



QUEEN'S SPEECH 2016

SUMMARY



Contents



- Page 3  Constitutional
- Page 6  Devolution and Local Government
- Page 10  Economy and Finance
- Page 14  Home Affairs, Defence and Justice
- Page 18  Transport
- Page 21  Health and Social Care
- Page 25  Education
- Page 28  International Development
- Page 30  About the Authors



Constitutional Affairs – Scotland

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

Aims:

- To work closely with the Scottish Parliament to ensure new powers can be successfully implemented.
- To establish lasting devolution settlement for a stable United Kingdom.

Key facts:

- The Scotland Act 2016 provides the Scottish Parliament devolved significant new powers to the Scottish Parliament.

Documents:

[‘The Scotland Act 2016’](#)

Constitutional Affairs – Northern Ireland

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

Aims:

- To deliver the remaining commitments of the Stormont House Agreement and the Fresh Start Agreement.
- To have an effective working relationship with the new Northern Ireland executive.

Key facts:

- The Stormont House Agreement and the Fresh Start Agreement, together provide £2.5 billion additional spending power for the Stormont House executive.



Constitutional Affairs

– Wales

- A draft of the Wales Bill will be published 20 October 2016.

Constitutional Affairs

– The UK Parliament

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

Aims:

- To ensure that the House of Commons remains decisive in the passage of secondary legislation through Parliament.

Key facts:

- The Government is currently considering Lord Strathclyde’s 2015 Review, and will respond to its conclusions.

Documents:

[‘The Strathclyde Review: Secondary Legislation and the primacy of the House of Commons’](#)

Constitutional Affairs

– Overseas electors

Aims:

- To fulfil manifesto commitment to reforming rules governing the ability of residents overseas to take part in elections.

Key facts:

- The Government will legislate to extend the franchise for British citizens living abroad to vote in both UK parliamentary and European parliamentary elections.
- The Bill would allow British citizens who have been resident overseas longer than 15 years to continue to vote in UK elections.



Bill of Rights

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

Aims:

- To create a British Bill of Rights and reform human rights law.

Key facts:

- The Bill of Rights would be based on those rights currently in the European Convention on Human Rights.
- The Bill will provide for the UK common law tradition to be taken into account.
- A consultation will take place once the proposals have been published.
- A timeframe on the publication of the proposals is yet to be announced.

Devolution:

- This Bill is for the UK Parliament.



Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill

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

Aims:

- Adapt the way that England plans for major infrastructure projects.
- Strengthen neighbourhood planning by making local government more transparent to support groups, by improving the process through which plans are reviewed and updated.
- Make certain that pre-commencement planning conditions will only be applied by local planning authorities in cases of the utmost necessity.
- Set in place measures to prevent the misuse of certain planning conditions.

- Set in place legislation that will clarify over 100 years of conflicting statute and case law in regards to compulsory purchase, including establishing a new statutory framework for agreeing compensation.
- Establishment of the National Infrastructure Commission on a statutory basis.
- Enabling the privatisation of Land Registry.

Key Facts

- Plans for housebuilding are now over 10% higher in the areas that a neighbourhood plan has been set in place as opposed to areas with only the council's Local Plan.

Devolution

- The substantive provisions within this Bill would apply to England and Wales, however the measure relating to the National Infrastructure Commission will apply across the UK.



Northern Powerhouse

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

Developments:

- £15 billion spent on transport across the North and greenlighting HS3 between Manchester and Leeds.
- The creation of Transport for the North and providing it with £200 million and new leadership in the form of John Cridland.
- Significant road investment including an additional £161 million to aid in the transformation of the M62 and £75 million to improve other road links such as the A66 and A69.
- Agreeing devolution deals in Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Tees Valley and the North East. As of 2017 these 5 areas will all have Mayors.

- £235 million invested in science to support the Sir Henry Royce Institute.
- £20 million a year invested towards the Northern Powerhouse Schools Strategy.

Wales Bill

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

Aims:

- Introduce a reserved powers model to make clear the division of powers between the National Assembly for Wales and Westminster.
- Devolve new powers to the National Assembly for Wales over energy, transport and elections in Wales.
- Give the National Assembly for Wales control over its own affairs, including its name, its size, electoral system and voting age.

Devolution



- Remove the requirement for a referendum before a proportion of income tax is devolved.

Key Facts

- The Bill will see the conferred powers model introduced by the Government of Wales Act 2006 replaced with a reserved powers model like the system used for Scotland.
- The draft Wales Bill was published in October 2015.

Devolution

- The Bill will apply mainly in Wales.

Relevant Documents:

[Draft Wales Bill](#)

Local Growth and Jobs Bill

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

Aims:

- Give local councils an incentive to support business and develop their local economy by allowing them to retain 100% of their business rates.
- Strengthen local councils’ powers to cut business rates.
- Give combined authority Mayors the power to raise additional funding for infrastructure with the backing of local businesses.

Key Facts

- Local authorities will be allowed to retain all £26 billion of revenue collected from business rates, to spend on local Government services.
- Since 2013, local Government has retained 50% of business rates, providing a direct link between business rates growth and the amount of money councils have to spend on services.

Devolution



- There have been 10 Devolution Deals agreed so far with local areas in England, devolving more powers and, in nine, establishing newly-elected Mayors.

Devolution

- The Bill applies to England only.





National Citizen Service Bill

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

Aims:

- To expand National Citizen Service by encouraging more young people to take advantage of the programmes offered.
- Place the National Citizen Service on a statutory footing.
- Strengthen links between young people and schools, local governments and central governments to promote participation in the programme. This will be done by putting a duty on all schools, on local authorities to promote the NCS, and for the relevant Secretary of State to report on their progress.
- Ensure there is sufficient accountability for the NCS delivery body and improving the administrative and funding arrangements between government and the body.

Key points:

- Since NCS began, over 200,000 young people have taken part in the programme.
- There has been a 46% increase in the number of participants between 2013 and 2014.
- NCS is now recognised by UCAS.
- 21% of NCS participants were eligible for free school meals, compared with around 8% of young people of the same age in the general population and 27% from non-white backgrounds compared to 19% of the general population.

Devolution:

Discussions are underway with the devolved administrations about extending the Bill to their jurisdictions, employing legislative consent motion.



Digital Economy Bill

“Measures will be brought forward to create the right for every household to access high speed broadband. Legislation will be introduced to ... make the United Kingdom a world leader in the digital economy.”

Aims of the Bill:

- Reforming the means through which Government uses data to deliver public services.
 - Strengthening protections for citizens in the digital world.
 - To put the UK at the forefront of digital infrastructure.
 - Introduce a Broadband Universal Service Obligation, this would provide all citizens and businesses with the legal right to have a fast broadband connection.
 - The Bill will also include a measure to direct Ofcom to review the minimum broadband speed requirement over time to ensure that it is still acceptable for modern life.
- Introduce a new Electronic Communications Code which would aim to lower the costs of building a mobile and superfast broadband infrastructure.
 - Ofcom will be granted the power to order communications providers to release data in the interests of the consumer and competition.
 - New measures to make switching providers easier for consumers.
 - Supporting the digital industries through addressing any differences in online/offline copyright laws.
 - New powers will be granted to public authorities so that they can share information to combat public sector fraud.
 - New powers will be granted to public authorities so that they can cut the billions of overdue debts owed to government this will be done through early identification of and help for people with debts spread over numerous public agencies



- Protecting children from online pornography by requiring age verification for access to all sites containing any pornographic material.

Key Facts:

- The Government has estimated that the alterations to the Electronic Communications Code will result in over £1 billion of savings for the communication sector over the course of 20 years.
- A Universal Services Obligation set at 10Mbps has the potential to help one million UK premises who might have been left behind.

Devolution

- Communications, broadcasting and intellectual property are reserved matters.

Pensions Bill

Aims of the Bill:

- Putting in place essential protections for people in Master Trusts.

- Master Trusts will have to demonstrate that their schemes will meet strict new criteria.
- To remove barriers that prevent consumers accessing their pension's savings flexibly.
- Amending the delivery of financial guidance to consumers.
- Placing a cap on early exit fees that are charged by trust-based occupational pension schemes.
- A new pensions guidance body will be created, bringing together Pensions Wise, the pensions services offered by the Money Advice Service and the Pensions Advisory service.
- Introduce a money guidance body that will replace the Money Advice Service.

Key Facts:

- Over six million people have already been automatically enrolled into workplace pensions since 2012



- Just under 400,000 pension pots have been accessed flexibly as of January 2016, under the new freedoms with many providers offering their customers a wide range of customers.

Devolution

- In relation to Master Trusts, exit charges and pensions guidance bodies there are no devolved administration interests in respect of Scotland or Wales and Northern Ireland makes its own legislation in relation to pensions.
- The money guidance body will operate across the UK.



Prison and Courts Reform Bill

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

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

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

Aims:

- To give governors increased freedom on education, healthcare and security.
- To reform courts and tribunals by using technology to modernise and increase efficiency.

Key Facts:

- Within one year of release 46% of all prisoners go on to re-offend.
- Upon going to prison 47% of prisoners have no qualifications, 42% had been expelled or permanently excluded when at school.
- 13% of prisoners claim to have never had a job.

Devolution

- The Bill would largely apply to England and Wales, when it deals with issues which are devolved the relevant administrations would be worked with.

Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill

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

Home Affairs, Defence and Justice



Aims:

- To provide powers with increased strength to protect the public by disrupting extremists.
- Allow law enforcement the required powers to deal with extremism in all its forms.
- To protect children from adults who hold extreme views and deliver education in unregulated environments through increased powers given to the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- A consultation will be held on the powers government should be given to tackle extremism where councils do not.
- More legislation will be considered to integrate those communities who are most separate.

Key Facts:

- The Prevent strategy worked with over 2,790 institutions and almost 50,000 individuals in 2015.

- 130 community based projects were delivered in 2015 with the aim of reducing vulnerabilities to extremist narratives, these reached over 25,000 people. More than half of these projects were delivered to young people in schools.

Investigatory Powers Bill

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

Aims:

- To make the law fit for purpose in a digital age.
- Guarantee the security and intelligence bodies have the powers they need to keep the country safe.

Home Affairs, Defence and Justice



Key Facts:

- This Bill will bring the powers law enforcement and the intelligence agencies have together to gather communications. It will make these powers and the checks and balances on them more understandable.
- A new Investigatory Powers Commissioner will be appointed to review how these powers are being used.

Policing and Crime Bill

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

Aims:

- To make police forces more efficient through the joining up of emergency services.
- Increase the democratic accountability concerning police forces and fire and rescue services.
- Increase protection for people who are under investigation by the police.

Key Facts:

- Closer collaboration between emergency services will achieve greater value for money for the taxpayer.
- Transparency will be increased when it comes to police complaints and police disciplinary.
- The use of police cells as ‘safe places’ for people with mental health issues under the age of 18 is banned.

National Security

“My Government will continue to safeguard national security.”

“My Ministers will invest in Britain’s armed forces, honouring the military covenant and meeting the NATO commitment to spend two per cent of national income on defence.”

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

Home Affairs, Defence and Justice



Developments:

- The UK's Defence budget is £35 billion, this is the biggest in the EU, the fifth largest in the world and the second largest in the NATO.
- The budget for the Ministry of Defence will rise by 0.5% above inflation every year until 2020-21.
- Four new submarines will cost £31 billion to build, test and commission this will be spread out over 35 years.

Small Charitable Donations Bill

Aims:

- The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme will be reformed and simplified, making it easier for charities to claim and benefit.
- It will also enable groups who operate from a community building to benefit from a top-up to donations collected away from that building.

Key Facts:

- The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme allows charities to see the benefits of Gift Aid on small monetary donations by enabling them to obtain a top-up payment where it is not practical to obtain a Gift Aid declaration, such as bucket collections.
- Where the basic rate of income tax is 20%, a small donations income of £5,000 will see a top-up payment of £1,250 per year to charities (increasing to £2,000 from April 2016).
- A total of £21 million of Government support was claimed in 2014-15 by 19,300 charities through the scheme.

Devolution

- The Bill will apply to the whole of the UK.



Modern Transport Bill

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

Aims of the bill

- Foster the creation of new technologies that will create safer journeys.
- Remove red tape and set in place a framework that would encourage innovation
- Increase the UK's role as a world-leading transport manufacturing base.
- Reduce congestion, something which has been estimated to cost the UK economy £20 Billion every year
- To make the UK the front-runner in autonomous and driverless vehicles ownership and use
- Create the framework for the UK's first spaceport.

Key Facts

- Trials of driverless cars are currently taking place in a number of areas such as Greenwich, Milton Keynes, Coventry and Bristol.
- It is expected that there will be cars or pods driving themselves towards the end of this year.
- There have been 60,755 eligible electric cars registered since the Plug-In Car Grant in January 2011.

Devolution

- A number of the Bill's provisions would only apply to Great Britain and some would apply to the United Kingdom as a whole
- Aviation and maritime are reserved therefore these aspects of the Bill would be applicable to all the UK. The measures included regarding driverless or autonomous vehicles would affect only Great Britain



Bus Services Bill

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

Aims:

- The Bus Services Bill will provide the option for combined authority areas with directly elected Mayors to take over responsibility for the running of local bus services.
- Provide areas with the option to franchise bus services.
- Enable local authorities to set required standards of service with bus providers, such as branding, ticketing and the frequencies of services.
- Data about routes, fares and times will be made available across the country to allow app developers to produce new journey planners and other products using the freely available data and enable passengers to access real time information.

Key Facts:

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

Devolution:

- The Bill applies to England only.

Relevant Documents:

- [Local bus services market investigation](#)



High Speed Rail

High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill

The aim of this Bill is to:

- Ensure the Government has the legislative power to start Phase One of High Speed 2 (HS2). On becoming an Act, planning permission will be granted for the railway between London and the West Midlands.
- To ensure the Government delivers on its manifesto promise to build High Speed 2.

Key points:

HS2 will:

- Increase space on the rail network to encourage sustainable economic growth.
- Help rebalance the economy by improving connectivity.
- Create new jobs, encourage urban regeneration, boost skills and employment.



NHS (Overseas Visitors Charging) Bill

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

Aims:

- The recovery of costs from migrants who use the NHS.
- Tighten the rules on charging migrants and visitors to the UK for NHS treatment.
- Build upon measures already introduced e.g. the immigration Health Surcharge.

Key facts:

- The number of services for which overseas visitors and migrants can be charged by the NHS will be extended.
- Measures will be introduced to reduce the number people coming from the EEA able to claim free NHS healthcare.

- Costs recovered can be re-invested into the NHS.

Devolution:

- Due to the 2016 devolved elections, Ministerial agreement on the extent of the legislation is expected at the earliest to be late May.

Consultation:

[‘Overseas Visitors and Migrants: extending charges for NHS Services’](#)

Seven Day NHS

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

Aims:

- To provide access to more NHS services seven days a week.
- As a result of this people will be able to see GPs on the evenings and weekends.



- The same level of consultant will be available to patients seven days a week.

Key facts:

- The Government committed an additional £10 billion a year until 2020.
- 17.2 million patients have been able to visit a GP thanks to extended access.
- NHS England declared an additional £500 million of funding per year until 2020/21 for primary care, this is part of the £2.4 billion being given to GP funding.
- Seven day hospital services will be rolled out as follows:
 - 25% of the population by March 2017.
 - 50% of the population by March 2018.

100% of the population by 2020.

Soft drinks industry levy

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

Aims:

- Tackle the problem of obesity.
- Promote a reduction in sugar content by manufacturers.
- Prompt consumers to choose cheaper, healthier products.

Key facts:

- The industry levy will be included in the Finance Bill 2017.
- It will affect producers and importers.
- It will become effective from April 2018.
- The Government will invest the proceeds from the levy into health initiatives for school-aged children.



- A consultation will be held to establish the technical details of the tax.

Devolution:

This Bill will apply to the whole of the UK.

In England the revenue of the levy will be used to:

- Double the primary school PE and sport premium to £320 million per year from September 2017.
- Provide up to £285 million a year to give 25% of secondary schools greater opportunity to lengthen school days and offer a wider range of activities.
- Provide £10 million annually to expand breakfast clubs in up to 1,600 schools, coming into effect in September 2017.

Children and Social Work Bill

“A Bill will be introduced to ensure that children can be adopted by new families without delay, improve the standard of social work and

opportunities for young people in care in England.”

Aims:

- A new ‘Care Leavers Covenant’ will be introduced to make sure that children leaving care make a good start in adult life. This will be supported by a statutory duty which requires local authorities to publish the services and standards of treatment that care leavers are entitled to.
- Where it is the best outcome for the child, to tip the balance in favour of permanent adoption in order to help give children stability.
- Introduce more demanding professional standards and establish a regulator for social care in order to drive improvements within the profession.
- To encourage more effective care by giving frontline services more freedom to work together to safeguard children and trial innovative approaches.



- Extending the right to a Personal Adviser to the age of 25. This is someone who will ensure care leavers receive adequate support as they transition into adulthood.
- A duty on local authorities and schools to promote educational achievement for adopted children and those in the long-term care of family members or guardians.

Key facts:

- 70% of Britain's sex workers and a quarter of prisoners have been in care. A third of care leavers become homeless in the two years after they leave the care system.
- There has been a steady increase in the number of looked after children, which is now at almost 70,000 per year. 10,000 children leave care each year and in 2015 39% of former care leavers aged 19-21 were not in education, employment or training (NEET).

- There are currently 90,000 qualified social workers in England, of whom 27,000 work in child and family social work. Sir Martin Narey's 2014 review concluded that more needs to be done to ensure people enter the profession with the knowledge and skills to work effectively.

Devolution:

- The majority of the Bill covers devolved matters and applies to England only.
- The provisions concerning adoption decisions apply to both England and Wales.
- Decisions of the court are a reserved matter.
- Decisions of adoption agencies are devolved matters and the Government has engaged the Welsh administration on those clauses.



Higher Education and Research Bill

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

Aims:

- Increase competition and choice by lowering barriers for new universities to enter the higher education marketplace. Providers who want to enter the 18 May 2016 system and enable their students to receive funding will undergo rigorous testing. Those institutions which are financially unsustainable or poor quality would not be allowed to enter.
- Maintain the UK’s position as a world leader in research and innovation, maximising its investment of over £6 billion a year in research and innovation.

- Raise standards and give clear information to students about the quality of teaching, a new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) will be introduced.
- Increase transparency by requiring universities to publish information about application, offer and progression rates, broken down by ethnicity, gender and socio-economic background. This will highlight those institutions which need to focus more on widening participation.

Key facts:

- Despite the quality of education in the UK, there is a ‘skills gap’ in the number of qualified applicants for jobs. This is especially pertinent in STEM areas.
- Over 60% of students said they feel their course is worse than expected and a third don’t believe it represents value for money. Over a third (34%) of graduates said they would make a different decision about their course choice if they knew what they knew now.



Devolution:

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

Related documents

Consultation

[Higher education: teaching excellence, social mobility and student choice](#)

Green paper

[Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice](#)

White paper

[Success as a Knowledge Economy: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility & Student Choice](#)

Education for All Bill

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

Aims:

- To move towards an all academy school system and ensure that all schools are funded fairly through a National Funding Formula, which will allocate funding efficiently.
- Improve outcomes for pupils who are let down by fundamental reforms to alternative provision for excluded pupils.
- Improve the productivity gap between the UK economy and others by delivering on the plans set out in the forthcoming Skills Plan.



- Giving local authorities a new role, by transferring responsibility for school improvement from the Local Authority to head teachers and other figures in the school system.
- Making schools accountable for the education of excluded pupils and giving them responsibility for finding the right education provider.

Key facts:

- 19% of primary schools and 66% of secondary schools are now academies or free schools. Over the last five years more than 3,600 schools have voluntarily become academies.

Devolution:

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

Life Chances Strategy

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

- The Government will introduce a Life Chances Strategy, which will set out the Government’s plan for improving the life chances of disadvantaged children. It will include a set of indicators to measure these chances.
- The indicators will measure the root causes of poverty and will explore what more can be done to tackle deep rooted social problems.



International Development Spending

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

Aims:

- In order to help the world’s most vulnerable and protect Britain’s national interest, the Government reaffirms its commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on overseas development.
- To invest in global stability, DFID will spend at least 50% of its budget in fragile states and regions every year of this parliament.

Key facts:

- This Government reaffirms its commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on overseas development.

- The Government has helped over 60 million people get access to better sanitation, clean water and improved hygiene. It has helped 11 million children through school.
- At least 50% of DFID’s budget will be spent in fragile states and regions in every year of this Parliament.

UK role in the world

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

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

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

International Development



Key facts:

- The UK has offered a very wide range of programmes aimed to provide support to Ukraine in issues such as humanitarian assistance, economic reform and governance and military training.
- As of today the UK is the only major country in the world which honours both the UN target of spending 0.7% of GNI on development and the NATO target of spending 2% of our GDP on defence.
- The total humanitarian financial pledge in regards to the Syria Crisis is now over £2.3 billion, which is the UK's largest financial response to a single humanitarian crisis ever.



About the Authors



Summary by Vuelio Political Services Content Team

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About Vuelio

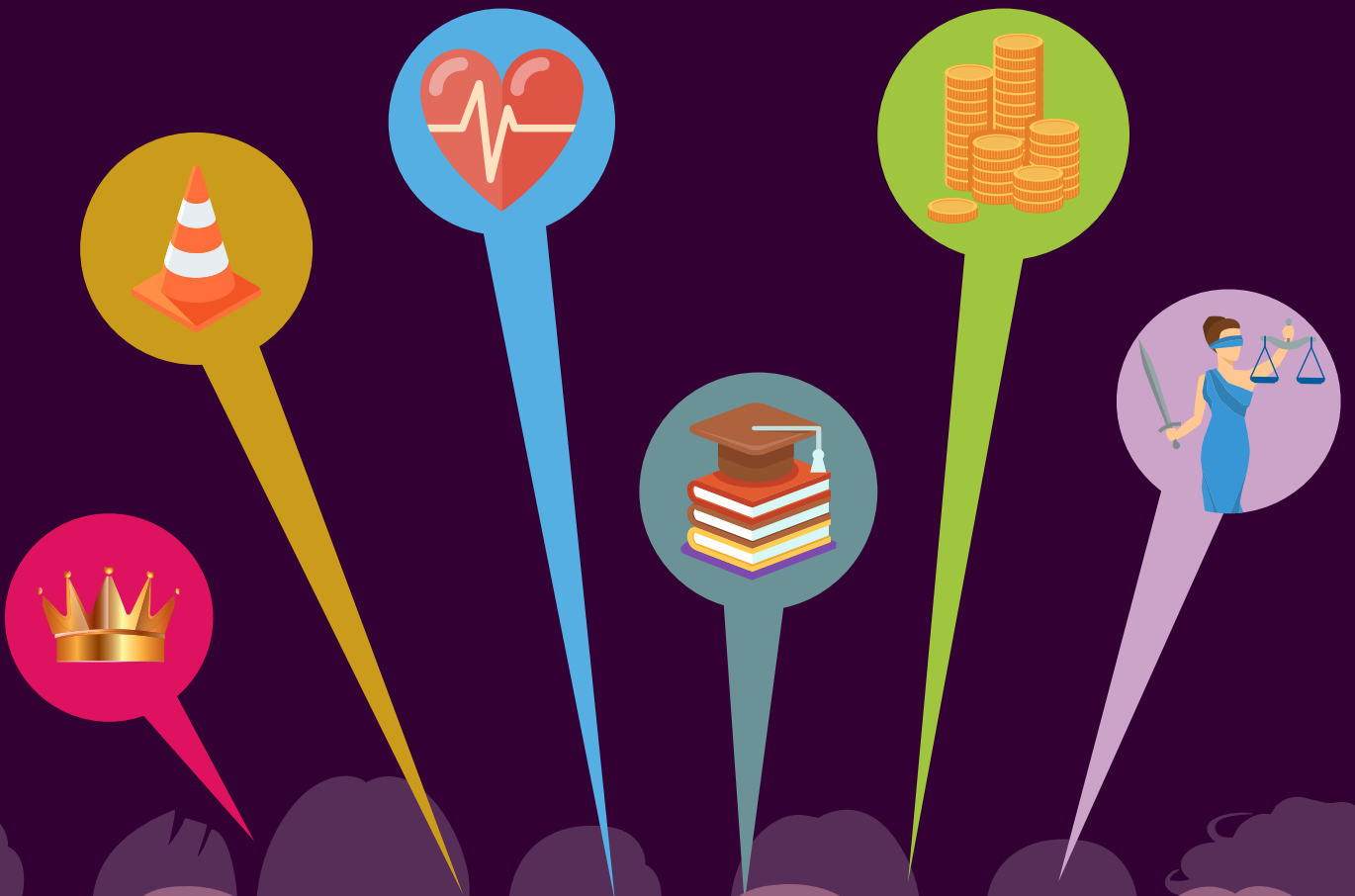
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QUEEN'S SPEECH 2016

STAKEHOLDER REACTION & MEDIA ANALYSIS



- Page 3  Introduction
- Page 4  Media Analysis
- Page 5  Journalist Top Tweets
- Page 7  Constitutional
- Page 8  Economy and Finance
- Page 9  Home Affairs, Defence and Justice
- Page 10  Health and Social Care
- Page 11  Education
- Page 12  Transport

Introduction

The Queen's Speech barely rose above a whisper today, as David Cameron appeared to put any potential controversy very much on the backburner so as not to stir things up ahead of the forthcoming EU referendum.

Some interesting proposals somehow made it through. The prison and courts reform bill centred on training, rehabilitation and education, and could mean the biggest change to the penal system since the Victorian era. This might have been designed as provocation to the stereotypical right-winger Brexiter. But other key Home Office proposals – including the “snoopers’ charter” – were merely carried over from the previous session.

With a Queen's Speech this vanilla (and this short – the Mirror's Kevin McGuire tweeted that most pub menus were longer) it was almost inevitable

that the day's most interesting action took place on the sidelines. Dennis Skinner was not willing to forgo his annual Queen's Speech gag, and kicked things off with a “hands-off-the-BBC” warning. And the day's biggest irony saw House Wifi go down to coincide with the announcement of a Digital Economy Bill designed to make broadband access a universal right.

Cameron described it as a “One Nation Queen's Speech from a progressive, One Nation, Conservative government” – but prison reform aside, it was impossible to see today as anything other than an attempt to instil some calm before the approaching EU storm in a less than unified government.

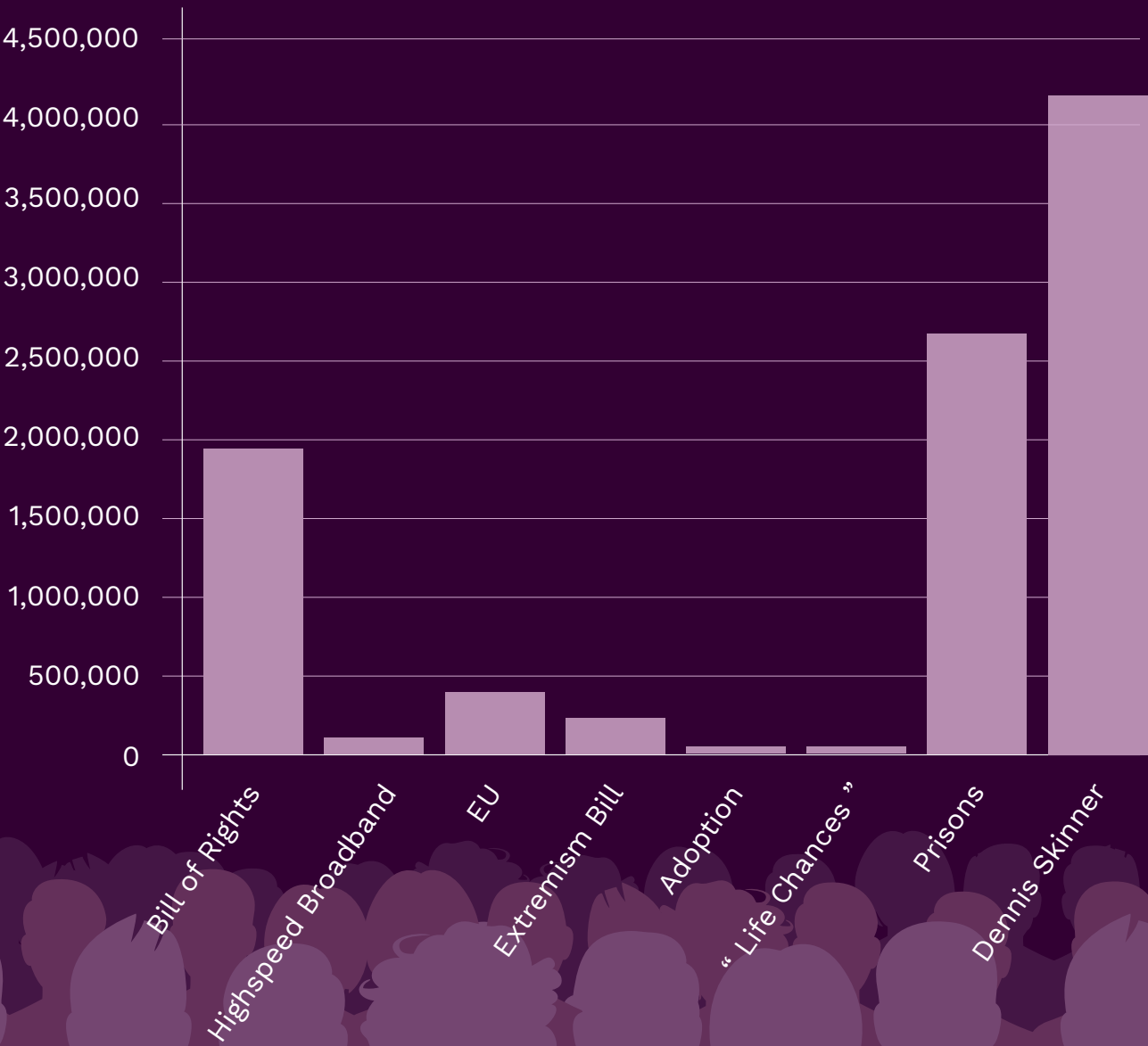
Kelly Scott
Head of Political Services
Vuelio

Media Analysis

Dennis Skinner made the biggest impact on social media this year, after he upheld tradition and interrupted proceedings to protest the Government's changes to the BBC. In terms of new legislation, the Government's wide sweeping prison reform quickly started gaining traction.

The British Bill of Rights also made an impact, reflecting the controversial nature of the proposal. Meanwhile, neither the Government's new hot phrase "life chances" or changes to the adoption and foster care system seemed to have any major impact on social media users.

Twitter Mentions



Journalist Top Tweets
ranked in order of Vuelio influence rating

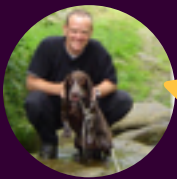


83

Paul Waugh

@paulwaugh

“ Skinner resumes his constitutional role. Tells Black Rod: “Hands off the BBC!” #QueensSpeech ”



78

Norman Smith

@BBCNormanS

“ IDS attacks Queens Speech for “jettisoning or watering down” key legislation in “helter skelter” effort to win EU referendum ”



78

Laura Kuenssberg

@bbclaurak

“ Today’s Queen’s Speech measures not exactly small beer, but probably a few pints rather than the full keg ”



74

Richard Wellings

@RichardWellings

“ Ending the War on Drugs would do far more to cut crime and reduce social problems than prison reform. #QueensSpeech ”



70

Jonathon Walker

@jonwalker121

“ Plans to make every school an academy are still going ahead btw - it’s just happening in a roundabout way #QueensSpeech ”

Journalist Top Tweets

ranked in order of Vuelio influence rating



David Paine
@DavidAPaine

“ Bus Services Bill suggests only mayoral combined authorities will get “London-style powers to franchise local services”. #QueensSpeech ”



Faisal Islam
@faisalislam

“ “Academies” not mentioned directly by the Queen, unlike past two years ”



Steve Hawkes
@steve_hawkes

“ Jeremy Corbyn gives his backing to the Sugar Tax - despite the disproportionate burden it will place on many working class Labour voters ”



Annabelle Dickson
@NewsAnnabelle

“ The irony. Broadband goes down in Westminster press gallery after Digital Economy Bill announced in the #QueensSpeech ”



Laura McInerney
@miss_mcinerney

“ “Forcing schools to “promote” anything is about the lamest laziest policy I can think of ”

Stakeholder Reaction: Constitutional



Children's Society:

"The new Bill of Rights must uphold and protect the rights of children provided by the Human Rights Act. Anything that weakens or endangers those rights would recklessly turn the clock back and leave poor and vulnerable children more exposed to abuse and neglect."

Bright Blue:

"The introduction of a British Bill of Rights offers an opportunity to strengthen human rights, and public attitudes towards them. However, the vital document is the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) rather than the Human Rights Act."



The Law Society:

"The Law Society remains fully committed to the rights enshrined in the European Convention of Human Rights, and to Britain's membership of the Convention. We will be considering the draft Bill carefully to ensure that it does not water down the rights we currently enjoy."

British Institute of Human Rights:

"Whilst we still await the details, we are saddened the Government is ploughing ahead with plans to scrap our Human Rights Act."

CIFAS

“Cifas welcomes the Digital Economy Bill and Criminal Finances Bill to help tackle #financialcrime”

CBI

“Prioritising the digital revolution, which is transforming the face of modern business, is a key step to propelling the UK’s productivity. Ensuring that broadband reaches all corners of the country will breed a new generation of companies in an increasingly competitive environment”



TechUK on Digital Economy Bill

“Powering the UK’s digital economy topped the government’s to do list in today’s Queen’s speech. This reflects the fact that digital is a fundamental enabler of so much that government wants to do”

British Chambers of Commerce

“on most of the issues where business is impatient for action, what’s needed are big decisions – not new legislation. Businesses want decisive action to boost aviation capacity, help companies plug skills gaps, and stop the steady drip of new taxes and costs piled on their bottom lines at a time of significant uncertainty”

Nacro

“In order to truly change the system we have to ask hard and searching questions. We know that incarceration in prisons makes it more likely that an individual will offend, yet at the moment we have over 85,000 people in the prison system.”

Clinks

“The voluntary sector’s expertise and strong links to communities will be vital in making prisons truly rehabilitative #Queensspeech”

MEND

Community

“#QueensSpeech: Last year it was the ‘Counter-Extremism Bill’. This year it is sold as the ‘Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill.’”

The Catholic Church

“This is a remarkable opportunity to place reform and redemption at the heart of our prisons. It is only through a properly resourced system focussed on genuinely helping people to turn their lives around that we will create a safer and more civilised society.”



Demos

“Education is clearly important to equip prison leavers with the qualifications they will need to secure employment and a stable life, but it is also worth acknowledging the role that education can play in developing character capabilities – such as self-regulation, empathy and cooperation – which may also prove essential determinants in ex-offenders’ chances of rehabilitation and integration.”

Universities UK

“How universities can balance their obligations to secure free speech within the law and prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism. These are not new issues.”

The Fostering Network

“The Prime Minister is right to want to give children who may be adopted every chance of a positive future, yet his approach only focuses on a minority of children in care – and that does all children a disservice.”

Barnardo’s

“We are concerned Government is creating a two tier system, suggesting foster care is a less effective route when sometimes it is in the best interests of the child. Local authorities and lawyers must never shy away from tough decisions, but the best interests of vulnerable children must always be put first.”

Taxpayers Alliance

“Slapping arbitrary taxes on a few products due to pressure from the taxpayer-funded health lobby will hit the poorest and fail to achieve the desired results.”

TACT

“The Prime Minister has just had the Queen say that Her Government will introduce legislation to “ensure that children can be adopted without delay”. It is a shame that the PM hasn’t spoken to the DFE as that is not in the Bill being published tomorrow.”

Carers Trust

“Young carers have been identified in law as vulnerable. This acknowledgement in law and by Ofsted means that local authorities and schools must step in to stop unsupported caring roles in childhood, which put children’s educational and employment outcomes and life chances at risk. This support and recognition needs to carry on into higher education, so that young adult carers have the same life chances as other young people. We welcome the opportunity to work with government on the development of the Education Bill, Higher Education Bill, Life Chances strategy, and on improving social work, to achieve better outcomes for young carers and young adult carers.”

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

“Obesity is a time-bomb, and one of the most serious threats facing our children. It is also a global issue.”

CentreForum:

“A continued commitment to a fully academised system, as we predicted last week, including seeking powers for academisation in poorly performing local authority areas or where the local authority is no longer viable and removing the school improvement role of local authorities.”

London Councils:

“Today’s Queen’s Speech shows that the government still has ambitions to move towards an all-academy education system and change the way in which local authorities work with schools.”

NASUWT:

“This is a pointless and redundant Bill which serves no real purpose other than to seek to detract attention from the difficulties at the heart of the Conservative Party in the run up to the EU referendum.”

Save the children:

“A child’s education doesn’t just start at school. We must invest in their early years.”

NUT:

“Removing key roles from local authorities, in particular any involvement in school improvement, will not help to achieve a sustainably successful school system. This reckless plan to sever the link between local government, communities and their local schools puts at risk parental engagement in, and democratic scrutiny of, state schools.”

Russell Group:

“We support the Government’s commitment to maintain and build on the world-class research and innovation taking place at our leading universities. Not only are we world-leaders in research but we also punch well above our weight so the Government should be careful about making any substantial changes to a successful system.”



ABI

“Fully automated vehicles will be a safety revolution, set to reduce road accidents and make our roads safer. This is why insurers are 100% behind making driverless vehicles a reality on our roads. Insurers are already working on how to shape the right framework to keep insurance as simple and straightforward as possible for the future of driving.”

Nestle Uk News

“Investing in road and rail links to transport goods and people can help to boost #ukproductivity #QueensSpeech”

UK Cards Association

“The Bus Services Bill will bring new powers - contactless payments should be an option #Queens-Speech”

Royal Aeronautical Society

“The UK has made great progress in this area thanks, in part, to progress with its regulatory framework. The Government must use the proposed Modern Transport Bill to set out how regulation can enable widespread public acceptance of drone operations, how the existing base of small drone operations can be used to enable bigger steps towards drone integration in current airspace and how it will take early advantage of what is happening in the civil market to accelerate the expansion of the industrial base to deliver the substantial benefits available to the national economy.”

Campaign for Better Transport

“Responding to the Queen’s Speech today (18 May) Campaign for Better Transport welcomed the new powers announced in the Bus Services Bill but warned that the Government risks focusing on futuristic technology at the expense of everyday transport.”