

## Heritage and the Queen's Speech 2017

21 June 2017

# The Heritage Alliance

The Queen's speech has set out the Government's priorities for the next [two years](#). As expected, Brexit dominates the political timetable ([read our Brexit Briefing here](#)). The Government states that it has had hundreds of meetings with business and civil society stakeholders on Brexit but will now intensify this work to test and validate negotiating positions. The Heritage Alliance will continue to use our [Heritage Manifesto](#) to raise the sector's concerns with the DCMS secretary of State, Karen Bradley, the new [Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Tourism](#), John Glen MP, and others across Government.

Areas in the Queen's speech which impact on heritage include:

- A Repeal Bill is intended to provide legal certainty while repealing the European Communities Act 1972. This will convert EU law into UK law and create temporary powers for Parliament to make secondary legislation 'correcting laws that do not operate appropriately once we have left the EU'. It will also allow changes to be made to domestic law to reflect the content of any EU withdrawal agreement under Article 50. [[See Brexit Briefing](#)]
- Delivering the reforms proposed in the Housing White Paper to increase transparency around the control of land, to 'free up more land for new homes in the right places, speed up build-out by encouraging modern methods of construction and diversify who builds homes in the country'. ([Read our response to the Housing White Paper](#)).
- An Immigration Bill to control the number of people coming to the UK from Europe while allowing the UK to continue to attract 'the brightest and the best'. The Bill will repeal EU immigration law, primarily free movement, that would otherwise be brought into UK law by the Repeal Bill. [[See Brexit Briefing](#)]
- A Customs Bill to enable changes to the UK's VAT and excise regimes and to ensure that the UK has standalone regimes post Brexit. [[See Brexit Briefing](#)]
- A Trade Bill to allow for an independent UK trade policy post-Brexit. The Government will support British businesses export to markets around the world and to forge new trading relationships.
- A Fisheries Bill to enable the UK to exercise responsibility for access to fisheries and management of its waters. The Bill will deliver on the [Conservative manifesto commitments](#) (p. 27) for coastal communities including 'work to conserve the marine environment' off the UK Coast.

- An Agriculture Bill to provide stability to farmers post Brexit, protect the natural environment and support farmers to compete domestically and globally allowing more British food to be grown sold and exported. The Government will also support international action against climate change, including the implementation of the Paris Agreement. [[See Brexit Briefing](#)]
- Institutes of Technology will enable more young people to take advanced technical qualifications and become key institutions for the development of the skills required by local, national and regional industry. The Government will also create millions of high quality apprenticeships so that employers get access to the skills they need.
- A Data Protection Bill will replace the Data Protection Act 1998 to strengthen rights and empower individuals to have more control over their personal data including a right to be forgotten when individuals no longer want their data to be processed, provided that there are no legitimate grounds for retaining it. [[See our note on EU General Data Protection Regulation 2018](#)].
- A High Speed 2 Phase 2A Bill for the next stage of the HS2 between Birmingham and Crewe. The Bill will create powers to compulsorily acquire the land and construct and operate the railway. Deemed planning permission will deliver the scheme to be developed on a site-by-site basis in coordination with the local planning authority.
- The Government is committed to balancing the budget by the middle of the next decade. In the interim, the Government will reduce the structural deficit to less than 2% of GDP and get debt falling as a percentage of GDP by 2020/21. The Government is committed to spending 0.7% of national income on international development, to drive international efforts that increase global security and project British values around the world. Three Finance Bills will implement budget decisions. A National Insurance Contributions Bill will legislate for changes announced at Budget 2016 and Autumn Statement 2016. This legislation does not relate to the discussion of Class 4 contributions in the Spring Budget 2017. The Alliance has begun work ahead of the next Finance Bill.
- The Government will increase the National Living Wage and enhance rights and protections in the modern workplace. Further progress will be made to tackle the gender pay gap and race, faith, gender, disability or sexual orientation discrimination. The Matthew Taylor Review of Employment Practices commissioned in October 2016 will report shortly on whether working rights need modernisation.
- A Digital Charter will aim to make the UK the best place to start and run a digital business and the safest place in the world to be online. The Charter will be underpinned by an effective regulatory framework.

The Government's background briefing on the Queen's Speech [is here](#). NCVO's take on what the Queen's speech means for charities [is here](#).