBR forecasts that the UK deficit will be eliminated by 2019-20. Running a surplus in normal times will mean that Britain is better prepared for future shocks, ensuring long-term economic security.

Support for working people

The Government will provide security and opportunity from childhood to working age and through to retirement. This means:

- Building an economy based on lower taxes, so that people can take home more of what they earn.
- Investing in education to equip the next generation for the future, tackling childhood obesity and investing in school sports.
- Building the housing Britain needs.
- Providing the next generation with better incentives to save, and more choice and flexibility as they do so.
- Delivering on the Government's aim to reach full employment, increasing wages so that more people are in work and earning more.

The Government is determined to support those in work by continuing to cut taxes and has committed to increasing the personal allowance to £12,500 and the higher rate threshold to £50,000 by the end of this Parliament. This Government will take another significant step towards this commitment by increasing the personal allowance to £11,500. This will ensure that by April 2017 1.3 million of the lowest paid will have been taken out of paying income tax entirely since the start of this Parliament. 31 million taxpayers in total will see their income tax bill fall by 2017/18 with a typical base rate taxpayer paying over £1,000 less income tax than in 2010/11.

The Government also wants to make sure that the tax system encourages individuals to progress. To achieve this objective, the Government will increase the higher rate threshold to £45,000 in 2017-18. This delivers the Government's ambition to reverse the trend whereby an increasing number of individuals are faced with paying the higher rate. 585,000 individuals will have been taken out of the higher rate of tax by 2017/18 – a reduction of more than 10%.

The National Living Wage came into effect on 1 April 2016, and supports the Government's vision of a higher wage, lower welfare, lower tax society. Over a million workers in the UK age 25 and over will directly benefit this year, with a full time worker on the National Minimum Wage seeing a pay rise of £900 a year. This is the largest annual increase in a minimum wage rate across any G7 country since 2009 in cash and real terms.

Key Facts:

- The deficit has been cut by almost two thirds from its post-war peak as a share of GDP, reaching 3.9% of GDP by the end of the last financial year (2015-16).

- There are nearly 2.4 million more people in employment, reaching a record high employment rate of 74.1% (2015).
- The National Living Wage, introduced in April 2016, represents a £900 p.a. increase in earnings this year for a full-time worker on the current National Minimum Wage.

UK Role in the World

“My Government will continue to play a leading role in world affairs, using its global presence to tackle climate change and address major international security, economic and humanitarian challenges.

“My Government will continue to work to resolve the conflict in Ukraine. It will play a leading role in the campaign against Da’esh and to support international efforts to bring peace to Syria through a lasting political settlement.

“Prince Philip and I look forward to welcoming His Excellency the President of Colombia on a State Visit in November.

“My Government will hold a referendum on membership of the European Union.”

The United Kingdom is the only major country in the world today which will meet the NATO target of spending 2% of our GDP on defence and the UN target of spending 0.7% of our GNI on development. We have a unique role as a member of the P5, NATO, EU, G7 and Commonwealth.

Our diplomatic network is one of the largest and most influential in the world – represented in over 85% of the world’s countries.

We respond to crises, committing £2.3 billion to the refugee crisis in Syria and raising a further over £7 billion in global pledges. We have committed our military and intelligence capabilities to disrupt the people trafficking networks in the Mediterranean.

Following the Paris climate agreement we are committed, both at home and overseas, to reducing emissions and increasing investment in clean energy technologies. We are using the transition to a low carbon global economy to maximise commercial opportunities for the UK in areas of British expertise.

Key facts

- The UK is the only major country in the world today which will simultaneously meet the NATO target of spending 2% of our GDP on defence and the UN target of spending 0.7% of GNI on development.
- The UK is at the forefront of the response to the Syria crisis. UK support is reaching hundreds of thousands of affected people in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. The UK has pledged over £2.3 billion, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis.
- The UK was the first country to adopt statutory emission reduction targets and has made great progress against its ambitious targets: emissions in 2015 were 38% lower than in 1990.

Russia Ukraine

The Government remains firmly committed to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We will therefore never recognise Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the rules based international order.

The Government remains concerned by continued violence in eastern Ukraine. We are clear that the blame for the Ukraine crisis lies squarely with Russia and the separatist proxies it continues to support. It is vital that Russia fulfils its commitments under the Minsk agreements, including by ceasing its support to the separatists.

Key facts

- The situation in eastern Ukraine remains unstable. The last two months have seen an increase in fighting, including the use of heavy weapons.
- Over 9,000 people have been killed and approximately 21,000 injured since fighting began. Around 1.6 million people have been internally displaced.
- UK has wide ranging support programme to Ukraine including on economic reform and governance, military training (non-lethal) and humanitarian assistance.

UK role in efforts to defeat Da'esh, bring peace to Syria and support Iraq

The Global Coalition of 66 countries and international organisations committed to defeat Da'esh has a comprehensive strategy to attack Da'esh militarily, squeeze its finances, disrupt the flow of fighters, challenge its poisonous ideology and work to stabilise liberated areas. Da'esh has lost about 40% of the territory it once held in Iraq - and significant territory in Syria.

In recent months, Da'esh has lost control of Ramadi in Iraq, the strategic Tishreen Dam and the former stronghold town of Al-Shadadi in Syria. And, with Coalition air support, the Syrian Opposition is putting Da'esh under pressure at the Turkish border. By halting and reversing Da'esh's territorial advance, the Global Coalition military action has also squeezed Da'esh's revenue sources.

Da'esh

We continue to play a leading role in the counter-Da'esh coalition – conducting hundreds of strikes and providing niche and highly advanced intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assistance in support of the Coalition effort in Iraq and Syria. Since the vote on 2 December, we have conducted strikes in Syria; many of these have been on Da'esh controlled oil fields, seeking to reduce their funding. We have also struck other strategic locations, in support of Coalition operations.

Since airstrikes began, the coalition has destroyed or damaged tens of thousands of Da'esh targets in Iraq and Syria, destroying millions of dollars in bulk cash storage sites and damaged or destroyed oil infrastructure targets, reducing Da'esh oil production by 30%. Da'esh have reduced their fighters' monthly salaries by up to 50% in Raqqah; they have not paid the wages of electricity workers for two months.

Syria Political

We support a genuine political transition in Syria, away from Asad, as endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2254, as the only way to achieve a lasting peace settlement. The UK is at the forefront of the response to the crisis. UK support is reaching hundreds of thousands of people affected by the crisis in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. Our total humanitarian pledge in response to the Syria crisis is over £2.3 billion. This is our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis.

Iraq

The Government strongly supports the Iraqi government's efforts to build a more stable and democratic Iraq. The UK Government, at the request of the Government of Iraq, has delivered military equipment, support and training to the Iraqi and Kurdish Security Forces. After the United States, the United Kingdom is the 2nd biggest contributor to Coalition airstrikes.

Key facts:

- **Syria:** Syria is the world's biggest and most urgent humanitarian crisis: as many as 400,000 dead (according to the UN Special Envoy); 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, of which 6.6 million are internally displaced; and 4.8 million Syrians have fled the country.
- **Iraq:** The UK is spending £79.5 million on life-saving humanitarian aid to assist the 3.4m Iraqis who have been displaced from their homes by Da'esh's brutality.
- **Da'esh:** Da'esh is losing. It has lost about 40% of the territory it once held in Iraq - and significant territory in Syria.

CONTACT DETAILS

Name of Bill/policy	Lead Department	Contact details
Bills		
Better Markets Bill	Department for Business, Innovation & Skills	Press Office Department for Business, Innovation and Skills 0207 215 3234
Bill of Rights	Ministry of Justice	Press Office Ministry of Justice 020 3334 3536
Bus Services Bill	Department for Transport	Press Office Department for Transport 020 7944 3066
Children and Social Work Bill	Department for Education	Press Office Department for Education 0207 783 8300
Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill	Home Office	Press Office Home Office 020 7035 3535
Criminal Finances Bill	Home Office	Press Office Home Office 020 7035 3535
Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill	Department for Culture, Media & Sport	Press Office Department for Culture, Media & Sport 020 7211 2210
Digital Economy Bill	Department for Culture, Media & Sport	Press Office Department for Culture, Media & Sport 020 7211 2210
Education for All Bill	Department for Education	Press Office Department for Education Sanctuary Buildings 0207 783 8300
Higher Education and Research Bill	Department for Business, Innovation & Skills	Press Office Department for Business, Innovation and Skills 0207 215 3234
Lifetime Savings Bill	HM Treasury	Press Office HM Treasury 020 7270 5238
Local Growth and Jobs Bill	Department for Communities and Local Government	Press Office Department for Communities and Local Government 0303 444 1201

Modern Transport Bill	Department for Transport	Press Office Department for Transport 020 7944 3066
National Citizen Service Bill	Cabinet Office	Press Office Cabinet Office 0207 276 1447
Neighbourhood Infrastructure and Planning Bill	Department for Communities and Local Government	Press Office Department for Communities and Local Government 0303 444 1201
NHS (Overseas Visitors Charging) Bill	Department of Health	Press Office Department of Health 020 7210 5497
Prison and Courts Reform Bill	Ministry of Justice	Press Office Ministry of Justice 020 3334 3536
Pensions Bill	Department for Work and Pensions	Press Office Department for Work and Pensions 020 3267 5084
Small Charitable Donations Bill	HM Revenue & Customs/ HM Treasury	Press Office HM Revenue and Customs 03000 585018
Soft Drinks Industry Levy	HM Treasury	Press Office HM Treasury 020 7270 5238
Wales Bill	Wales Office	Press Office The Wales Office 02072700432

Bills continuing from 2015/15 Session

High Speed Rail (London West Midlands) Bill	Department for Transport	Press Office Department for Transport Press Office 0207 944 3021
Investigatory Powers Bill	Home Office	Press Office Home Office 020 7035 3535
Policing and Crime Bill	Home Office	Press Office Home Office 020 7035 3535

Law Commission Bills

Intellectual Property (Unjustified Threats) Bill	Department for Business, Innovation & Skills	Press Office Department for Business, Innovation and Skills 0207 215 3234
Law of Property Bill	Ministry of Justice	Press Office Ministry of Justice

		020 3334 3536
Non Legislative Briefs		
Constitutional Affairs	Cabinet Office	Press Office Cabinet Office 0207 276 1447
Home Building	Department for Communities and Local Government	Press Office Department for Communities and Local Government 0303 444 1201
International Development Spending	Department for International Development	Press Office Department for International Development 020 7023 0600
Life Chances Strategy	Department for Work and Pensions	Press Office Department for Work and Pensions 020 3267 5084
National Security	Ministry of Defence	Press Office Ministry of Defence 020 721 87907
Northern Powerhouse	HM Treasury	Press Office HM Treasury 020 7270 5238
Seven day NHS	Department of Health	Press Office Department of Health 020 7210 5497
UK Economy and Fiscal	HM Treasury	Press Office HM Treasury 020 7270 5238
UK in the World	Foreign & Commonwealth Office	Press Office Foreign & Commonwealth Office 020 7008 3100