



BRIEFING PAPER

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Queen's Speech 2021

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Summary

The State Opening of Parliament is scheduled to take place on 11 May 2021. Parliament was [prorogued](#) on Thursday 29 April 2021, bringing the 2019-21 Session to an end.

The State Opening marks the beginning of the parliamentary session. Its main purpose is for the monarch to formally open Parliament and, in the Queen's Speech, outline the Government's proposed policies and legislation for the coming parliamentary session.

This briefing identifies issues and bills that may appear in the Queen's Speech.

Section 2 reviews legislation that has already been introduced and carried over, or was published in draft, in the current session. Section 3 covers plans for legislation, announced in the December 2019 Queen's Speech, that have not progressed and might still form part of the Government's plans.

Section 4 reports statements or press speculation indicating that particular issues are likely to be the subject of future legislation.

General information on the State Opening ceremony is provided in Section 5.

Section 6 is a short summary of the progress of bills announced in the Queen's Speech at the beginning of the 2019-21 Session. Details of all Government bills introduced in this session can be found on the [Bills before Parliament](#) webpages.

Which bills are in progress?

The following bills have been the subject of carry-over motions in the House of Commons in the 2019-21 Session:

- [Telecommunications \(Security\) Bill 2019-21](#);
- [Environment Bill 2019-21](#);
- [Armed Forces Bill 2019-21](#);
- [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill](#);
- [Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill 2019-21](#); and
- [Finance \(No 2\) Bill 2019-21](#).

Two draft bills were published in 2019-21. When announcing [the date of the Queen's Speech](#), the Government said the second bill would be introduced in the coming session. These are the:

- Draft Building Safety Bill; and
- Draft Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 (Repeal) Bill.

A draft Public Service Ombudsman Bill was published in December 2016 and may still be proceeded with.

Some bills that were announced in the December 2019 Queen's Speech were not taken forward but may appear in the coming session. These are:

- Employment Bill;
- Health and Social Care Bill;
- Online Harms Bill;
- Registration of Overseas Entities Bill;

- Renters' Reform Bill;
- Foreign national offenders legislation; and
- Espionage legislation.

Potential subjects of legislation

The following issues are potential subjects of legislation:

- Technical issues in Charity Law
- National Insurance holiday for employers of veterans
- Planning reform in England
- Ground rents on future lease agreements
- Reform of terminal illness rules in benefits
- Strengthening freedom of speech in universities
- Reform of the Mental Health Act
- Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth
- Adult social care reform
- Unregistered providers of children's social care
- Northern Ireland: legislation to implement the Stormont House agreement and address the investigation and prosecution of historical offences in relation to The Troubles
- Public procurement reform
- New subsidy control regime
- Overhauling the UK's asylum system and approach to illegal immigration
- Ending anomalies in British nationality law
- Electoral integrity
- Business rate appeals
- Public service pensions
- Judicial retirement

1. Background

The Queen's Speech to open the next session of Parliament is scheduled to take place on 11 May 2021. The Government confirmed that "In light of the pandemic it is expected that the State Opening will be adapted, with reduced ceremonial elements and attendees to ensure it is COVID-secure."¹

On 22 April 2021, the Leader of the House of Commons, told MPs that, on 29 April, "The House will prorogue when Royal Assent to all Acts has been signified."² The prorogation ceremony took place in the House of Lords on 29 April 2021.³ has been made about the prorogation of Parliament to end the current session.

This briefing looks at subjects and issues that the Government plans to legislate on, possibly in the coming session, that might be included in the Queen's Speech.

Recent Queen's Speeches

Following the passage of the *Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011*, parliamentary sessions generally ran from spring to spring.⁴

However, following the 2017 General Election and the process of legislating for Brexit, 2017-19 was an unusually long session. The table below notes the dates of the Queen's Speech at the beginning of all sessions from 2012-13:

Session	Date of Queen's Speech
2012-13	Wednesday 9 May 2012; ⁵
2013-14	Wednesday 8 May 2013; ⁶
2014-15	Wednesday 4 June 2014; ⁷
2015-16	Wednesday 27 May 2015 (after the general election); ⁸
2016-17	Wednesday 18 May 2016; ⁹
2017-19	Wednesday 21 June 2017 (after the early general election); ¹⁰
2019	Monday 14 October 2019; ¹¹

¹ Prime Minister's Office news, [Queen's Speech to be held on 11 May](#), 23 March 2021

² [HC Deb 22 April 2021 c1140](#)

³ [HL Deb 29 April 2021 cc2411-2416](#)

⁴ [HC Deb 13 September 2010 cc33WS-34WS](#)

⁵ [HC Deb 9 May 2012 cc3-5](#); the first Wednesday after the local government elections held on 3 May 2012

⁶ [HC Deb 8 May 2013 cc3-4](#); the first Wednesday after the local government elections held on 2 May 2013

⁷ [HC Deb 4 June 2014 cc4-6](#); after combined local and European elections on 22 May 2014

⁸ [HC Deb 27 May 2015 cc31-33](#)

⁹ [HC Deb 18 May 2016 cc3-5](#)

¹⁰ [HC Deb 21 June 2017 cc34-36](#). Before the 2017 Queen's Speech, the Government announced that the session it heralded would last for two years [Office of the Leader of the House of Commons news, [Government to confirm two-year Parliament to deliver Brexit and beyond](#), 17 June 2017]

¹¹ [HC Deb 14 October 2019 cc3-6](#)

Session	Date of Queen's Speech
2019-21	Thursday 19 December 2019 (after the early general election). ¹²

¹² [HC Deb 19 December 2019 cc31-33](#)

2. Bills continuing from the 2019-21 Session

2.1 Bills that have been the subject of carry-over motions

Generally, bills that have not completed their passage through both Houses of Parliament are lost at the end of a session. However, since the beginning of the 2004-05 Session, House of Commons Standing Orders have allowed ministers to move motions to carry-over a bill from one session to the next. The consideration of each bill resumes from the point it reached at prorogation.

The Commons can only agree to carry-over government bills that were introduced in the Commons and have not been sent to the Lords.

Ad hoc arrangements are made to carry-over public bills in the House of Lords. Different arrangements allow hybrid bills to be carried over.

Six bills have been carried over in the 2019-21 Session:

Telecommunications (Security) Bill

The [*Telecommunications \(Security\) Bill 2019-21*](#) was the subject of a carry-over motion in the House of Commons on 30 November 2020, which was agreed without a division.¹³

Environment Bill

On 26 January 2021, special arrangements were made to carry-over the [*Environment Bill 2019-21*](#). Normally bills that are carried over must complete their passage through both Houses in 12 months. The *Environment Bill 2019-21* was introduced on 30 January 2020.¹⁴ The motion to carry-over the bill allowed two years instead of the one year provided for in Standing Orders for the completion of the passage of the Bill. The motion was agreed without a division.¹⁵

Armed Forces Bill

The [*Armed Forces Bill 2019-21*](#) was carried-over in the House of Commons on 8 February 2021. The motion was agreed without a division.¹⁶

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

The [*Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2019-21*](#) was the subject of a carry-over motion in the House of Commons on 16 March 2021. There was no division.¹⁷

¹³ [HC Deb 30 November 2020 c126](#)

¹⁴ [HC Deb 30 January 2020 c959](#)

¹⁵ [HC Deb 26 January 2021 cc209-210](#)

¹⁶ [HC Deb 8 February 2021 c127](#)

¹⁷ [HC Deb 16 March 2021 cc276-277](#)

Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill

The [Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill 2019-21](#) was the subject of a carry-over motion in the House of Commons on 23 March 2021, agreed without a division.¹⁸

Finance (No 2) Bill

The [Finance \(No 2\) Bill 2019-21](#) was the subject of a carry-over motion in the House of Commons on 13 April 2021. The motion was agreed without a division.¹⁹

2.2 Draft bills published in the 2019-21 Session

Two draft bills were published in 2019-21. Both underwent pre-legislative scrutiny.

Draft Building Safety Bill

The Draft Building Safety Bill was published on 20 July 2020.²⁰

The draft bill was scrutinised by the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee. Its report, *Pre-legislative scrutiny of the Building Safety Bill*, was published on 24 November 2020.²¹ The Committee is awaiting a response from the Government.

Draft Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 (Repeal) Bill

The Government's *Draft Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 (Repeal) Bill* was published on 1 December 2020.²²

The draft bill was scrutinised by the Joint Committee on the Fixed-term Parliaments Act, which was also charged with undertaking a statutory reviewing the Act. The Joint Committee's report was published on 24 March 2021.²³

2.3 Draft bills from earlier sessions still under consideration

Draft Public Service Ombudsman Bill

A draft Public Service Ombudsman Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech 2015,²⁴ and published in December 2016.²⁵

The Library briefing, [The Parliamentary Ombudsman: role and proposals for reform](#) (CBP 7496), provides background information.

¹⁸ [HC Deb 23 March 2021 c890](#)

¹⁹ [HC Deb 13 April 2021 c277](#)

²⁰ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [Draft Building Safety Bill](#), CP 264, July 2020

²¹ Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee, [Pre-legislative scrutiny of the Building Safety Bill](#), 24 November 2020, HC 466 2019-21

²² Cabinet Office, [Draft Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 \(Repeal\) Bill](#), CP 322, December 2020

²³ Joint Committee on the Fixed-term Parliaments Act, [Report](#), 24 March 2021, HC 1046 2019-21

²⁴ Prime Minister's Office Press Office, [The Queen's Speech 2015](#), 27 May 2015, pp102-103

²⁵ Cabinet Office, [Draft Public Service Ombudsman Bill](#), 5 December 2016 [webpages]

Draft Registration of Overseas Entities Bill

The draft bill was published on 23 July 2018.²⁶

The Joint Committee responsible for scrutinising the draft Bill published its report on 20 May 2019. The Committee concluded that the draft legislation was “timely, worthwhile, and, in large part, well drafted.”²⁷

Legislation was announced in the December 2019 Queen’s Speech. For further information, see section 3.1.

Draft Health Service Safety Investigations Bill

The draft bill was published on 14 September 2017 and scrutinised by a Joint Committee.²⁸ The Committee’s report was published on 2 August 2018.²⁹

The *Health Service Safety Investigations Bill 2019* was introduced in the House of Lords in the short 2019 session but made no progress.

The White Paper, [*Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all*](#), published in February 2021, set out plans for a Health and Care Bill. This incorporates all measures previously expected in the Health Services Safety Investigations Bill (establishing HSSIB as a statutory body and changes to the system of medical examiners).

These measures are likely to be taken forward in a Health and Care Bill (see section 3.1).

²⁶ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, [Draft Registration of Overseas Entities Bill](#) [webpage], 23 July 2018

²⁷ Joint Committee on the Draft Registration of Overseas Entities Bill, Report of Session 2017–19, HL Paper 358, 20 May 2019, p53

²⁸ Department of Health and Social Care, [Draft Health Service Safety Investigations Bill](#), 14 September 2017 [webpages]

²⁹ Joint Committee on the Draft Health Service Safety Investigations Bill, [Draft Health Service Safety Investigations Bill: A new capability for investigating patient safety incidents](#), 2 August 2018, HC 1064 2017-19

3. Bills previously announced

3.1 Bills in the December 2019 Queen's Speech that have not been introduced

On 19 December 2019, the day of the last Queen's Speech, the Government issued a background briefing, which provided information on its plans for the forthcoming session. It gave details of bills and legislative proposals set out in the Speech.³⁰

The following day, the Leader of the House of Commons published a list of the bills announced. The following bills were included in either the Leader's list or the background briefing but were not introduced in the 2019-21 Session. There are, however, indications that the Government still intends to proceed with them.

The Leader's list is set out in full in section 6. Other bills that were not introduced and look unlikely to form part of the Government's future plans are identified there.

Employment Bill

In response to a topical question on 23 March 2021, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Paul Scully, said the Employment Bill would be introduced "in due course."³¹

Health and Care Bill

The White Paper, [*Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all*](#), published in February 2021, set out plans for a Health and Care Bill.

It takes forward measures that would have been included in draft legislation to support the [NHS Long Term Plan](#)³², announced in the [2019 Queen's speech](#). For example, the White Paper confirmed earlier proposals from NHS England:

- To establish Integrated Care Systems as statutory bodies and other measures to support integration of health and care
- To formally merge NHS England and NHS Improvement
- Changes to procurement and competition rules relating to health services.

The White Paper included other measures that would be in a Health and Care Bill, most of which had not previously been announced:

³⁰ Prime Minister's Office, [Queen's Speech 2019](#), 19 December 2019

³¹ HC Deb 23 March 2021 c791

³² Proposals for legislation in the NHS Long Term Plan (January 2019) was followed by Health and Social Care Committee's report [NHS Long-term Plan: legislative proposals](#) (HC2000, 24 June 2019), and a NHS England consultation (see [Legislating for Integrated Care Systems: five recommendations to Government and Parliament](#), published in February 2021).

- Additional powers for the Secretary of State, including powers over NHS England, Arm's Length Bodies and health service reconfigurations, and powers to create new Trusts
- Provisions relating to social care, public health (including water fluoridation and measures to tackle obesity), workforce and professional regulation, and some other matters (such as new MHRA medicines registries, reciprocal healthcare, and hospital food).

The Health and Care Bill is also expected to incorporate all the measures previously introduced in the *Health Services Safety Investigations Bill 2019*. That Bill was introduced in the House of Lords in October 2019 but made no progress. It would have established the [Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch](#) as a statutory body, and made changes to the system of medical examiners.³³

Online Harms Bill

The Online Harms Bill was not introduced in the 2019-21 Session. However, the Government's [full response](#) (December 2020) to its related consultation said that an online safety bill would "be ready in 2021."³⁴

For further background, please see the Library's briefing [Regulating online harms](#) (CBP 8743).

Renters' Reform Bill

On 3 March 2021, in response to a written question, Christopher Pincher, Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, confirmed that the Government was committed to a Renters' Reform Bill. On timing, he said the Government would "implement the reforms at the appropriate time, once the urgencies of responding to the pandemic have passed."³⁵

Registration of Overseas Entities Bill

This Bill would establish a new beneficial ownership register of overseas entities that own UK property.

For background, see section 2.2 of the Library briefing [Registers of beneficial ownership](#) (CBP 8259).

The draft Bill was published in July 2018. A Joint Committee responsible for scrutinising it published its report in May 2019. The report was supportive of the Bill and concluded that the draft legislation was "timely, worthwhile, and, in large part, well drafted."

The Committee made a range of detailed recommendations to improve the Bill. The Government accepted many of these but did not indicate when the Bill might be presented to Parliament.

³³ [Health Service Safety Investigations Bill \[HL\] Session 2019](#).

³⁴ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport/Home Office, [Online Harms White Paper: full government response](#), 15 December 2020, para 7.3

³⁵ PQ157111, 3 March 2021

The December 2019 Queen's Speech included a commitment to progress this legislation, but the Government has not committed to a timetable.³⁶

Foreign national offenders legislation

The Government had expressed plans to legislate to "enhance our ability to deal effectively with foreign national offenders" but it did not present a proposal for legislation in the 2019-21 Session. Measures are now expected to be taken forward in the 2021-22 Session as part of a broader package of immigration and asylum legislation.

Espionage legislation

The 2019 Queen's Speech committed to introducing legislation, the purpose of which would be to "Provide the security services and law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to disrupt Hostile State Activity" and update existing espionage offences.

The Bill did not materialise. The [Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#), published in March 2021, committed to introducing Counter-State Threats legislation when parliamentary time allows, which would:

...revise existing offences – to deal more effectively with the espionage threat – and create new offences, to criminalise other harmful activity conducted by, and on behalf of, states. The legislation will also introduce a form of UK foreign agent registration scheme.³⁷

Other measures in the 2019 Queen's Speech Background Briefing

The following subjects for legislation were also mentioned in the Background Briefing to the December 2019 Queen's Speech but bills were not introduced:

- Airline insolvency legislation
- Railways (minimum service levels) legislation

3.2 Other legislation

An Overseas Electors Bill was announced in previous Queen's Speeches and the subject of a Private Member's Bill in 2017-19. Measures related to overseas voters (British citizens living abroad) are to be taken forward in the planned Electoral Integrity Bill (see section 4.16).

³⁶ [PQ145870](#), 3 February 2021

³⁷ HM Government, [Global Britain in a competitive age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#), March 2021, CP 403, Part 3.1.3

4. Bills foreshadowed

This section reports statements or press speculation which indicate matters that could be subject of future legislation. These topics might be mentioned in the Queen's Speech or be the subject of draft bills.

4.1 Technical issues in Charity Law

On 22 March 2021, the Government published its [response to the Law Commission report 'Technical Issues in Charity Law'](#). It said "In principle, we accept the vast majority of the report's 43 recommendations, and will look to implement them when Parliamentary time allows."

The Law Commission's report [Technical Issues in Charity Law](#), which was published in September 2017, included a draft Charities Bill.³⁸

4.2 National Insurance holiday for employers of veterans

In the 2020 Budget, the Government said it would "introduce a National Insurance holiday for employers of veterans in their first year of civilian employment." This relief would exempt employers from paying employer NICs on the veteran's salary, up to the 'Upper Earnings Limit'. In 2021/2022, they would be liable to pay but can reclaim it.³⁹

HM Revenue & Customs ran a consultation on draft legislation that would implement the NI holiday. It ran from 11 January to 8 March 2021.⁴⁰ No further details have been published to date, although HMRC has confirmed the relief will be available from April 2021.

For 2021/22 employers have been advised to pay the associated secondary Class 1 National Insurance Contributions (NICs) as normal, and then claim it back retrospectively. From April 2022 they will be able to apply the relief in real time through PAYE.⁴¹

Statutory provisions regarding NICs are not included in the annual Finance Bill,⁴² and on previous occasions over the last few years, changes to NICs have been made by relatively short Bills.⁴³

4.3 Planning reform in England

The [White Paper Planning for the Future](#) in August 2020 proposed wide-ranging reform, arguing that the planning system in England was "outdated and ineffective" and so the Government wished to "tear it

³⁸ Law Commission, *Technical Issues in Charity Law*, LC 375, 14 September 2017

³⁹ [Budget 2020](#), HC 121, March 2020 para 2.179. The measure had been included in the Conservative Party's manifesto for the 2019 General Election ([The Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto 2019](#), December 2019 p52)

⁴⁰ HMRC, [Draft legislation: zero-rate secondary Class 1 contributions for veterans](#), 11 January 2021

⁴¹ HMRC, [National Insurance contributions relief for employers who hire veterans](#), 10 February 2021

⁴² ["Scope of Finance Bills"](#), *Erskine May* para 36.39

⁴³ For example, [National Insurance Contributions Act 2014](#) – and, [National Insurance Contributions Act 2015](#)

down and start again.”⁴⁴ The [Government is still analysing](#) feedback received during the consultation.

The White Paper said that the proposed changes would require primary and secondary legislation, as well as updating the National Planning Policy Framework.⁴⁵ In response to a parliamentary question in September 2020, the Government said it would “set out any decisions and any associated proposed implementation” in “due course.”⁴⁶ A [newsletter from MHCLG’s chief planner](#) in December 2020 said that the Government would “publish a response in the Spring setting out its decisions on the proposed way forward including preparing for legislation, should the government so decide, in the Autumn.”⁴⁷

The Library briefing [Planning for the Future: planning policy changes in England in 2020 and future reforms](#) (CBP 8981) discusses the White Paper’s proposals in more depth.

4.4 Ground rents on future lease agreements

On 11 January 2021, Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), said two pieces of legislation would address leasehold reform. He said a Bill in the forthcoming 2021-22 session will “set future ground rents to zero.”⁴⁸ This will also apply to retirement properties, but commencement in respect of retirement properties will be delayed for a period.

No timetable has been announced for wider leasehold reforms at the time of writing.

4.5 Strengthening freedom of speech in universities

On 17 February 2021 the Government published the policy paper, [Higher education: free speech and academic freedom February 2021](#) (CP 394), which proposed to strengthen freedom of speech in higher education. This includes:

- creating a Free Speech and Academic Freedom Champion to champion free speech, investigate infringements of free speech and recommend redress;
- requiring the Office for Students to introduce a registration condition on free speech, with the power to impose sanctions for breaches;
- strengthening section 43 of the Education (No. 2) Act 1986 to include a duty on higher education providers to “actively promote” freedom of speech;
- extending the section 43 duty to apply directly to student unions;

⁴⁴ MHCLG, [White Paper: Planning for the Future](#), August 2020: page 6

⁴⁵ MHCLG, [White Paper: Planning for the Future](#), August 2020: page 59

⁴⁶ [PQ 91804, 23 September 2020](#)

⁴⁷ MHCLG, [Planning newsletter No 4 of 2020](#), 18 December 2020

⁴⁸ [HCWS695](#), 11 January 2021

- introducing a statutory tort for breach of the duty, enabling individuals to seek legal redress;
- widening and enhancing academic freedom protections; and
- setting minimum standards for free speech codes of practice.

The Library's briefing, [Freedom of speech in universities – is there a problem?](#) (CBP 9143) discusses these issues.

4.6 Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth

On 21 January 2021, the Government published its further education White Paper, [Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth](#).⁴⁹ It aims to increase momentum in the delivery of skills. To do this, the White Paper suggests: increasing employers' involvement in skills courses and better tailoring provision to local needs, improving higher technical qualifications, introducing a Lifelong Loan Entitlement, reforming accountability and funding systems, and supporting further education teachers.

The Library briefing, [FE White Paper: Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth](#) (CBP 9120) has further information.

4.7 Reform of the Mental Health Act

On 13 January 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care published a White Paper on [Reforming the Mental Health Act](#).⁵⁰ The Government is consulting on these proposals until April 2021. The White Paper sets out reforms which build on the recommendations made by an independent review in 2018: [Modernising the Mental Health Act: Increasing choice, reducing compulsion](#) (December 2018).

The Government said it will publish a response to the consultation in 2021 and, for those changes which require legislation, the Government's plans to share a draft Mental Health Bill in early 2022 for pre-legislative scrutiny.⁵¹

Further information is available in the Library briefing on [Mental Health Policy in England](#) (CBP 7547).

4.8 Reform of terminal illness rules in benefits

On 11 July 2019 the then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Amber Rudd, said she had asked her department to set up an "honest

⁴⁹ Department for Education, [Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth](#), CP 338, January 2021

⁵⁰ Department of Health and Social Care, [Reforming the Mental Health Act](#), CP 355, January 2021

⁵¹ [PQ136555 \[on Mental Health Act 1983 Independent Review\]](#), 19 January 2021

and in depth evaluation of how the benefits system supports people nearing the end of their life and those with severe conditions.”⁵²

There have been longstanding complaints about the current provision, particularly the “six-month rule”, which means claimants generally have to show that their death “can reasonably be expected within six months” in order to get faster access to benefits. This is discussed in the Library briefing, [Accessing benefits with terminal illness](#) (CBP 8995).

An evaluation of current policy was conducted in 2020, and is yet to be published. Justin Tomlinson, the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work said the Department for Work and Pensions:

[Is] committed to implementing the key areas identified in the evaluation; a consensus to change the six-month rule; improving consistency with other services used by people nearing the end of their lives; and raising awareness of the support that is available.⁵³

In a 22 February 2021 debate of a Private Member’s Bill from Jessica Morden, Justin Tomlinson confirmed that the proposed changes would require primary legislation:

Covid did cause delays in completing the review. It has also caused delays because the reality is that the changes we wish to make are extensive and will require primary legislation. That has to be lined up with the Department of Health and Social Care, and I have to do that at a time when health professionals and my Front-Bench colleagues are tackling covid.⁵⁴

4.9 Adult Social Care Reform

Proposals to reform how people pay for adult social care have a long history, spanning before Boris Johnson became Prime Minister in July 2019.

In his first speech as Prime Minister, Mr Johnson said the Government would “fix the crisis in social care once and for all with a clear plan we have prepared to give every older person the dignity and security they deserve.”⁵⁵

In its manifesto for the December 2019 General Election, the Conservative Party said it would seek cross-party consensus to bring forward reform proposals. It added that a prerequisite of the proposals would be that “no one needing care has to sell their home to pay for it.”⁵⁶

In January 2020, the Prime Minister said the Government would bring forward a plan “this year” and “get it done within this Parliament.”⁵⁷ However, the Government subsequently said it would not be possible to

⁵² DWP, [Terminally ill benefit claimants deserve a fresh and honest evaluation of the way the system supports them](#), 11 July 2019

⁵³ [PQ169911 23 March 2021](#)

⁵⁴ [HC Deb 22 February 2021 c739](#)

⁵⁵ 10 Downing Street, [Boris Johnson's first speech as Prime Minister: 24 July 2019](#), 24 July 2019.

⁵⁶ Conservative and Unionist Party, [Get Brexit Done – Unleash Britain's Potential](#), November 2019, p12.

⁵⁷ BBC, [The Big Interviews: Boris Johnson on BBC Breakfast](#), (at 16 minutes 25 seconds), 14 January 2020

meet this timetable due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Its latest position is that it remains “committed to the sustainable improvement of adult social care and will bring forward proposals [in 2021].”⁵⁸

Appearing before the Liaison Committee on 24 March 2021, the Prime Minister repeated that proposals would be published this year. He said it was “highly likely” that social care would be mentioned in the Queen’s Speech.⁵⁹ While some press reports interpreted this as meaning the Government hopes to bring forward plans for reform as early as May, it is not clear if the Prime Minister was referring to anticipated proposals for reform of how people pay for adult social care or to the anticipated Health and Care Bill (see above), which could include measures related to social care.⁶⁰

Further information is available in the Library briefing, [Adult social care funding reform: developments since July 2019 \(England\)](#) (CBP 8001).

4.10 Unregistered providers of children’s social care

An establishment which meets the definition of a children’s home under the *Care Standards Act 2000*, but is not registered with Ofsted, is referred to as ‘unregistered provision’. This is illegal – it is an offence to operate a children’s home without appropriate registration.⁶¹ Concerns have been raised in recent years about the use of such unregistered provision.⁶²

In February 2020, the Government published a consultation on proposed reforms to unregulated⁶³ and unregistered provision in children’s social care.⁶⁴

In its response to the consultation results, the Government said it would legislate “at the earliest opportunity” to “give Ofsted powers to issue enforcement notices to illegal unregistered providers.” It said this would allow Ofsted to “force illegal providers to close quickly, register their service if appropriate, or face some form of penalty.”⁶⁵

Further information is available in the Library briefing, [Looked after children: out of area, unregulated and unregistered accommodation \(England\)](#) (CBP 7560).

⁵⁸ DHSC, [Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all](#), 11 February 2021, pp6-7.

⁵⁹ Liaison Committee, [Oral evidence: Evidence from the Prime Minister](#), HC1285, 24 March 2021, Q37-8,

⁶⁰ [Social care reform to be announced in Queen’s speech, hints Boris Johnson](#), The Times, 25 March 2021.

⁶¹ [Unregistered and unregulated provision - what’s the difference?](#), Ofsted: developments in children’s social care blog, 8 July 2019.

⁶² For example, Department for Education, [Use of unregulated and unregistered provision for children in care: Research report](#), February 2020.

⁶³ Unregulated provision is distinct from unregistered provision. For further information, see the Library briefing: [Looked after children: out of area, unregulated and unregistered accommodation \(England\)](#).

⁶⁴ DfE, [Unregulated provision for children in care and care leavers](#), February 2020.

⁶⁵ DfE, [Reforms to unregulated provision for children in care and care leavers: Government consultation response](#), February 2021, p15.

4.11 Northern Ireland Legacy Bill – investigating and prosecuting historical offences in relation to The Troubles

In January 2020, a [deal to restore devolved government in Northern Ireland](#) was reached.⁶⁶ As part of that agreement the Government committed to publish, within 100 days, legislation to implement the Stormont House Agreement and address Northern Ireland legacy issues.

On 18 March 2020, the Government published the [Overseas Operations \(Service Personnel and Veterans\) Bill](#). Despite suggestions that it might include Northern Ireland within its provisions, legacy prosecutions in relation to The Troubles were excluded. In a Written Statement published alongside the Bill, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland said the Government wanted to ensure “equal treatment of Northern Ireland veterans and those who served overseas,” and committed to separate legislation.⁶⁷

In February 2021, the Leader of the House of Commons, Jacob Rees-Mogg, said that legislation would be introduced in the next few months.⁶⁸ It is yet to be published. It is considered increasingly likely, therefore, that this Bill will feature in the 2021 Queen’s Speech.

Further discussion of legacy issues is in the Library briefing: [Investigation of former Armed Forces personnel who served in Northern Ireland](#) (CBP 8352).

4.12 Public procurement reform

From 1 January 2021, changes to EU procurement law no longer apply to the UK. So far, the Government has maintained the status quo as far as possible, but leaving the EU presents an opportunity for substantial reform. On 15 December 2020, the Government published a [green paper](#) on [transforming public procurement](#). A consultation on proposals closed on 10 March 2021.⁶⁹

Minister of State Lord Agnew has said that the Government will quickly analyse the consultation responses and he is hoping to bring a bill forward from September 2021, depending on when parliamentary time allows.⁷⁰

4.13 New subsidy control regime

Having left the EU, the Government is setting up an independent UK subsidy control system to replace EU state aid controls. The UK-wide regime is based on World Trade Organization rules and UK commitments under international agreements. On 31 December 2020,

⁶⁶ [New Decade, New Approach](#), January 2020

⁶⁷ [HCWS168](#), 18 March 2020

⁶⁸ [HC Deb 11 February 2021 c496](#)

⁶⁹ Cabinet Office, [Green Paper: Transforming public procurement](#), CP 353, December 2020

⁷⁰ Institute for Government, [Procurement after Brexit, a keynote speech by Cabinet Office minister Lord Agnew](#), 11 March 2021, from 52:00

the Government published [guidance for public authorities](#) which award subsidies.⁷¹

A consultation about the [design of a bespoke approach to UK subsidy control](#) ran from 3 February until 31 March 2021. According to the *United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020*, before publishing its consultation response, the Government must share the draft with the devolved authorities. It has to “consider any representations duly made by any of the devolved authorities,” and decide whether to alter the report as a result.⁷² After that, the Government will bring forward primary legislation to establish a subsidy control system in domestic law.

4.14 Overhauling the UK’s asylum system and approach to illegal immigration

The Home Office has been developing plans for a major overhaul of the UK’s approach to asylum and illegal immigration during the 2019-21 Session. Ministers confirmed that this would include new primary legislation (which has sometimes been referred to as a “Sovereign Borders Bill”).

Following several months of briefings, the Government’s ‘New Plan for Immigration’ policy statement was published and announced in an oral statement to the House on 24 March 2021.⁷³ A related [online public consultation](#) runs until 6 May.

The proposals in the policy statement are largely focused on Government concerns about the fairness and firmness of the asylum system, and the effectiveness of measures to deter illegal immigration and enforce removal decisions.

4.15 Ending anomalies in British nationality law

The March 2021 ‘New Plan for Immigration’ statement also includes plans to address several historical anomalies and areas of unfairness within British nationality law. Notably, by:

- introducing new registration provisions to enable easier acquisition of British citizenship for children of people with British Overseas Territories Citizen (BOTC) status and children entitled to British citizenship through their father; and
- introducing new powers for the Home Secretary to register an adult as a British citizen in compelling and compassionate circumstances. The powers would also provide greater scope to

⁷¹ HM Government, Guidance [Complying with the UK’s international obligations on subsidy control](#), 31 December 2021; According to Article 10 of Northern Ireland Protocol, EU State aid rules continue to apply to subsidies to goods and wholesale electricity market, which can adversely affect trade between Northern Ireland and the EU.

⁷² [United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020](#), Section 53(2)(b)

⁷³ Home Office, [New Plan for Immigration](#), 24 March 2021; [HC Deb 24 March 2021 cc921-936](#)

waive residence requirements for naturalisation as a British citizen (potentially beneficial to some Windrush cases).

4.16 Electoral Integrity Bill

The Government is expected to introduce an Electoral Integrity Bill to fulfil several manifesto commitments in relation to elections. It is likely the Bill will cover:

- Overseas electors
- Intimidation of candidates and undue influence
- Voter ID
- Changes to absent voting arrangements
- Digital imprints for election campaign material

Separately, the expected amendment to the *Fixed-term Parliament Act 2011* may have implications for the electoral timetable for general elections.

Overseas voters

British citizens living overseas are currently entitled to be registered to vote in UK Parliamentary elections for up to 15 years in the constituency in which they were registered before leaving the UK. They are not entitled to vote in UK local elections or elections to the devolved assemblies.

After the 2015 General Election, the Government indicated that it would bring forward a 'votes for life bill' which would remove the 15-year rule and improve registration for overseas voters. On 7 October 2016, the Government published a policy statement, [A democracy that works for everyone: British citizens overseas](#), which set out how the 15-year rule will be removed. In the March 2021 Budget, £2.5 million [was committed to ending](#) the 15-year limit with legislation promised later in the year.⁷⁴

Intimidation of candidates and undue influence

In 2017, the Prime Minister asked the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) [to conduct a short review](#) of intimidation experienced by electoral candidates. The Committee published its report in December 2017 and recommended a new electoral offence of intimidating a candidate or campaigner.⁷⁵

The Government committed to introducing this new offence that would apply during the regulated period of an election.⁷⁶ In a March 2021 update, the Government re-iterated its intention to legislate and said the new offence would complement the existing offence of undue influence against electors. It also promised to clarify and improve the

⁷⁴ Library briefing, [Overseas voters](#)

⁷⁵ Committee on Standards in Public Life, [Intimidation in Public Life: A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life](#), 13 December 2017

⁷⁶ Written statement, [\[Update on tackling intimidation in public life\]](#), 9 March 2021

offence of undue influence of a voter, which is the intimidation of a voter to cast a ballot in a particular way.⁷⁷

Voter ID

Legislation was trailed in the 2019 Queen's Speech background briefing.⁷⁸ The Government promised measures to protect the integrity of elections. It planned to require voters to show an approved form of photographic ID at a polling station in a UK parliamentary election in Great Britain and local election in England (photo ID is already required in Northern Ireland). It also said voters without appropriate ID would be able to apply, free of charge, for a local electoral identity card.

In August 2016 the then Government Anti-Corruption Champion, Sir Eric, now Lord Pickles, published a report on electoral fraud. He recommended that the Government should consider options for voter identification and suggested that the Government might wish to pilot various options before introducing a system nationwide.⁷⁹

Pilot schemes for voter ID were held in 2018 and 2019. The Government declared them a success following its own evaluation of the pilots and committed to introducing a voter ID scheme.⁸⁰

The Electoral Commission recommended in 2014 that photo ID should be required for voters in Great Britain to improve polling station security.

It conducted its own evaluations of the 2018 and 2019 pilots. It found the experience of taking part in the pilot scheme appeared to have had a positive impact on people's perception of the security of the polling station process. However, it found indications that some groups of people found it harder than others to show ID and cautioned that several important questions remained about how an ID requirement would work in practice, saying:

Before introducing a requirement for elections in Great Britain, the Government and Parliament should consider carefully the available evidence about the impact and proportionality of different approaches on the accessibility and security of polling station voting.⁸¹

The background to voter ID is examined in the Library briefing, [Voter ID](#).

Other changes to elections

The Government has also committed to other measures relating to elections. Banning postal vote 'harvesting', limiting the number of people a voter may act as proxy for to two electors, and making it easier for disabled voters to cast their ballot. These were also trailed in the 2019 Queen's Speech briefing.

A commitment to introducing digital imprints is also outstanding. Imprints are designed to inform voters who is paying for and sending

⁷⁷ Library briefing, [Intimidation of candidates and voters](#)

⁷⁸ [Queen's Speech 2019 background briefing notes](#), p126

⁷⁹ Cabinet Office, [Securing the ballot: review into electoral fraud](#), 12 August 2016

⁸⁰ Written statement, [\[Electoral Integrity Update\]](#), 22 July 2019

⁸¹ Electoral Commission, [May 2019 voter identification pilot schemes](#)

campaign material. Currently only printed material is covered. Introducing imprints for online campaign material is intended to increase transparency in modern campaigning.

The Bill may also include provisions to alter the voting system for police and crime commissioner elections and directly elected mayors. The 2017 and 2019 Conservative Party manifestos included commitments to replace the current supplementary voting system with first-past-the-post. The Home Office reaffirmed this commitment in a statement on 16 March 2021, saying the Government would bring forward legislation “when Parliamentary time allows”.⁸²

4.17 Business rates appeals

On 25 March 2021 the Government announced a further £1.5 billion fund for additional local discretionary business rate relief. This was targeted at businesses that are ineligible for the retail, hospitality and leisure sector relief.⁸³ Within this statement, the Government said:

Many of those ineligible for reliefs have been appealing for discounts on their rates bills, arguing the pandemic represented a ‘material change of circumstance’ (MCC).

The government is making clear today that market-wide economic changes to property values, such as from COVID-19, can only be properly considered at general rates revaluations, and will therefore be legislating to rule out COVID-19 related MCC appeals.

Ordinarily, a business can appeal against its rateable value on the grounds of a material change of circumstance. If successful, this would lead to a reduction in its business rate bill.

A material change in circumstances is defined as a change in any of the matters set out in Schedule 6, paragraph 2 (7), to the [Local Government Finance Act 1988](#). Appeals seeking a reduction in rateable value on the basis of an MCC are governed by the [Non-Domestic Rating \(Alteration of Lists and Appeals\) \(England\) Regulations 2009](#).

The Government statement said:

Allowing business rates appeals on the basis of a ‘material change in circumstances’ could have led to significant amounts of taxpayer support going to businesses who have been able to operate normally throughout the pandemic and disproportionately benefitting particular regions like London.

...

We’ll work with and support local government to enable ratepayers to apply as soon as possible this year, once the legislation relating to MCC provisions has passed and local authorities have set up local relief schemes. By contrast, individual appeals based on MCCs could have taken years to resolve in some cases.

⁸² Written statement, [\[Concluding Part One of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review\]](#), 16 March 2021

⁸³ HM Treasury, [Business rates relief boosted with new £1.5 billion pot](#), 25 March 2021

The Government also laid a statutory instrument preventing Covid-19-related restrictions from being taken into account in rateable value assessments on 24 March 2021.⁸⁴ The next general business rate revaluation will take effect from 1 April 2023, based on property rental values as at 1 April 2021.

4.18 Public service pensions

The [Public Service Pensions Act 2013](#) introduced reformed public service pension schemes for future service from April 2015 (2014 for local government). The new schemes provided benefits based on career average revalued earnings (rather than final salary) and increased pension ages.

In December 2018, the Court of Appeal ruled in [McCloud v Ministry of Justice](#) that the 'transitional protection' offered to some members as part of these reforms amounted to unlawful discrimination. Having been refused leave to appeal, the Government said the difference in treatment would be remedied across public service pension schemes, for members with relevant service, regardless of whether they had made a claim.⁸⁵

Following consultation, the Government announced in February 2021 that affected scheme members would be given a choice, shortly before their benefits come into payment, whether to have built up benefits in the relevant legacy or reformed scheme for the 'remedy period' (April 2015 to April 2022). In the meantime, they would remain in the legacy scheme. From April 2022, all active scheme members would be transferred to the relevant reformed scheme for future service.

The Government said it would bring forward new primary legislation when parliamentary time allowed "in order to ensure that the discriminatory features relating to the remedy period and the transition to the reformed schemes are removed from the pension scheme rules with effect from 1 April 2022."⁸⁶

The Government has also said it will legislate to reform judges' pensions from April 2022.⁸⁷

4.19 Judicial retirement

In March 2021 the Government [published a response](#) to its [consultation on the Judicial Mandatory Retirement Age](#).⁸⁸ At the moment the mandatory judicial retirement age is 70, under the [Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act 1993](#), with only limited scope to allow judges to serve

⁸⁴ See the [Valuation for Rating \(Coronavirus\) \(England\) Regulations 2021](#) (SI 2021/398)

⁸⁵ [HCWS 1275 15 July 2019](#)

⁸⁶ HM Treasury, [Public service pensions: Government response to consultation](#), Feb 2021, p6; [Public service pensions: the 2015 reforms](#), Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP 5768

⁸⁷ [HCWS805, 25 February 2021](#); [Judges' Pension Schemes](#), Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP 8540 April 2021

⁸⁸ Ministry of Justice, [Consultation on Judicial Mandatory Retirement Age](#), July 2020; and Ministry of Justice, [Judicial Mandatory Retirement Age: Response to Consultation](#), 8 March 2021

between the ages of 70 and 75. Similarly, lay magistrates cannot normally serve beyond the age of 70, because of provisions in the [Courts Act 2003](#). The Government intends to raise the judicial retirement age, a change which requires primary legislation, “as soon as parliamentary time allows”. The legislation is also expected to make it possible for magistrates to serve between the ages of 70 and 75 where there is a demonstrable business need.

Some appointments to courts and/or tribunals are a devolved responsibility in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Separate consultations were conducted by the three devolved authorities about whether similar changes should be made as those proposed for the courts and tribunals administered by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service. It is not yet clear whether the same changes will be made across the board, or indeed whether separate legislation will be passed by the devolved legislatures in this area.

5. The Queen's Speech

The State Opening of Parliament marks the beginning of the parliamentary session. Its main purpose is for the monarch to formally open Parliament and, in the Queen's Speech, deliver an outline of the Government's proposed policies and legislation for the coming session of Parliament.

The State Opening

State Opening is the main ceremonial event of the parliamentary calendar. In normal times it attracts large crowds, both in person and watching on television and the internet. The Queen's procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster is escorted by the Household Cavalry.

The Queen arrives at the Sovereign's Entrance at about 11.15am, and proceeds to the Robing Room, where she puts on the Imperial State Crown and parliamentary robe. A procession then leads through the Royal Gallery to the Chamber of the House of Lords, where the Queen takes the Throne.

The House of Lords official known as 'Black Rod' is sent to summon the Commons. In a symbol of the Commons' independence, the door to their chamber is slammed in Black Rod's face and not opened until they have knocked on the door with their staff of office. The Members of the House of Commons follow Black Rod and the Commons Speaker to the Lords Chamber and stand behind the Bar of the House of Lords (at the opposite end of the Chamber from the Throne) to hear the Queen's Speech.

The Government said that due to the pandemic, "it is expected that the State Opening [in May 2021] will be adapted, with reduced ceremonial elements and attendees to ensure it is COVID-secure."⁸⁹

The Speech

The Queen's Speech is delivered by the Queen from the Throne in the House of Lords, in the presence of Members of both Houses.

Although the Queen reads the Speech, the content is entirely drawn up by the Government and approved by the Cabinet. It contains an outline of the Government's policies and proposed new legislation for the new parliamentary session.

Debate on the Queen's Speech

Following the State Opening, a motion to send a 'Humble Address' to the Queen thanking her for the Speech is introduced in both Houses. The Government's programme, as presented in the Queen's Speech, is then debated by both Houses for four or five days. In the House of Commons, the debate on the first day is a general one, with the following day's debates on particular subjects (such as health or foreign

⁸⁹ Prime Minister's Office news, [Queen's Speech to be held on 11 May](#), 23 March 2021

affairs). The Queen's Speech is voted on by the Commons, but no vote is taken in the Lords.

History of the State Opening

Traditions surrounding the State Opening and delivery of a speech by the monarch can be traced back at least to the 16th century. The current ceremony dates from the opening of the rebuilt Palace of Westminster in 1852 after the fire of 1834.⁹⁰

A similar description of the State Opening of Parliament used to appear on the Royal website. It noted that the ceremony "brings together the three elements of the legislature (the House of Commons, the House of Lords and The Queen)," and then described the traditions associated with the ceremony:

As Head of State, it is the duty of The Queen formally to open each new session of Parliament.

[...]

Her Majesty has only missed two during her reign. The first time was in 1959 when she was pregnant with Prince Andrew and the second in 1963 when she was expecting Prince Edward.

[...]

Before The Queen travels to Parliament from Buckingham Palace, certain traditional precautions are observed.

A detachment of The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard searches the cellars of the Houses of Parliament.

This tradition dates back to the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when Guy Fawkes was arrested whilst preparing to blow up Parliament. Today, the Yeomen of the Guard continue this historic search, in addition to the security checks by police.

Another tradition is the 'hostage' MP, a Government whip who is held at Buckingham Palace to guarantee the safe return of the monarch.

The custom dates back to centuries when the monarch and Parliament were on less cordial terms.

Once these precautions have been taken, The Queen travels from Buckingham Palace in a State coach to the Palace of Westminster.

The Imperial State Crown travels in its own carriage, ahead of The Queen, escorted by Members of the Royal Household.

On arrival, The Queen puts on the Imperial State Crown and her parliamentary robe ready for the ceremony itself. This takes place in the House of Lords.

Some 250 representatives of the House of Commons are summoned by Black Rod, who acts as The Queen's Messenger.

By tradition, the door of the House of Commons is slammed in Black Rod's face. It is then reopened to enable Black Rod to convey the Sovereign's summons to the Speaker.

This tradition is a reminder of the right of the Commons to exclude everyone but the Sovereign's messengers.

⁹⁰ Houses of Parliament, [State Opening of Parliament](#)

No monarch has set foot in the Commons since Charles I entered the Commons and tried to arrest five Members of Parliament in 1642.⁹¹

⁹¹ The Royal Website, [State Opening of Parliament](#) (altered) [last accessed 13 March 2013]

6. Progress of Bills announced in the Queen's Speech, December 2019

On 19 December 2019, the Queen's Speech was made from the Throne in the House of Lords. On 20 December 2020, Jacob Rees-Mogg, the Leader of the House of Commons, issued a written statement in which he listed the Bills that were announced the previous day.⁹²

His list is repeated below along with an indication of whether each Bill was introduced. The measures that have been enacted are noted (**in bold**). Any carry-over motions relating to Queen's Speech bills in the 2017-19 Session are noted (see also section 2.1).

Bill	Summary of progress
Agriculture Bill	Agriculture Act 2020
Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill	Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Act 2021
Armed Forces (Legal Protections) Bill	Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Act 2021
Birmingham Commonwealth Games Bill	Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act 2020
Building Safety Bill	Published in draft (see section 2.2)
Counter Terrorism (Sentencing and Release) Bill	Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021
Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill	Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020
Domestic Abuse Bill	Domestic Abuse Act 2021
Employment Bill	Not introduced ⁹³
Environment Bill	Environment Bill carried over
European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill	European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020
Extradition (Provisional Arrest) Bill	Extradition (Provisional Arrest) Act 2020

⁹² [HCWS2](#), 22 June 2017

⁹³ See information on the Employment Bill in section 3.1

Bill	Summary of progress
Fire Safety Bill	Fire Safety Act 2021
Fisheries Bill	Fisheries Act 2020
Financial Services Bill	Financial Services Act 2021
Health Service Safety Investigations Bill	Not introduced ⁹⁴
High Speed Rail 2 (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill	High Speed Rail 2 (West Midlands - Crewe) Act 2021
Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (European Union Withdrawal) Bill	Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (European Union Withdrawal) Act 2020
Medicines and Medical Devices Bill	Medicines and Medical Devices Act 2021
National Security and Investment Bill	National Security and Investment Act 2021
NHS Funding Bill	NHS Funding Act 2020
NHS Long Term Plan Bill	Not introduced ⁹⁵
Online Harms Bill	Not introduced ⁹⁶
Pension Schemes Bill	Pension Schemes Act 2021
Police Powers and Protections Bill (see also Serious Violence Bill)	Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill carried over
Prisoners (Disclosure of Information About Victims) Bill	Prisoners (Disclosure of Information About Victims) Act 2020
Private International Law (Implementation of Agreements) Bill	Private International Law (Implementation of Agreements) Act 2020
Renters' Reform Bill	Not introduced ⁹⁷

⁹⁴ See information on the Health and Care Bill in section 3.1 and on the Draft Health Service Safety Investigations Bill in section 2.3

⁹⁵ See information on the Health and Care Bill in section 3.1

⁹⁶ See information on the Online Harms Bill in section 3.1

⁹⁷ See information on the Renters' Reform Bill in section 3.1

Bill	Summary of progress
Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Bill	Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Act 2020
Sentencing Bill	Sentencing Act 2020
Serious Violence Bill (see also Police Powers and Protections Bill)	Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill carried over
Telecommunications Infrastructure (Leasehold Property) Bill	Telecommunications Infrastructure (Leasehold Property) Act 2021
Telecommunications (Connectivity) Bill	Not introduced ⁹⁸
Thomas Cook Compensation Bill	Not introduced ⁹⁹
Trade Bill	Trade Act 2021
Windrush (Compensation Scheme) Bill	Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Act 2020

The Government introduced other Bills during the course of the 2019-21 Session.

A full list of Government Bills introduced in 2019-21, and details of their progress can be found by using the drop-down menus on the [Find a Bill](#) webpage on the parliamentary website.

Not all Government Bills were enacted. A list of Government Bills that have been carried over is given in section 2.1.

⁹⁸ The Government stated in March 2020, in [response to its consultation](#) on connecting new build properties, that it intended to use powers in the *Building Act 1984* to amend the *Building Regulations 2010* to place obligations on housing developers to install gigabit broadband in new build properties, up to a commercial cost cap and to ensure all new build homes have the infrastructure to support gigabit capable connections. A further technical consultation is expected before changes to legislation are made. Further information is provided in section 4.5 of the Library briefing, [Gigabit-capable broadband in the UK](#) (4 March 2021)

⁹⁹ There is no information on the Thomas Cook Compensation Bill

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