



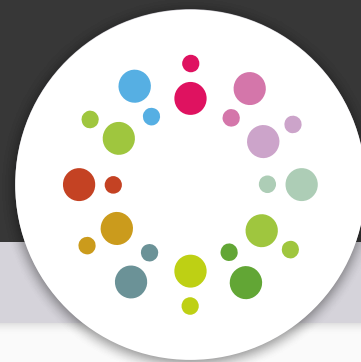
Vuelio

# QUEEN'S SPEECH 2017

SUMMARY, ANALYSIS & REACTION



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The Queen's Speech was meant to have happened this Monday, but it was delayed because of the ongoing negotiations with the Democratic Unionist Party to secure their support for the minority Conservative administration.

Despite the delay, the government still hasn't reached an agreement with the DUP after ten days of talks. Arlene Foster, the DUP's leader, has said that the party will support the government in the votes on the Queen's Speech due on 28th and 29th June, but a full agreement has yet to be reached. Power-sharing in the Northern Irish Assembly has given the DUP plenty of negotiating experience, and the party has warned that they 'can't be taken for granted', accusing the government of acting chaotically during the negotiations.

Damian Green (First Secretary of State) said this morning that 'there's every possibility of a DUP deal' and stressed the commonalities between the two parties: unionism, security,

and Brexit. He also admitted that 'it's possible we won't be able to agree'.

Some sources suggest that a deal might be agreed on Thursday, with other suggesting that the financial terms for the DUP's support are holding up the process. The BBC has reported that the DUP is apparently demanding £2 billion additional spending for Northern Ireland, split equally between the NHS and infrastructure. One condition of DUP support seems to be scrapping some controversial measures from the Conservative manifesto, including cuts to benefits enjoyed by pensioners, such as axing the pension triple-lock or means-testing winter fuel allowance.

However, the DUP aren't the only ones responsible for neutering the Queen's Speech. Many of the measures in the Conservative manifesto were unpopular with the party's own backbenchers. We're entering a parliamentary world in which every single vote will count – just a handful of recalcitrant Tory MPs would be enough to derail a bill.





As a result, many of May's policies have been unceremoniously ditched. For example, grammar schools are very unpopular with some Conservatives – including Nicky Morgan, the former Education Secretary sacked by Theresa May – and weren't mentioned. There's a commitment to fairer energy markets, but not to price caps; popular though this measure was with the public, many Conservative MPs are not happy with this sort of state intervention. As we expected, the government will consult on social care – all thoughts of a 'dementia tax' are forgotten. What of the free vote on fox hunting? It might never have existed. Trump's state visit was also absent, both sides having reportedly got cold feet.

Of course, this Queen's Speech is meant to tide us over to 2019. The government has cancelled next year's, promising a double-length parliamentary session, giving one less parliamentary hurdle to overcome and more time to get Brexit-related legislation through parliament. So, what are we left with? Brexit, above all else, accounting for 8 of the 27 bills.

This morning, Damian Green said that 'this is not a thin Queen's Speech'. Was he right? On Brexit, perhaps, but many of the other bills look rather superficial, even if the issues they deal with are important. There are measures to strengthen the economy: automated vehicles, the space industry, and HS2. Consumer protection will be enhanced: letting fees banned, travel protection improved, and fake whiplash claims cracked down on. There are reforms to the courts, measures to tackle domestic violence, and update the country's data protection law. Most of these will be widely welcomed, but they are not particularly bold or controversial. For better or for worse most of the distinctive features of the Conservative manifesto have been axed.

But will the government survive to implement these plans? Theresa May now looks like a lame duck – she called an election, campaigned on the basis of her own personal mandate, and lost her majority. Her credibility is shot – yet she is still in place. Normally, the summer recess would be a good time for a leadership



election, but to move on to discussing our future relationship with the EU good progress needs to have been made in the Brexit negotiations by the autumn. Changing Prime Minister could put this in jeopardy. Any new Prime Minister would be seen as mandate-less, further reducing the chances of a leadership election. There would also need to be a challenger, and who would want the poison pill of leading a minority government mired in crucial international negotiations? This lowers the chances of a challenge to May's leadership, although many Tories will be wary in case they suffer more damage by leaving her in place. Similarly, the Conservatives are unlikely to want an early general election, with polls suggesting that Labour have now gained a lead over them. The last year should have taught us to be wary of making predictions, but the DUP's desire to avoid a Corbyn-led government coupled with the need not to distract from Brexit negotiations may well allow the government to stagger on until at least 2019, even if it struggles to pass much actual legislation.

With the support of the DUP, the Conservatives should manage to secure support for the Queen's Speech when it is voted on next week, but the preceding debates may well embarrass the government, revealing the extent of its weakness. Ultimately, the watered down ceremony of the speech simply reflected the paucity of the legislative programme it contained.



The very first sentence the Queen uttered was on Brexit, reminding us of just how much time this will take up over the next parliamentary session. As she said, 'My government's priority is to secure the best possible deal as the country leaves the European Union.' In parliamentary terms this is to be achieved through eight different bills.

Of these eight, the most significant is the Repeal Bill (previously known as the Great Repeal Bill), which has two, simple-sounding, aims. The first is to repeal the European Communities Act 1972, and the second to make EU law into UK law when we leave. Unfortunately, the latter is rather more complex than it seems. Simple transposition will not always work: many legal provisions only make sense in the context of being an EU member and will need changing to reflect the new reality. The new bill will give the government temporary powers to amend the law through secondary legislation which does not need parliamentary approval – what is known as a 'Henry VIII clause'. This power is controversial because it reduces parliament's

ability to scrutinise changes to the law, introducing the risk that ministers could make changes without MPs being able to vote on them. The alternative, requiring each change to be considered by parliament, would take time that the country probably doesn't have. There is a certain irony to the name of the bill, given that much of its effect will be to incorporate EU legislation, not to dismiss it.

The other seven bills share one common aim: each takes an area of government where new powers need to be established as we leave the EU and makes the necessary changes. Thus, we get bills for customs, trade, immigration, fisheries, agriculture, nuclear safeguards, and international sanctions. In each case the government announces that it will be creating a new framework, but gives little hint of what will be in it. Now that the Brexit clock is steadily counting down to our exit, it will be important for the government to put some flesh on these legislative bones sooner rather than later.

As Brexit progresses, the government has committed to intensifying its work with



the business community, to keep the UK Parliament as informed as the European Parliament, and to engage with the devolved administrations. Given the opacity of the Brexit process so far, more clarity would be welcome – particularly if the government wants to stop the more transparent European Commission from setting the news agenda.

The new Leader of the House of Commons, Andrea Leadsom, will certainly have her work cut out for her in the months ahead!



## Repeal Bill

“A bill will be introduced to repeal the European Communities Act and provide certainty for individuals and businesses.”

### Aims

- End the authority of European law in the UK.
- Provide a functioning statute book for Parliament and other devolved legislatures where necessary, enabling them to carry out changes to laws.

### Key facts

- References to “EU law” or “EU obligations” will need to be repealed or amended.
- In the cases in which law will no longer be relevant at all, the Government will have the power to amend or remove the legislation.
- In the cases in which law no longer functions as intended, the Government will be able to amend or repeal the regulations.

### Devolution

- The Repeal Bill applies to the whole of the UK

## Customs Bill

“New bills on trade and customs will help to implement an independent trade policy”

### Aims

- Replace EU customs legislation with new domestic legislation and make changes to elements of the indirect taxes system.

### Key facts

- The UK maintained 5th place globally in the World Bank logistic performance index in 2016.
- The UK handled 55 million customs declarations in 2016 – 99% electronically.
- The UK collects around £28 billion in import VAT per year, almost £8 billion in excise duties on imports and over £3 billion in Customs Duty.

### Devolution

- The Custom Bill applies to the whole of the UK. Customs, VAT, and excise regimes are reserved matters.





## Trade Bill

“New bills on trade and customs will help to implement an independent trade policy.”

### Aims

- Support the UK in making a smooth exit from the EU.
- Ensure that UK businesses can benefit from trade with the rest of the world.
- Protect UK businesses from unfair trading practices.

### Key facts

- In 2016, the value of exports to the UK economy was £547.6 billion, up 23.2% on 2010 and up 5.4% on 2015.
- In 2015, the value of imports was £584.6 billion, up 20.1% on 2010 and up 6.8% on 2015.
- Goods exports represented around 55% and service exports represented around 45% of all UK exports in 2016.
- A record-breaking number of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects coming into the UK in 2015/16 at 2,213, up 11% on 2014/15.

- The UK has established nine working groups with 15 countries to improve ways of progressing trade and investment relationships.

## Devolution

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

“This will be complemented by legislation to ensure that the United Kingdom makes a success of Brexit, establishing new national policies on immigration.”

### Aims

- Allow the Government to end the EU’s rules on free movement of EU nationals in the UK.
- Make the migration of EU nationals subject to UK law once the UK has left the EU.

## Devolution

- The Immigration Bill applies to the whole the UK.

## Fisheries Bill

“This will be complemented by legislation to ensure that the United Kingdom makes a



success of Brexit, establishing new national policies on [...] fisheries.”

## Aims

- Enable the UK to control access to its waters and introduce fishing quotas.

## Key facts

- The seafood sector contributes £1.3 billion to the economy, employing 34,600 people. It is a key industry for coastal communities across the UK.
- In 2015, there were over 6,000 UK fishing vessels, which landed 708,000 tonnes of fish, of a value of £775 million.
- In 2015, EU vessels caught 683,000 tonnes – worth £484 million – in UK waters. UK vessels in comparison only caught 111,000 tonnes – a revenue of £114 million – in EU Member States’ Waters.

## Devolution

- Certain aspects of the Bill will apply to the whole of the UK, as international matters are not devolved. Devolved administrations will however be consulted to the extent of any legislation.

## Agriculture Bill

“This will be complemented by legislation to ensure that the United Kingdom makes a success of Brexit, establishing new national policies on [...] agriculture.”

## Aims

- Provide stability to farmers.
- Support farmers to compete both domestically and on the global market.

## Key facts

- Agriculture uses 71% of UK land.
- Agriculture contributes around £8.6 billion to the UK economy, employing around 1.5% of the workforce.

## Devolution

- The devolved administrations will be consulted on the extent of any legislation.



## Nuclear Safeguards Bill

“This will be complemented by legislation to ensure that the United Kingdom makes a success of Brexit, establishing new national policies on [...] nuclear safeguards.”

### Aims

- Set up a UK nuclear safeguards regime as the UK leaves the EU and Euratom.

### Key facts

- Nuclear safeguards include reporting and verification arrangements. They ensure that civil nuclear material is not used in an intended way.
- Safeguards are essential for a responsible nuclear state and a prerequisite for civil nuclear trade.

### Devolution

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

## International Sanctions Bill

### Aims

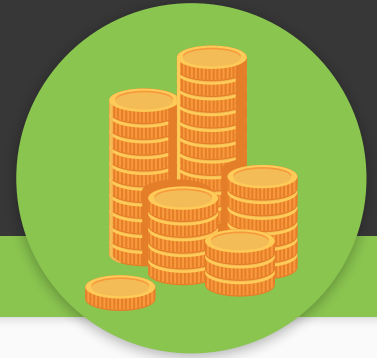
- Enable the UK to impose, update and lift sanctions regimes in order to comply with international objectives and pursue foreign policy and national security objectives.

### Key facts

- The UK currently implements 34 sanction regimes, including country-specific sanctions regimes (i.e. Russia, North Korea and Iran).
- Proof of the efficacy of sanction regimes can be found in the role they played in securing an agreement with Iran on a purely peaceful nuclear programme.

### Devolution

- The Bill will apply to the whole of the UK and will contain provisions to extend its provision to the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.



## Automated and electrical vehicles Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to ensure the United Kingdom remains a world leader in new industries, including electric cars.”

### Aims

- Encourage and support innovation, ensuring that the next stage of automated vehicle technology is invented, designed and operated safely in the UK.
- Maintain the UK’s position as global leader in the market for electric vehicles by improving national charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure.

### Key facts

- The market for automated vehicles in the UK is estimated to be worth £28 billion by 2035.
- The Government is investing over £200 million in research and testing infrastructure.
- Connected and Automated Vehicles have the potential to dramatically reduce road accidents. In 2015, 85.7% of reported accidents that involved personal injury were due to human error.

- Over 100,000 vehicles in the UK have benefitted from the Government Plug-in Car Grant aimed at electric vehicles.

- Over 13,800 ultra-low emission vehicles were registered in the first quarter of 2017, an increase of 17% from 2016.

- £600 million will be spent during this Parliament on supporting the growing market for ultra-low emission vehicles. A further £270 million was introduced in the Autumn Statement 2016.

- The UK is the largest market for electric vehicles in the EU and a global leader in their development and manufacture - 1 in 5 electric cars sold in the EU in 2016 was made in the UK.

### Devolution

- The provisions will apply to England, Wales and Scotland.

## Space Industry Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to ensure the United Kingdom remains a world leader in new industries, including [...] commercial satellites.”

Aims



- Boost the economy, British business, engineering and science by making the UK attractive for commercial spaceflight.

## Key facts

- The UK space industry is valued at around £13 billion to the economy, supporting over 38,000 jobs.
- Emerging markets for small satellite launch represent an opportunity to grow the UK's space sector, creating local jobs and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.
- This Bill will contribute to reaching the goal of growing the UK's share of the global space market from 6.5% to 10%.

## Devolution

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

## High Speed Rail (West Midlands) Bill

"A new bill will also be brought forward to deliver the next phase of highspeed rail."

### Aims

- Provide the resources to build and operate the next stage of the High Speed 2 network from the end of Phase One route at Fradley to a junction with the West Coast Main Line just south of Crewe.

## Key facts

- The HS2 line between Fradley and Crewe is planned to open in 2027.
- This represents a further investment of £3.5 billion in infrastructure.
- Journey time will be reduced by a further 13 minutes between London and Crewe, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow.

## Devolution

- This Bill extends to the whole of the UK but concerns the route between Fradley and Crewe.



## Smart Meter Bill

### Aims

- Oversee implementation of the smart meter rollout and ensure the delivery of the £5.7 billion of net benefits.
- Ensure the continued secure provision of the national smart meter infrastructure throughout the UK.

### Key facts

- Smart meters represent a vital upgrade to energy infrastructure.
- Almost 7 million meters were installed by the end of March 2017.
- Smart meter will save £300 million net per year in 2020 across all UK households, increasing to £1.2 billion a year in 2030.

### Devolution

- This Bill will apply to England, Scotland and Wales.

## National Insurance Contributions Bill

### Aims

- Legislate for the National Insurance Contribution changes announced in the Spring Budget 2016 and Autumn Statement 2016.
- Improve the fairness and simplicity of the NICs system to ensure that vital public services can be funded.

### Devolution

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



## Travel Protection Bill

### Aims:

- Improve protection for holidaymakers by updating the UK's financial protection scheme for holidays.
- Ensure the ATOL protection scheme is always effective and make it easier for UK companies when selling holidays across Europe.

### Key Facts:

- ATOL was set up in 1973 and protects over 20 million holidaymakers each year.

### Devolution

- This Bill is for the UK Parliament.

## Draft Tenants' Fees Bill

"Proposals will be brought forward to ban unfair tenant fees, promote fairness and transparency in the housing market [...]"

### Aims:

- Ban charging tenants 'letting fees' to improve transparency, affordability and competition in

the private rental market.

- Increase competition in the private rental sector, resulting in lower costs overall and a higher quality of service for renters.
- Reduce upfront costs for tenants.

### Key Facts

- The average letting fees charged per tenancy is £223 and median fees charged by agents increased by 60% between 2009-10 and 2014-15 (14% increase in mean). 1 in 7 tenants pay more than £500
- Citizens' Advice Bureau found that 64% of tenants experienced problems paying letting agents' fees and 42% had to borrow money.
- An eight-week consultation on banning letting fees paid by tenants closed on 2 June. Responses will be used to inform the draft Bill, and the Government will respond fully in due course.

### Devolution

- The ban would apply to England only. However, some minor amendments to the Consumer Rights Act 2015 may apply to England and Wales.



## Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill

“Legislation will be brought forward to protect the victims of domestic violence and abuse.”

### Aims:

- Ensure that victims of domestic violence and abuse have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences, safe in the knowledge that the state and justice system will do everything it can to both support them and their children, and pursue their abuser.
- Establish a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner, to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of statutory agencies and local authorities and hold the justice system to account in tackling domestic abuse.
- Ensure that if abusive behaviour involves a child, then the court can hand down a sentence that reflects the devastating life-long impact that abuse can have on the child.

### Key Facts

- 7.7% of women and 4.4% of men reported having experienced some type of domestic

abuse in the last year

- 11% of all offences recorded by the police were flagged as domestic abuse related.
- 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse. Those who witnessed domestic abuse as a child were more likely to experience domestic abuse as an adult.

### Devolution

- The Bill’s substantive provisions would apply to England and Wales only. The functions of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner in relation to Wales are to be determined in consultation with the Welsh Government

## Civil Liability Bill

“Legislation will also be introduced to [...] help reduce motor insurance premiums.”

### Aims:

- Ensure there is a fair, transparent and proportionate system of compensation in place for damages paid to genuinely injured personal injury claimants.
- Tackle the high number and cost of whiplash



# Making Our Country Fairer



claims.

## Key Facts:

- The volume of road traffic accident related personal injury claims is around 50% higher than 10 years ago.
- Motorists could see average savings of around £35 per year passed on through reduced insurance premiums.

## Devolution

- The Bill would apply to England and Wales.

## Courts Bill

“Legislation will also be introduced to modernise the courts system”

## Aims:

- Reform the courts and tribunal system to improve access to justice, making better use of technology and modernising working practices.
- Put an end to the direct cross examination of domestic violence victims by their alleged perpetrators in the family courts and extend the use of virtual hearings, allowing victims to

participate in trials without having to meet their alleged assailant face-to-face.

- Enable those charged with some less serious criminal offences to opt to plead guilty, accept a conviction and pay a statutory fixed penalty online which will free up court time for more serious cases.

## Key Facts

- The intended reforms will result in steady state savings to the taxpayer of £226 million once the reforms are implemented.

## Devolution

- The Bill would apply in full to England and Wales and in part to Northern Ireland and Scotland.

## Financial Guidance & Claims Bill

### Aims:

- Establish a new arm’s-length Single Financial Guidance Body that will replace three existing providers of publicly funded financial guidance. This aims to improve the UK’s financial capability by providing a more joined-up service to help people make effective financial decisions.

# Making Our Country Fairer



- Strengthen the regulation of Claims Management Companies by transferring the regulatory responsibility to the Financial Conduct Authority.

- Improve efficiency by reducing duplication and deliver better value for money.

## Key Facts:

- Financial services claims represent 59% of market turnover and personal injury totals 40%.
- 76% of the public do not believe that Claims Management Companies tell the truth to their customers, and 23% of Claims Management Companies faced regulatory intervention in 2014/15.

## Devolution

- The financial guidance measures would apply to the UK, except the provision of debt advice by the Single Financial Guidance Body which would apply to England only as debt administration is a devolved matter.

## Good Mortgages Bill

### Aims:

- Deliver a consumer credit market that functions well and delivers a good deal for consumers by modernising outdated, Victorian-era legislation.

- Provide increased protections for borrowers who have taken out a mortgage on goods that they own, informing them about their loan and providing safeguards if they get into financial difficulty.

- Remove unnecessary burdens on firms that raise the cost of logbook lending.

- Create new opportunities for sole traders and partnerships to access finance by reforming goods mortgages and helping these businesses raise finance against their assets.

## Key Facts:

- Complying with High Court Registration requirements currently costs each firm about £46 per good mortgage. Their abolition could save firms £2 million per year.
- An average of 40,000 bills of sale were registered over the last five years. An estimated 150 borrowers a year will directly benefit from this bill.

## Devolution

The Bill would apply to England and Wales.

# Making Our Country Safer and More United



## Armed Forces (Flexible Working) Bill

“My Ministers will continue to invest in our gallant Armed Forces [...] and delivering on the Armed Forces Covenant across the United Kingdom.”

### Aims:

- Support recruitment and retention in the Armed Forces by enabling flexible working arrangements for regular Service personnel.
- Provide our Service personnel with modern, flexible opportunities to serve their country in a way that allows them to better accommodate their family responsibilities, and which better suits their lifestyle aspirations and circumstances.
- Ensure that the Service personnel are more representative of the people that they serve and have more choice in the way they live and work.

### Key Facts

- The Armed Forces are working towards a 15% female recruitment target by 2020. There is currently 10.2% female representation.

### Devolution

- The Bill would apply to the whole of the UK,

and would also extend to the Isle of Man and the British Overseas Territories (except Gibraltar).

## Data Protection Bill

“A new law will ensure that the United Kingdom retains its world-class regime protecting personal data”

### Aims:

- Make our data protection framework suitable for our new digital age, allowing citizens to better control their data.
- Ensure our data protection framework is suitable for our new digital age, and cement the UK’s position at the forefront of technological innovation, international data sharing and protection of personal data.
- Allow police and judicial authorities to continue to exchange information quickly and easily with our international partners in the fight against terrorism and other serious crimes

### Key Facts

- Over 70% of all trade in services are enabled by data flows, meaning that data protection is critical to international trade.

# Making Our Country Safer and More United



- The digital sector contributed £118 billion to the economy and employed over 1.4 million people across the UK in 2015.

## Devolution

- This Bill is for the UK Parliament.  
Draft Patient Safety Bill
- Improve how the NHS investigates and learns from mistakes by establishing an independent Health Service Safety Investigation Body.
- Encourage staff and other participants to share information freely with the Health Service Safety Investigation Body by prohibiting the disclosure of information held in connection with its safety investigations, creating a 'safe space' for staff.
- Improve patient safety and instil greater public confidence in the provision of healthcare services in England, ensuring serious incidents can be investigated by an independent and impartial body.

## Key Facts

- The costs of the major investigations into the NHS since 2005 have been approximately £37 million, demonstrating the need for a more systematic approach.
- Unsafe care has been estimated to cost between £1 billion and £2.5 billion each year.

## Devolution

- The Bill would extend to England and Wales and apply in England only.

# Other Legislative Measures



## EU Approvals Bill

### Aims:

- To change international agreements between EU member states and non-EU member states.
- This will allow the UK to fulfil its obligations while it is a member of the EU.
- International competition laws will be strengthened.
- Further stability in the West Balkans by allowing Serbia and Albania observer status at the EU fundamental rights agency.

### Key Facts:

- The EU-Canada competition agreement will allow authorities to share evidence gathered from competition investigations.
- The EU fundamental rights agency provides guidance to EU institution, member states and countries seeking membership, both Albania and Serbia are seeking membership.

### Devolution:

- This would apply to the entire UK.



## **BREXIT: Engagement with Parliament, the Devolved Administrations and Business**

“My Ministers are committed to working with Parliament, the devolved administrations, business and others to build the widest possible consensus on the country’s future outside the European Union.”

### **Background:**

- The Government will continue to support Parliament in its role of scrutiny during the negotiations leading up to BREXIT. The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union has already committed to keeping the UK Parliament as informed as the European Parliament during the process.
- Since the referendum the Government has engaged with numerous businesses and trade bodies across the UK. The Government is keen to have the full support of the business community as they move forward in these negotiations.
- The devolved assemblies will be involved throughout the process. The interests that are unique to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

will be considered throughout the negotiations.

### **Key Facts:**

- The Government has already met with many business from all sectors and regions of the UK since the decision was taken for the United Kingdom to leave the EU.
- Several engagements have taken place between the UK Government and the devolved administrations which have been both bilateral and multilateral.

## **Counter Terrorism Review**

“In the light of the terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, my Government’s counter-terrorism strategy will be reviewed to ensure that the police and security services have all the powers they need, and that the length of custodial sentences for terrorism-related offences are sufficient to keep the population safe.”

- Police and security services will be given the powers they need to tackle terrorism. Harsher prison sentences will also be considered for those found guilty of terror offences.
- Steps will be taken to stop the spread of



extremist material online. This will require international work and technology companies will be encouraged to remove dangerous content.

## Commission for Countering Extremism

“A commission for countering extremism will be established to support the Government in stamping out extremist ideology in all its forms, both across society and on the internet, so it is denied a safe space to spread.”

### Background:

- This commission will not only identify extremists but will also expose them.
- Assist the Government in developing new strategies to tackle extremism.
- Support the public sector and the civil service in their efforts of pushing forth pluralistic values across all sections of society.

### Key Facts:

- The Government’s manifesto had a commitment

to establish this commission, which will work alongside the Government’s work in tackling extremism more widely.

- In October 2015, the Government published its Counter-Extremism Strategy, which was the first strategy of its kind and focused on defeating extremist ideologies through community building.

## Public Inquiry into the Grenfell Tower Fire

“My Government will initiate a full public inquiry into the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower to ascertain the causes and ensure that the appropriate lessons are learnt.”

### Key Facts:

- A full public inquiry in line with the Inquiries Act will take place.
- The terms of reference under which the inquiry will be held will be decided through consultation with residents, families of the deceased, the Opposition and the Mayor of London.
- The Government will provide legal representation to residents and the families of victims for the inquiry.

# Non-Legislative Measures



- The report of the Inquiry will be delivered to the Prime Minister and to Parliament and any findings in the building of the report will be acted upon.
- The Grenfell Tower Residents' Discretionary Fund has been made available worth £5 million. The resident of any home that was destroyed in the fire will receive a minimum payment of £5,500 from the fund. The cost of all accommodation until people are rehoused will also be met. Those who lost their homes in the fire will be rehoused within 3 weeks.
- People will be rehoused as close as is practically possible to where they lived. If it is not in the same borough it will be in a neighbouring borough.
- The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made the Bellwin scheme available to support the community, allowing the local authority to have costs reimbursed when dealing with a disaster or an emergency such as this.
- All high rises are going through an audit by their relevant local authority and any building identified as high risk will be followed up on by the fire and rescue services.

- The new Civil Disaster Reaction Taskforce has been formed to help with disasters like this.

## Independent Advocate

## Public

"To support victims, my Government will take forward measures to introduce an independent public advocate, who will act for bereaved families after a public disaster and support them at public inquests."

### Background:

- The public advocate will keep the victims of disasters informed of the progress of any investigation and will make sure that all relevant families and groups are included in the investigation and have the necessary information shared with them.
- This role will support existing procedures and will allow people full access to effectively participate in any process they find themselves in.

### Key Facts:

- The introduction of this public advocate will





build on previous reforms in the inquiry system which allowed victims to request documents and guidance for coroners to provide regular updates.

## Mental Health Reform

“My Government will reform mental health legislation and ensure that mental health is prioritised in the National Health Service in England.”

### Background:

- The Mental Health Act 1983 has not been updated for 34 years, though the Mental Health Act 2007 did make some changes.
- The Government has helped to achieve an 80% reduction in the numbers of people being detained in police cells in England since 2011/2012 because of their mental health.
- Since 2010 spending on mental health has increased to a record £11.4 billion in 2016/2017; there will be a further investment of £1 billion every year for the next 4 years.
- Early intervention, crisis care and care in the

community will be focused upon when it comes to enhancing the offering of mental health services.

- A Green Paper will be published on Children and Young People’s Mental Health.

### Key Facts:

- The number of detentions under the Mental Health Act was up 9% in 2015/2016 on the year before.

## Social Care

“My Ministers will work to improve social care and will bring forward proposals for consultation.”

### Background:

- £2 billion has already been invested in social care lifting pressure of the health and social care sector. Reforms will however be needed as the number of over 75s is constantly increasing.
- A consultation will be held to get the social care system on a more secure footing and supporting more people into older age. This consultation will seek the views of those who use services and those who supply them.



## Key Facts:

- There is an expected to be a 70% increase in the number of people aged 75 and over between 2015-2035.

## Digital Charter

“proposals for a new digital charter will be brought forward to ensure that the United Kingdom is the safest place to be online.”

## Background:

- The Digital Charter will attempt to achieve two things: making the UK the best place to start a digital business and to make the UK the safest place to be online.
- Companies, charities and communities will be worked with to build the charter and it will be supported by a regulatory framework.

## Key Facts:

- Information on roughly 35,000 indecent images of children has been shared with Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter, Yahoo, Adobe and Google so they can remove them.

- Over 270,000 items of terrorist related content has been removed since the Police Counter-Terrorism Referral Unit was created.

- Children will be protected from seeing adult material online because of the Digital Economy Act.

- In 2015 the digital economy contributed £118 billion to the economy in 2015.

## Public Finances

“My Ministers will strengthen the economy so that it supports the creation of jobs and generates the tax revenues needed to invest in the National Health Service, schools, and other public services. My Government will continue to improve the public finances, while keeping taxes low. It will spread prosperity and opportunity across the country through a new modern, industrial strategy.”

## Background:

- By the middle of the next decade the Government is aiming to spend what it raises in taxation to achieve budget balance.
- The National Productivity Investment Fund



allows the Government to invest £23 billion in four key areas: research and development, transport, digital communications and housing, from now until 2022.

## Key Facts:

- The deficit is now only 2.5% of GDP, the lowest level since 2008.
- The Office for Budget Responsibility expects that borrowing will fall to 0.7% of GDP by 2021/2022.

## Schools and Technical Education

“My Government will continue to work to ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend a good school and that all schools are fairly funded. My Ministers will work to ensure people have the skills they need for the highskilled, high-wage jobs of the future, including through a major reform of technical education.”

## Background:

- The Government wants all children to go to a good or outstanding school. Since 2010 there are 1.8 million more children in good or

outstanding schools.

- Delivering adequate school places is a key focus for the Government and £5.8 billion has already been pledged to local authorities to create more new school places.
- 15 T-levels have been introduced standards designed by employers to provide them with the technical skills they want to see in the workforce.

## Key Facts:

- 18,726 schools are now good or outstanding, 6.6 million pupils are now taught in good or outstanding schools.
- England’s technical education system will see £500 million in extra spending to increase the hours in learning and work placements.

## Northern Ireland

“My Government will work in cooperation with the devolved administrations, and it will work with all of the parties in Northern Ireland to support the return of devolved government.”



## Aims:

- Restoring the devolved power-sharing government in Stormont by the statutory deadline of 29 June.
- The Government remains fully committed to the Belfast Agreement and its successors.
- The Government will work closely with the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government to deliver the remaining commitments of the Stormont House and Fresh Start Agreements, including measures to tackle paramilitary activity and continuing work to create new institutions to address the legacy of Northern Ireland's past.

## Key Facts:

- Talks are underway in Belfast, with the UK Government, Northern Irish political parties and, as appropriate, the Irish Government, to restore the Executive and Assembly.
- The Prime Minister has met with the main Northern Irish parties and the Taoiseach to support this process.

## National Living Wage and Workers' Rights

"The National Living Wage will be increased so that people who are on the lowest pay benefit from the same improvements in earnings as higher paid workers. My Ministers will seek to enhance rights and protections in the modern workplace."

- The government will increase the National Living Wage to 60% of median earnings by 2020, meaning that the wages of the lowest paid will increase faster to get there.
- After 2020, the National Living Wage will continue to be increased so that workers will benefit from the same improvements in earnings as the average worker.

## Key Facts

- Over 2 million workers were covered by the National Minimum and National Living Wage in April 2017 – around 9% of all employees.
- Since April 2016, the National Living Wage has added £1,400 to the annual income of those in full-time work on minimum wage.



## Critical Infrastructure

## National

“My Government will bring forward proposals to ensure that critical national infrastructure is protected to safeguard national security.”

- The Government will bring forward proposals to consolidate and strengthen its powers to protect national security. This will ensure that foreign ownership of companies controlling infrastructure does not undermine British security or essential services.
- The Government will ensure that they have the needs to assess threats to national security, while remaining an open and liberal international trading partner.
- The Government will be able to scrutinise foreign investment to protect national security and will be able to intervene in transactions which raise national security concerns.

## Key Facts

- A 2015 ranking of countries by Foreign Direct Investment as a proportion of GDP showed the UK at 51% – the highest proportion in the G20.

## Housing

“Proposals will be brought forward to [...] help ensure more homes are built.”

## Aims

- To fix the dysfunctional housing market, by building more of the right homes in the right places, and ensuring that it works for the whole community.
- Tackling the increasing lack of affordability by bringing more properties to market, slowing the rise in housing costs relative to wage increases, helping ordinary working families to buy an affordable home and bringing down the cost of renting.
- To deliver the reforms in the Housing White Paper published in February, with end-to-end action across the housing system, with measures to release more land, build homes faster, increase the number of builders, and support those in need of help now.
- Action will be taken to promote transparency and fairness for leaseholders, including looking at the sale of leasehold houses and onerous ground rents, through a consultation in due



course.

## Key Facts

- In 2016, the median house price in England was nearly eight times the median earnings – a record high.
- Home ownership among 25-34-year-olds in England has fallen from 56% in 2005/06 to 38% in 2015/16, whereas the percentage of 25-34-year-olds living in the private rented sector increased from 24% to 46% over the same period.
- 189,650 net additional homes were delivered in 2015/16 in England, up 11% on 2014/15 and the highest level since 2007/08. Between 225,000 and 275,000 new homes per year are needed to tackle this problem.
- The Department for Communities and Local Government estimates there were 4 million residential leasehold dwellings in England in the private sector in 2014/15 and that 1.2 million of these were leasehold houses.
- Land Registry figures show leasehold made up 43% of all new-build registrations in England and Wales in 2015, compared to 22% in 1996. In addition, the percentage of residential sales that

were leasehold grew in every English region between 2011 and 2015.

- Direct Line for Business research in 2016 suggested that the average annual ground rent was £371 for new builds and £327 for older properties.

## Armed Forces

“My Ministers will continue to invest in our gallant Armed Forces, meeting the NATO commitment to spend at least two per cent of national income on defence, and delivering on the Armed Forces Covenant across the United Kingdom.”

### NATO 2% commitment

#### Aims:

- A commitment to meeting the NATO target to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence until 2022 and increase spending by at least half a per cent more than inflation every year.

#### Key Facts:

- The UK has the second largest defence budget in NATO and the fifth largest in the world.

# Non-Legislative Measures



- The UK was one of only five NATO allies to spend 2% of GDP on defence in 2016, spending 2.17%.
- The UK is one of ten NATO allies that meets the NATO target of spending 20% of its annual expenditure on major equipment and research and development.

## **Armed Forces Covenant Aims:**

- The Armed Forces Covenant acts as a commitment from the country that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly and not disadvantaged because of their military service. Special consideration is also appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most, such as the injured and bereaved.
- The Government, local authorities, the wider public sector, charities, commercial organisations and civil society all have a role in supporting the Armed Forces community. This includes support to veterans in the areas of employment, healthcare, housing, education, and financial advice.

## **Key Facts:**

- The Covenant was enshrined in law in the 2011 Armed Forces Act.
- The £200 million Forces Help to Buy scheme, launched in April 2014, supports Service families aspiring to home ownership. Since its launch the scheme has disbursed £154 million (10,203 payments) to applicants (up to April 2017).
- Since the launch of the Armed Forces Covenant the Government has committed £250 million for the Covenant Fund over 25 years and provided a further £355 million in LIBOR bank fines to support military charities and organisations.

## **Consumer Markets, Including the Energy Market**

- “My Government will ensure fairer markets for consumers. This will include bringing forward measures to help tackle unfair practices in the energy market to help reduce energy bills.”
- The Government will publish a green paper that will examine markets which are not working fairly for consumers.
  - This will look across markets at how to help consumers avoid being caught out by unfair terms and subscription traps. They will consider

# Non-Legislative Measures



ways to help them enforce their rights, including more widespread use of alternative dispute resolution, and measures to help consumers get a better deal in individual essential markets such as telecoms making billing easier to understand.

- The Government will look at ways to streamline the home buying process so it is cheaper and easier for people when they buy houses.
- The Government will also extend the price protection currently in place for some vulnerable energy consumers to more of those on the poorest value tariffs.

## Key Facts

- Citizens Advice Bureau estimates that 2 million customers have problems cancelling subscriptions each year, and 4 out of 5 people with recurring payment problems did not realise they had signed up until money was taken from their account.
- According to Ofcom, 40% of people have never switched their mobile provider, and an estimated 70% have never switched landline.



# Journalist Tweets



90

**Robert Peston**  
@Peston

“

My government will continue to improve public finances, while keeping taxes low".  
Austerity stays, try to sell it better #QueensSpeech

”



87

**Norman Smith**  
@BBCNormanS

“

The Govt consultation on social care is the 10th review since 2005. No. Really....  
#QueensSpeech #goingroundincircles

”



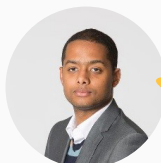
86

**Owen Jones**  
@OwenJones84

“

The #QueensSpeech has dropped Donald Trump's state visit. Protest works. We've  
won - for now @UKStopTrump

”



82

**Stephen Bush**  
@stephenkb

“

The pared-down Queen's Speech shows that while Labour didn't win the election, they still  
got a big victory

”



82

**Harry Cole**  
@MrHarryCole

“

Longest day of the year... thinnest Queen's speech in years.

”

# Journalist Tweets



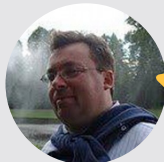
80

**Gaby Hinsliff**  
@gabyhinsliff

“

Poor Queen. Husband ill & she's stuck with reading out painfully thin list of things her govt may in practice be incapable of doing

”



79

**Patrick Kidd**  
@patrick\_kidd

“

Queen announces measures to modernise the courts system. Sitting in front of her are 20 judges in wigs and ermine perched on a wool sack

”



77

**James Ball**  
@jamesrbuk

“

A content-free #QueenSpeech: Brexit bills are placeholder text to implement whatever negotiations do, and most of the rest is filler.

”



77

**Dan Hodges**  
@DPJHodges

“

If Theresa May had won with a majority of 200, the Queen's Speech would effectively been the same. Brexit. That's it.

”



76

**James Forsyth**  
@JGForsyth

“

'Secure the best possible deal' opening of Queen's speech. Statement of the obvious but a change of tone from no deal better than a bad deal

”

# Stakeholder Reaction



"It's good to see that the recent heatwave has warmed the Government's view of business and its contribution to people's lives. But this welcome change in tone needs to be backed by clarity and action now. Firms will expect all politicians to put pragmatism before politics, starting with Brexit.

"Fast action on Industrial Strategy, skills and infrastructure will show that the UK is a great place to do business. But now it's all about pace."

Confederation of British Industry

"While Brexit isn't the top immediate priority for many businesses, firms of every size and shape want to avoid turbulence and confusion during the Brexit transition. The government's proposed bills on trade, customs and immigration must minimise adjustment costs and maximise opportunities. Achieving this will require continuous and constructive engagement with business communities across the UK."

British Chambers of Commerce

"Carving out a new future for the farming sector is a huge opportunity for the wealth and wellbeing of the nation. We can further our substantial economic, social and environmental contribution and, with that, strengthen the nation's ability to feed itself and the world.

"Working closely with the new Secretary of State for Defra and his ministerial team will be essential, and this is already off to a good start. But we'll also need the support of the whole Parliament if British farming is to have a profitable future in a post-Brexit world."

National Farmers' Union

"A significant focus on combating modern slavery, both at home and abroad; law changes to protect victims of domestic violence; and updating our employment law to reflect modern working practices are all important steps which can help those who need it most."

The Law Society

It is hugely concerning that the Government has not reintroduced the Local Government Finance Bill in the Queen's Speech. The Bill had set out a framework to allow local government in England to keep all of the £26 billion in business rates it raises locally each year. This would close the funding gaps identified below, in children's and adults services. It also sought to provide powers for Mayoral Combined Authorities and the Greater London Authority to raise an Infrastructure Supplement. These measures are needed to give councils financial freedoms that will pay for valuable services.

Local Government Association

# Stakeholder Reaction



"Changing the Mental Health Act is a mammoth task and needs to be done properly, in full consultation with people with lived experience and in line with the recommendations of the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health. People who are at their most unwell need choice, control and dignity and they need legislation to support that."

Mind

"We welcome the announcement that proposals for social care will be put forward for consultation. Social care is a significant issue at a time when we have a growing ageing population and more and more people living with the long-term effects of cancer. The social care system has reached breaking point. It's vital that people living with long-term conditions like cancer are given the support they need to live their lives independently and with dignity. This needs to be progressed quickly and sustainable solutions need to be properly funded and implemented."

Macmillan Cancer Support

The decision to row back on plans to end universal free school meals for infants is also good news for families, children and the cause of social mobility. The absence, however, of the new money needed to properly address school funding problems is lamentable.

National Union of Teachers, Association of Teachers & Lecturers, National Association of Head Teachers, Association of School and College Leaders

"The Government should plan infrastructure that meets public and environmental need rather than the desires of investors. We should aim for the right infrastructure in the right locations, and engage local communities throughout the process."

Campaign to Protect Rural England

"We are pleased with the ambition to provide certainty for businesses as we head towards Brexit and the commitment to low taxation.

This is vital for small firms who are facing both uncertainty and rising costs of doing business. A thriving small business community, helped to grow by a supportive government, will be crucial to a strong post-Brexit economy.

"But it is disappointing that this Queen's Speech was light on other domestic measures for small business. The government must knuckle down to tackle issues such as reform of the Business Rates system and changes to Corporate Governance, to stop big companies badly treating their small business suppliers and contractors."

National Federation of Self Employed & Small Businesses

# Stakeholder Reaction



"We would hope that a Digital Charter's regulatory framework will include independent or judicial oversight of material that is taken down by Internet companies. This will help to ensure that we do not simply place the free speech of UK citizens in the hands of private companies without any safeguards."

[Open Rights Group](#)

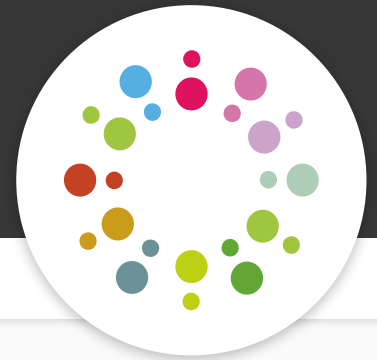
"It is disappointing that the Queen's Speech did not mention local government finance reforms. It is important and still likely that the proposed review of the needs assessment will continue, and we will participate fully in that. However, we are deeply concerned there has been no signal as to the broader reforms to the future funding of local government that should sit alongside that review, including those paving the way to 100% business rates retention. It is vital now that Government gives clarity as to whether this is still their policy intention, and whether it still intends to pilot the introduction of those reforms."

[London Councils](#)

Because of the election result and the Conservatives forming only a minority government, little of their manifesto has made it through to the Queen's Speech. Economic Bills are limited to automated and electric vehicles and the space industry (both essentially brought forward from the previous Queen's Speech), and it's good to see the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe Bill) which will legislate for Phase 2A of this important piece of infrastructure. Commitments to legislate against unpredictable tenants' fees are included, as are Bills to strengthen consumer rights with travel companies as well as bringing forward a Data Protection Bill, which may add further confusion into the marketplace as companies wrestle with the implantation of the General Data Protection Regulations next year.

[Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce](#)

# About the Authors



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## About Vuelio

Vuelio Political Services have everything you need to identify, understand and engage successfully with political stakeholders. Whether you want to educate MPs, influence a policy area, or build relationships for the future, the experienced Vuelio team - supported by our extensive data and cutting-edge technology - can help you target the right audience, track all your activity, and shape the political agenda.

