

# The Queen's Speech: Our Summary

12 May 2022

# The Heritage Alliance

## What is the Queen's speech?

The Queen's Speech occurs annually with the Queen reading out the legislative agenda, written by ministers, for the Parliamentary year ahead. It takes place in the Lords Chamber as part of the State Opening of Parliament, and it highlights the proposed legislation of the government. Although the Speech is usually read out by the sovereign, this year it was delivered by the Prince of Wales due to the Queen's mobility issues. This was the first year since 1963 in which Queen Elizabeth II did not attend. Both Houses are later able to debate the contents of the Speech.

You can find the full text of the Queen's Speech and the complete lobby briefing via the links below.

[The full text of the speech](#)

[Lobby briefing](#)

## What was in the Queen's speech?

The priorities of the Queen's Speech were purportedly to lay out legislation and policy that will grow the economy, make streets safer and support the NHS. According to the Government's own briefing, the economy has now returned to pre-pandemic levels of output and employment.

The Speech sets out how the Government is growing the economy to address the cost of living, which all centre around tackling unemployment, and stimulation and growth of the economy, as opposed to direct help for individuals. The Government does mention that they 'will not hesitate to take further steps to support households if needed', and in commentary after the speech, various Ministers have alluded to a possible raft of packages in the Autumn statement to help those struggling the most at a time when Government thinks the cost of living will hit the hardest.

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As further context to the speech, it is important to note that while from the Government's perspective the active phase of the pandemic is over, the impacts of the pandemic are still key in economic policy. In October 2021, the Government announced four fiscal rules which constrain its own decisions on spending and taxes. These include that national debt should fall and there should be no borrowing for day-to-day spending in the medium term. The Office for Budget Responsibility has said that this Government is "broadly in line with the headroom retained by previous Chancellors", however this year (2022-23) we are forecast to spend £83 billion on debt interest. Due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and the impact that the global sanctions against Russia continue to have on the global economy, the Government will likely be economically cautious in the short term.

## Levelling Up

As we expected, 'Levelling up' made an appearance in the speech, with announcements in the speech about a number of Bills intended to 'level up' the country in various ways. First and foremost is the '**Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill**', already introduced into the House of Commons yesterday. We had expected this Bill to also cover changes to the planning system which were first introduced in the [Planning White Paper in 2020](#) and to see some of the less contentious items featured ahead of a rumoured review of the National Planning Policy Framework in 2023. [The Bill](#) focuses on local and regional delivery of levelling up, with annual reports on progress against local decided missions. The Bill covers community and infrastructure levies, compulsory purchase of land, pavement licences and vagrancy and begging.

On the planning side, key for the heritage sector is the desire to improve 'outcomes for our natural environment by introducing a new approach to environmental assessment in our planning system'. This will presumably mean changes to Environmental Impact Assessments and / or strategic impact assessments. Street votes will also probably be introduced as part of the Bill. In the Press, Secretary of State for DLUCH Michael Gove has also confirmed that design codes will be part of the Bill, building on the 14 councils which have taken part in pilot schemes. The Bill will drive local devolution of decisions in the planning system, allowing local communities and councils more say over the infrastructure levy, the reuse of empty premises, and street names. There is a heritage chapter in the Bill covering 5 key areas:

- To introduce a new statutory requirement on local authorities to maintain a Historic Environment Record, as a digital evidence base for plan and decision making (Clause 185).

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- To introduce a new statutory duty on local planning authorities to have special regard to the preservation or enhancement of Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Protected Wreck Sites and World Heritage Sites and their settings (Clause 92).
- To introduce Temporary Stop Notices for unauthorised works to listed buildings (Clause 93).
- Extend Urgent Works Notices to apply to listed buildings that are occupied and in use, and make costs of carrying out works a local land charge to aid cost recovery by local planning authorities (Clause 94).
- To remove compensation when a local planning authority serves a Building Preservation Notice on an unlisted building, and the parallel application to the Secretary of State for DCMS to list the building is unsuccessful (Clause 95).

DHLUC will publish shortly an accompanying document which summarises the content of the Bill and what they are doing alongside the Bill. During May and June DLUHC, DCMS and Historic England will be arranging a series of engagement events with the heritage sector to discuss these measures, and the wider Bill, in greater detail – further information about these events will follow shortly.

The **Transport Bill** has some sections of note for the heritage and tourism sectors, as the bill is due to include provision to enable the installation of more charging points for electronic vehicles, and legislation for the safety of self-driving and remotely operated vehicles.

The Government also announced a **Non-Domestic Rating Bill**, which will shorten the business rates revaluation timescales, shortening the revaluation cycle from five years to three. It will also and change the methodology to incentivise ratepayers' investment in decarbonisation, and introduce a new 12 month rates relief on increases to rateable value arising from improvements made to a property.

The **Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill** would seem to mostly focus on cyber safety and resilience, it could be an opportunity for THA members who have difficulties accessing reliable and high-speed broadband, as one of the key aims of the Bill is to accelerate the roll out of mobile and broadband networks.

The latest stage of HS2 was also announced in the Queens Speech, with the **High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill** paving the way for the continuation of HS2 through outline planning permission. This Bill also includes an aim for 10% net gain in biodiversity as part of the project.

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The other piece of legislation which could impact the sector is the **Higher Education Bill**, which will introduce the Lifelong Loan Entitlement, which will give individuals the equivalent of four years of post-18 education, currently worth £37,000. This can be used over a lifetime for a range of studies, including technical courses.

## **Cost of Living**

There are a number of Bills which Government claim will impact on the cost of living, albeit indirectly through energy security and economic stimulation.

The **Energy Security Bill** should deliver cheaper, cleaner and more secure energy, supposedly building on the work of COP26, the British Energy Security Strategy, and the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. Government is proposing to increase energy security through support for low carbon energy systems, extending the price cap beyond 2023, and enabling the first ever large-scale hydrogen heating trial.

## **Brexit**

As the pandemic seemed to mask the direct impact of Brexit, this Queen's Speech has been used as an opportunity by the Government to put in motion more legislation which puts more distance between the British Parliament and EU legislation and institutions.

Data protection legislation implemented in the UK in 2018 has been a big change for many sectors. The Government has proposed a **Data Reform Bill** which will focus on removing burdens from businesses while focusing on privacy outcomes balanced with making more data available to drive service delivery. This will partly be done through Smart Data Schemes, modernising the Information Commissioners Office, and creating a clearer regulatory framework for personal data.

The **Brexit Freedoms Bill** is the key vehicle the Government will use to amend retained EU legislation without the need for primary legislation, and clarifying the status of retained EU law.

There might be some impact to heritage through the **Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill**, which would allow for the development and marketing of precision bred plants and animals. The Government sees this as allowing them to meet the ambition in the 25 Year Environment Plan, and notes that the Bill will apply to those genetic changes which could have arisen through tradition breeding or natural process. This could be a Bill to keep an eye on.

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The Government has launched a new **Export Strategy** to address the barriers to exporting, particularly for small and medium sized enterprises, and to transform the way they deliver support to exporters through the Export Support Service, a one-stop shop for exporting guidance. The Government has also expanded UK Export Finance support to help UK exporters to sell overseas.

There is also a **Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill** intended to “prioritise support for the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and its institutions, including through legislation to address the legacy of the past.” The purpose of the Bill is to fulfil the manifesto commitment to address the legacy of Northern Ireland’s past by providing better outcomes for victims, survivors and their families. Of note is the establishment of a major oral history initiative that provides an opportunity for people from all backgrounds to share their experiences and perspectives related to the Troubles. This will involve securing the long-term preservation of existing oral history collections, with new physical and digital resources to maximise public engagement with different narratives and Troubles-related stories. Bill will extend and apply in the main across the UK, with some provisions extending and applying to Northern Ireland only.

### **Any notable expected items missing?**

For a while, we have been expecting more planning changes, including as mentioned before a review of the NPPF. It is possible that the Government has decided to shelve some of these changes from the Planning White Paper in response to the local election results, which saw Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the Greens make big gains across the country. We have heard that the NPPF review may now take place in 2023.

There was also the expectation of an Employment Bill, which would replace the current EU legislation for employment rights and go further, including specific protections for taking and returning from parental leave. There was also thought to be a Nature Bill in the pipeline, as well as more direct measures to address the cost of living crisis.

### **And anything particularly surprising?**

As part of the continued move away from the EU, the Government has brought forward a new British **Bill of Rights**, which is intended to replace the Human Rights Act. Much more surprising is framing of this bill as a written constitution for the UK. Historically, unlike the USA and other countries, the UK does not have a codified constitution and the creation of one is a huge change.

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## Topics in more detail

### Levelling up Bill

“A Bill will be brought forward to drive local growth, empowering local leaders to regenerate their areas, and ensuring everyone can share in the United Kingdom’s success. The planning system will be reformed to give residents more involvement in local development.”

Key points from the Bill:

- Improve the planning system to give communities a louder voice, making sure developments are beautiful, green and accompanied by new infrastructure and affordable housing.
- Laying the foundations for all of England to have the opportunity to benefit from a devolution deal by 2030 – giving local leaders the powers they need to drive real improvement in their communities.
- Improving outcomes for our natural environment by introducing a new approach to environmental assessment in our planning system. This benefit of Brexit will mean the environment is further prioritised in planning decisions.
- Capturing more of the financial value created by development with a locally set, non-negotiable levy to deliver the infrastructure that communities need, such as housing, schools, GPs and new roads.
- Simplifying and standardising the process for local plans so that they are produced more quickly and are easier for communities to influence.
- Placing a duty on the Government to set Levelling Up missions and produce an annual report updating the country on delivery of these missions.
- Creating a new model of combined authority: the ‘County Deal’ which will provide local leaders with powers to enhance local accountability, join up services and provide transparent decision making to rejuvenate their communities, increase their ability to reflect local preferences in arrangements including directly elected leaders’ titles.
- Unlocking new powers for local authorities to bring empty premises back into use and instigate rental auctions of vacant commercial properties in town centres and on high streets.

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- Giving residents more of a say over changing street names and ensuring everyone can continue to benefit from al fresco dining.
- Strengthening neighbourhood planning and digitalising the system to make local plans easier to find, understand and engage with; by making it easier for local authorities to get local plans in place, we will limit speculative development.
- [The Bill](#) will, in the main, extend to England and Wales and apply to England only, with some provisions extending and applying across the UK.

### Transport Bill

Transport Bill “My Government will improve transport across the United Kingdom, delivering safer, cleaner services and enabling more innovations. Legislation will be introduced to modernise rail services and improve reliability for passengers.”

- Enabling the installation of more electric vehicle charge points throughout the UK as part of the transition away from new petrol and diesel car and van sales by 2030 and building public confidence to switch to zero emission vehicles
- Introducing new laws that safely enable self-driving and remotely operated vehicles and vessels, support the roll-out of electric vehicle charge points and enabling the licensing of London pedicabs.

### Non-Domestic Rating Bill

- Deliver manifesto commitments to review and create a fairer, more accurate business rates system, meaning businesses will have the confidence they are paying the right tax.
- Support businesses and employees to enhance productivity and energy efficiency by making improvements to their place of work.
- Incentivising business ratepayers to invest in their properties and decarbonise with new reliefs backed by the Government.
- Shortening the business rates revaluation cycle from five to three years from 2023.
- Improving the valuation accuracy and timeliness in a shorter revaluation cycle through new duties on ratepayers, with measures to support compliance.
- Creating a power for the Valuation Office Agency to provide ratepayers with information on the calculation of their rateable value.

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- Tightening appeals against rates on the basis of changing circumstances – building on our recent legislation and £1.5 billion pandemic support fund by future-proofing business rates against further shocks.
- Introducing new 12-month rates relief on increases to rateable value arising from improvements made to a property, and a new 100 per cent rates relief for low-carbon heat networks that are assessed as separate entities for business rates.
- The Bill will extend to England and Wales, and with the exception of some minor provisions, apply to England only.

### Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill

- Protecting consumers from cyber-attacks by ensuring that manufacturers, importers and distributors only sell smart devices that meet tougher security standards.
- Ensuring product security requirements, which protect devices from emerging threats, will be regularly updated. Manufacturers will also be required to have a point of contact for reporting software vulnerabilities. This will increase consumer confidence in new technologies.
- Accelerating the rollout of broadband in the coming years, to enable faster and more reliable connectivity for more of the population. By 2025 the Government is aiming for a minimum of 85 per cent gigabit-capable coverage.
- Reducing the number of new sites and installations needed to meet the Government's digital connectivity targets by utilising existing equipment. This makes it cheaper and easier to install apparatus, giving operators more funding to invest in digital rollout, helping communities and businesses across the UK.
- Requiring manufacturers, importers and distributors of smart devices to comply with minimum security standards. The legislation also imposes duties on these businesses to investigate and take action in cases of non-compliance.
- Providing a robust regulatory framework that can adapt and keep pace with rapid technological advances, techniques used by cyber criminals, hostile states and broader global regulation.
- Reforming the Electronic Communications Code to support faster, fairer and more collaborative negotiations for the use of private and public land to enable deployment of telecommunications networks

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### High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill

- Provide the powers to build and operate the next stage of the High Speed Two (HS2) network between Crewe and Manchester.
- Helping the UK to meet its targets on carbon, biodiversity, and wider environmental sustainability, through the provision of a low-carbon alternative for travel for many decades to come and the commitment to aim for ten per cent net gain in biodiversity.
- Enabling enhancements to the existing Rail Network across the North, freeing up much needed capacity on key routes, such as Stockport to Manchester, and relieving the bottleneck at Crewe. It also provides critical infrastructure to allow the delivery of Northern Powerhouse Rail and new Manchester Metrolink routes.
- Providing the powers to compulsorily acquire the land needed for the railway, construct the railway, and operate it.
- Seeking outline planning permission to deliver the scheme.
- Setting out how existing railway regulation will apply to HS2.
- Modifying, or disapplying, existing legislation that would apply to the construction of the scheme, reflecting that the scheme will have been approved by Parliament.

### Higher Education Bill

- Ensure that our post-18 education system promotes real social mobility, helping students onto pathways in which they can excel, and is financially sustainable. This will help support people get the skills they need to meet their career aspirations and to help grow the economy.
- Ensuring people are supported to get the skills they need throughout their life. The Bill will enable the introduction of the Lifelong Loan Entitlement, a new and flexible way of providing loan support for post-18 study. This will provide individuals with a loan entitlement equivalent to four years of post-18 education (£37,000 in today's fees) that they can use over their lifetime for a wider range of studies, including shorter and technical courses.
- Fulfilling the manifesto commitment to tackle uncontrolled growth of low-quality courses.
- Ensuring that appropriate fee limits can be applied more flexibly to higher education study within the Lifelong Loan Entitlement and that they can be effectively regulated.

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- Subject to the conclusion of the higher education reform consultation: setting minimum qualification requirements for a person living in England to be eligible to get student finance support to enter higher education, helping to ensure students can pursue the best post-18 education and training options for them by taking pathways through which they can excel; and fulfilling the manifesto commitment to tackle uncontrolled growth of low quality courses by taking specific powers to control numbers of students entering higher education at specific providers in England.
- The Bill will extend and apply in the main to England and Wales, with some provisions extending across the UK.

## **Cost of living**

### Energy Security Bill

- Maintaining a safe and secure energy supply and helping to protect consumers against global price fluctuations. We will increase our energy security by supporting a low-carbon energy system and reducing our dependence on gas over the long term.
- Protecting consumers from unfair pricing. The energy price cap is the best safety net for millions, preventing suppliers from overcharging consumers. The Bill will enable the extension of the price cap beyond 2023, and it will regulate the heat networks sector.
- Attracting billions in private investment and supporting tens of thousands of new, skilled jobs across the UK. Developing Carbon Capture Usage and Storage and low carbon hydrogen will create new industries, transforming our former industrial heartlands.
- Introducing state-of-the-art business models for Carbon Capture Usage and Storage transport and storage, low carbon hydrogen and industrial carbon capture which will fire the starting gun on new, low-carbon technologies.
- Reducing the risk of fuel supply disruption by giving Government the power to give directions to, require information from, and provide financial assistance to core fuel sector businesses to ensure resilience and continuity of fuel supply.
- Supporting industry to step up investment in growing the consumer market for electric heat pumps by providing for a new market standard and trading scheme. This will support innovation and help to lower the costs of heat pumps over time.
- Appointing Ofgem as the new regulator for heat networks, ensuring consumers get a fair price and a reliable supply of heat.

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- Extending the energy price cap, preventing suppliers from overcharging consumers.
- Enabling the first ever large-scale hydrogen heating trial, allowing us to inform the role of hydrogen in heat decarbonisation in 2026.
- Introducing competition in Britain's onshore electricity networks, encouraging investment and innovation, and enabling savings.
- Creating a new pro-innovation regulatory environment for fusion energy.
- Establishing a new Future System Operator, providing strategic oversight across electricity and gas systems. It will drive progress towards net zero, energy security and minimising consumer costs.
- Facilitating the safe, and cost-effective clean-up of the UK's legacy nuclear sites, ensuring the UK is a responsible nuclear state.
- The Bill will extend and apply mainly to Great Britain, with some provisions extending and applying across the UK.

## **Brexit**

### Brexit Freedoms Bill

- Fulfil the manifesto commitment to end the supremacy of European law and seize the benefits of Brexit by ensuring regulation fits the needs of the UK, which in turn will enable economic growth.
- Ensuring that retained EU law can be amended, repealed or replaced with legislation which better suits the UK, without this taking decades of parliamentary time to achieve.
- Asserting the sovereignty of Parliament by removing the supremacy of retained EU law over UK law in our legal system.
- Creating new powers to strengthen the ability to amend, repeal or replace the large amounts of retained EU law by reducing the need to always use primary legislation to do so.
- Clarifying the status of retained EU law in UK domestic law to reflect the fact that much of it became law without going through full democratic scrutiny in the UK Parliament.
- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

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## Data Reform Bill

- Create a world class data rights regime that will allow us to create a new pro-growth and trusted UK data protection framework that reduces burdens on businesses, boosts the economy, helps scientists to innovate and improves the lives of people in the UK.
- Modernise the Information Commissioner's Office, making sure it has the capabilities and powers to take stronger action against organisations who breach data rules while requiring it to be more accountable to Parliament and the public.
- Increase industry participation in Smart Data Schemes, which will give citizens and small businesses more control of their data. The Bill will also help those who need health care treatments, by helping improve appropriate access to data in health and social care contexts.
- Increasing the competitiveness and efficiencies of UK businesses by reducing the burdens they face, for example by creating a data protection framework that is focused on privacy outcomes rather than box-ticking.
- Making sure that data can be used to empower citizens and improve their lives, via more effective delivery of public healthcare, security, and government services.
- Creating a clearer regulatory environment for personal data use that will fuel responsible innovation and drive scientific progress.
- Ensuring that the regulator takes appropriate action against organisations who breach data rights and that citizens have greater clarity on their rights.
- Simplifying the rules around research to cement the UK's position as a science and technology superpower.
- Ensuring that UK citizens' personal data is protected to a gold standard while enabling public bodies to share data to improve the delivery of services.
- Using data and reforming regulations to improve the everyday lives of people in the UK, for example, by enabling data to be shared more efficiently between public bodies, so that delivery of services can be improved for people.
- Designing a more flexible, outcomes-focused approach to data protection that helps create a culture of data protection, rather than "tick box" exercises.
- The Bill will, in the main, extend and apply across the UK, with some measures extending and applying to England and Wales only.

## Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill

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- 'Remove unnecessary barriers inherited from the EU' to enable the development and marketing of precision bred plants and animals, which will drive economic growth and position the UK as the leading country in which to invest in agri-food research and innovation.
- Enabling precision breeding technologies to improve the sustainability, resilience, and productivity of agricultural systems. Technologies such as gene editing have the potential to increase disease resistance in crops, which can reduce pesticide use, lower costs to farmers and increase food production.
- Unlocking innovation to help us cement our place as a science superpower, and to help meet the ambitions in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.
- Creating a new, simpler regulatory regime for precision bred plants and animals that have genetic changes that could have arisen through traditional breeding or natural processes. No changes will be made to the regulation of animals until animal welfare is safeguarded.
- Introducing two notification systems for research and marketing purposes where breeders and researchers will need to notify Defra of precision bred organisms. The information collected on precision bred organisms will be published on a public register.
- Establishing a new science-based authorisation process for food and feed products developed using precision bred organisms.
- The Bill will extend to England and Wales, but apply to England only.

### Bill of Rights

- Introduce a Bill of Rights which will 'ensure our human rights framework meets the needs of the society it serves and commands public confidence'.
- Defending freedom of speech by promoting greater confidence in society to express views freely, thereby enhancing public debate.
- Curbing the incremental expansion of a rights culture without proper democratic oversight, which has displaced due focus on personal responsibility and the public interest.
- Reducing unnecessary litigation and avoiding undue risk aversion for bodies delivering public services.
- Tackling the issue of foreign criminals evading deportation.

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- Establishing the primacy of UK case law, clarifying there is no requirement to follow the Strasbourg case law and that UK Courts cannot interpret rights in a more expansive manner than the Strasbourg Court.
- Ensuring that UK courts can no longer alter legislation contrary to its ordinary meaning and constraining the ability of the UK courts to impose 'positive obligations' on our public services without proper democratic oversight by restricting the scope for judicial legislation.
  - Guaranteeing spurious cases do not undermine public confidence in human rights so that courts focus on genuine and credible human rights claims. The responsibility to demonstrate a significant disadvantage before a human rights claim can be heard in court will be placed on the claimant.
  - Recognising that responsibilities exist alongside rights by changing the way that damages can be awarded in human rights claims, for example by ensuring that the courts consider the behaviour of the claimant when considering making an award.
- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

The [Heritage Alliance](#) is England's coalition of independent heritage interests.