

The Queen's Speech 2016

Briefing

18 May 2016

The Heritage Alliance

The Government has today set out in the Queen's Speech its policy intentions and proposed legislative programme for the forthcoming parliamentary year. The full text of the [Speech](#), together with a [briefing note](#) from the Cabinet Office, is available online.

This briefing outlines the key legislative areas affecting the heritage sector.

Extracts from the Queen's Speech 2016:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. It will:

- simplify the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme and making it easier to claim, to allow more charities, particularly small or new charities, to benefit;
- provide 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.

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. It will introduce:

- 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;
- the Blue Shield as an emblem that signifies cultural property protected under the Convention and its two Protocols;
- 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;
- immunity from seizure for cultural property in the UK which is being transported for safekeeping during a conflict between two or more other states.

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