

The logo for vuelio, featuring the word in a lowercase, rounded, pink font. The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben) in London, with the Houses of Parliament visible to the right. The image has a blue color cast and is overlaid with several thick, pink, overlapping circular lines that create a sense of motion or a stylized graphic element.

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Queen's Speech  
December 2019

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# Introduction

Today saw the second Queen's Speech of 2019, nine weeks since the previous State Opening of Parliament on 14 October. Her Majesty's speech, coming so shortly after the re-election of Boris Johnson's Conservatives, with an 80-seat Commons majority, set out a packed policy agenda including EU Withdrawal legislation, which will return to the House of Commons tomorrow.

As the Queen spoke about the Government's cast iron intention to leave the European Union on 31 January, the Government announced it will close the Department for Exiting the European Union on the same day.

The Queen said: 'My Ministers will bring forward legislation to ensure the United Kingdom's exit on that date and to make the most of the opportunities that this brings for all the people of the United Kingdom'.

The speech contained much on one of the central issues of the election campaign aside from Brexit: the NHS and ensuring it is funded adequately into the future.

The speech announced that the NHS's multi-year funding settlement that was agreed earlier this year will be enshrined in law. This shows the lengths the Conservatives have gone to in order to ensure that the NHS will be properly protected under their stewardship, given 'protecting our NHS' was such a central plank of Labour's manifesto.

With Jeremy Corbyn releasing leaked documents during the election campaign showing that the NHS was discussed with US Government officials as part of future trade negotiations, the Queen's Speech sought to address this by 'ensuring the NHS is not and will never be for sale to the private sector'.

The Government pledged to reform social care, which is based on the Conservative manifesto pledge to 'ensure that the social care system provides everyone with the dignity and security they deserve and that no one who needs care has to sell their home to pay for it'.

The speech also included steps to 'grow and support the National Health Service's workforce' including a new fast track visa system to ensure that doctors, nurses and health professionals will be able to enter the UK from overseas which has consistently been raised as a potential issue connected to Brexit for an organisation which has for so long contained such a diverse workforce.

Several wide-ranging Royal Commissions and reviews are included, which point to wider root and branch reforms of Government policy and departmental structures. These include a pledge to establish a Royal Commission 'to review and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice process' and a Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission.

An Integrated Security, Defence and Foreign Policy Review will be undertaken to 'reassess the nation's place in the world, covering all aspects of international policy from defence to diplomacy and development.' There is speculation that this could lead to a merger of the Department for International Development with the Foreign Office. The Queen's Speech also promises a consultation on electoral integrity to protect against foreign interference.

This ambitious policy programme also includes a policy to end rough sleeping by the end of this Parliament and a consultation on First Homes, which will provide homes for local people and key workers at a discount of at least 30% this discount will remain in perpetuity.

With such a commanding majority, it is clear that much of this programme can be delivered and taken through parliament if time allows, though the PM should not squander his honeymoon period. Once Brexit is delivered in early 2020, the Prime Minister is likely to receive another boost to his popularity and is expected to undertake a wider reshuffle of his Government then.

As the focus moves from Brexit to the UK's future relationship with the EU and then the US, it remains to be seen how much parliamentary bandwidth remains to progress with this agenda. It also seeks to deny the opportunity for a second Scottish independence referendum, but it is unclear how long the Prime Minister will be able to rule out this second referendum, with Scottish parliamentary elections approaching in 2021.

# Delivering Brexit

## European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill

- Implement the Withdrawal Agreement Bill agreed between the EU and UK.
- UK will leave on the 31 of January with the implementation period to last until December 2020.
- The rights of EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will be protected in UK law.
- An alternative to the backstop will be implemented on the Irish border called the 'new Protocol'.

## Agriculture Bill

- A Bill will replace the Common Agricultural Policy and move to a system based on 'public money for public goods'.
- Farmers will be subsidised through a new scheme that will reward work in delivering public goods, including enhancing the environment, animal welfare, sustainable production.
- A seven-year agricultural transition period in England during which Direct Payments will be phased out, investment in new equipment, technology and infrastructure will support this change.

## Trade Bill

- International trading framework for UK after Brexit.
- Transition trade agreements made when the UK was an EU member.
- Establish a new independent body to protect UK companies against unfair practices.

## Fisheries Bill

- Legal framework for the UK to operate as an independent coastal state after Brexit, no longer bound by the Common Fisheries Policy.
- All UK nations will have equal and fair access to UK waters and Devolved Administrations will manage their own fisheries. Foreign vessels will be provided with a licence with no automatic right to access.
- Measures will be implemented to restore fish stocks to sustainable levels.

## Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill

- Bring an end to free movement in UK law, to ensure that the Government can deliver a new Australian-style points-based immigration system from 2021.
- EU citizens arriving from 2021 will be subject to same UK immigration controls as non-EU citizens. A single global immigration policy will be introduced, based on people's skills including a fast-track immigration for qualified nurses, doctors and allied health professionals.

## Financial services legislation

- Ensure that the UK maintains its world-leading regulatory standards and remains open to international markets after we leave the EU.
- Simplifying the process which allows overseas investment funds to be sold in the UK.

## Private International Law (Implementation of Agreements) Bill

- The Government will be given the power to implement agreements on Private International Law.

# Public Services

## NHS Funding Bill

- Multi-year funding settlement for the NHS with a £33.9 billion increase in cash terms by 2023-24.
- Continue completing aims laid out in the NHS Long Term Plan and accelerate progress.
- Will integrate the help of NHS leadership within development strategy.
- Additional support through delivering 50,000 more nurses, with non-repayable maintenance payments of at least £5,000 per year for nursing as well as 40 new hospitals funding and built over the next 10 years on top of 20 new hospital upgrades.

## Medicines and Medical Devices Bill

- Making it simpler for NHS hospitals to manufacture and trial the most innovative new personalised and short life medicines.
- Removing unnecessary bureaucracy for the lowest risk clinical trials, to encourage rapid introduction of new medicines. Implementing scheme to combat falsified medicines entering supply chains.

## Health Service Safety Investigations Bill

- The Health Service Safety Investigations Body will be established, with powers to conduct investigations into incidents that happen under the provision of the NHS.
- Information shared with the investigating body will go under prohibited disclosure (except for exceptional circumstances).

## Social care reform

- Three-point plan for social care:
  - Additional £1 billion for adult and children's social care in every year of this Parliament
  - Consult on the 2 per cent precept that will enable councils to access a further £500 million for adult social care for 2020-21.
  - Cross party consensus on long term plan for social care reform
  - Government will ensure that nobody needing care will be forced to sell their home to pay for it

## Mental Health Reform

- Modernise the Mental Health Act by giving patients more autonomy, allowing them to set their preferences about their care and treatment in advance.
- Act on the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act through a white paper in the new year to reform the process of detention; specifically, the disproportionate number of people from black and minority ethnic groups detained under the Act.
- The Government will make it easier for people with learning disabilities and autism to be discharged and improve how they are treated in law.

## Education

- The Government is giving schools a multi-billion-pound boost, investing a total of £14 billion more over three years, on top of £4.5 billion for teacher's pensions. Overall, that translates to £150 million a week. The core school's budget will be £7.1 billion higher in 2022-23 compared to this year Per-pupil funding for secondary school will be a minimum of £5,000; primary schools will be raised to £3,750 and £4,000 the year after. This will be a legal requirement for local authorities.
- Teachers' starting salaries will be increased to £30,000 nationally by September 2022.
- The Government will renew its focus on further and technical education, providing £400 million for 16-19-year-old education.
- Additional investment provided for T levels, supported by continued preparation for these courses starting September 2020.
- An extra £3 billion will be invested in a 'National Skills Fund' over the course of Parliament.
- Establish 20 Institutes of Technology offering higher technical education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

# Work & Housing

## Employment Bill

- Protect and enhance workers rights as the UK leaves the EU.
- Creating a new single enforcement body offering greater protections for workers.
- Introduce a new right for all workers to request a more predictable contract.
- Consult whether the Bill should make flexible working the default unless the employer has a good reason not to; to ensure that both employers and employees get the maximum benefit from flexible working.

## Renters' Reforms Bill

- Improve security for tenants in the rental sector, delivering greater protection for tenants and empower them to hold their landlord to account.
- Strengthen the rights of landlords who need to gain possession of their property when they have a valid reason.
- Introduce a lifetime deposits to increase affordability for tenants when moving as part of The Government's Better Deal for Renters .
- The Government has also committed to giving access to information on the database of rogue landlords and property agents to tenants.

## Housing

- The Government will launch a consultation on First Homes, which will provide homes for local people and key workers at a discount of at least 30% this discount will remain in perpetuity.
- The Affordable Homes Programme will be renewed building hundreds of thousands of news homes in a range of different places.

- The Government commits to build at least a million more homes over this Parliament and will release a Planning White Paper in the coming months.
- The £10 billion Single Housing Infrastructure fund will provide the roads, schools and GP surgeries needed to support these new homes.
- A Social Housing White Paper will set out further measures to empower tenants and support the continued supply of social homes.
- The Government has committed to ending rough sleeping by the end of this Parliament. It will continue to support those at risk of homelessness though the continued enforcement of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

## Building Safety Bill

- Introduce an enhanced safety framework for high rise residential buildings, taking forward all recommendations from the Hackitt Review of building safety and in some cases going further.
- Strengthen enforcement and sanctions to deter non-compliance with the new regime.
- Legislate to require that developers of new build homes must belong to a New Homes Ombudsman.

## Fire Safety Bill

- Implement the relevant legislative recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry Phase 1 Report.
- Clarify the scope of the Fire Safety Order to include the external walls of the building including cladding and fire doors.
- Provide a transitional period for building owners and managers and Fire and Rescue Services to put in place the infrastructure to make these changes.



## Pension Schemes Bill

- Create legislative framework for the introduction of pensions dashboards to allow people to access their information from most pension schemes in one place online.
- Providing a framework for the establishment, operation and regulation of collective money purchase schemes.
- Strengthening the Pensions Regulators powers and the existing sanctions regime, introducing new criminal offences.

## Online Harms

- The legislation set out in the April 2019 Online Harms White Paper will be continued.
- The Government will make the UK the safest place in the world online, whilst ensuring it is one of the best places for technology to operate.
- Ahead of legislation, Government will publish interim codes of practice on tackling the use of the internet by terrorists and those involved in the sexual abuse of children.
- The Government will carry out a review of the Gambling Act, with a focus on tackling issues around online loot boxes and credit card misuse.

## National Living Wage

- The National Living Wage will increase, projected to be around £10.50 an hour in 2024 and will apply to those aged 21 and over within the next five years.

## National Insurance Contributions

- The Government will raise the National Insurance threshold to £9,500 next year.

## Childcare

- A £1 billion fund will create more high-quality affordable childcare before and after school and during the holidays.

## Taxes

- The Government has committed to not raising VAT, income tax or National Insurance.

## Older People

- The Government has committed to keeping the triple lock, the winter fuel payment and the older person's bus pass as well as other pensioner benefits.

# Justice

## Counter Terrorism (Sentencing and Release) Bill

- This Bill will introduce new laws that ensure the most serious terrorist offenders stay in prison longer.
- The minimum sentence for the most serious terrorist offences will be 14 years and early release will be removed from offenders who receive an Extended Determinate Sentence. Terrorist offenders who are deemed not 'dangerous' will have the earliest point for discretionary release by the Parole Board extended from half way to two thirds of their sentence.

## Sentencing Bill

- The most serious violent offenders will receive sentences that match the severity of their crimes. Repeat or prolific offenders will receive community sentences that both punish and address the needs of the offender.
- Community sentences will have longer curfews and more hours of unpaid work.
- The most serious adult offenders will have the automatic release point changed from half to two thirds.
- The range of cases that have a starting sentence of murder will be extended.

## Police Powers and Protections Bill

- The Government's commitment to put the Police Covenant on a statutory footing will be put into place.
- Where special constables face disciplinary proceedings, they will be allowed access to the representation and support afforded to Police Federation members. Measures will be introduced to allow constables to join the Police Federation.
- Police drivers will be legally protected when pursuing suspects. Alongside this measure a new test will be introduced that will assess the driving of a police officer and this will be used in any further investigation that they are part of.
- The police will be given greater powers to tackle unauthorised encampments, as part of these powers the police will be able to arrest and seize property and vehicles.

## Serious Violence Bill

- Duties will be placed on agencies such as, the police, local government, schools, youth offending, health and probation to share information and work together to reduce serious violence in their communities.
- This will complement the focus that has been put into Violence Reduction Units in the areas most affected.
- It will be easier for the police to stop and search those who have been convicted for knife crime offences. Court orders will also be put into place to target those known to carry a knife.

# Justice

## **Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Bill**

- Changes will be made to the law which allow the Law Commission's Sentencing Code to consolidate sentencing procedure in England and Wales.
- A technical device called the 'clean sweep' will be put into place that allows judges to apply the new Sentencing Code to all their judgements, this is done with the intention of reducing error and unlawful consequences.

## **Prisoners (Disclosure of Information About Victims) Bill**

- Will require the Parole Board to consider whether an offender convicted of murder, manslaughter or taking indecent images of children has refused to disclose information relevant to their offences.
- This is putting into law an already established practice by the Parole Board.

## **Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill**

- The sole ground of irretrievable breakdown will be retained, but the requirement to make an allegation will be removed.
- A new option will be introduced that will allow joint applications for divorce.
- Couples will be encouraged to be as constructive as possible through the introduction of a new minimum 20-week period between the start of proceedings and applying for the conditional order.

## **Domestic Abuse Bill**

- A definition of domestic abuse will be put into statute. This definition will recognise that domestic abuse is not just physical or sexual.
- The Domestic Abuse Commissioner will be enshrined in law. The Commissioner will stand up for victims and hold agencies to account in tackling domestic abuse.
- A presumption will be put into place that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures when they are appearing in criminal courts. Perpetrators of abuse will also be prohibited from cross-examining their victims in person in the family courts.

## **Extradition (Provisional Arrest) Bill**

- The police will be given the power to arrest someone who is known for a serious crime that took place in a trusted country outside of the UK without the need for a court order or warrant.
- In extradition proceedings the role of the courts will be unaffected. The risk that currently exists of the suspect absconding will be tackled as the police will no longer need to apply for a warrant.

## **Royal Commission on the Criminal Justice Process**

- The Government will establish a Royal Commission on the criminal justice process in England and Wales.
- The Government will set out the terms of reference for the Royal Commission in due course, which will include details on the scope, duration and membership of the Commission.

# Justice

## Espionage legislation

- The legislation aims to strengthen the UK's response to the threat posed by Hostile State Activity.
- The legislation would make it harder for adversaries to operate in the UK.
- The legislation aims to ensure that security services and law enforcement agencies have the necessary powers to meet current and evolving threats to the UK, both domestically and overseas, from Hostile State Activity.
- The Government is considering whether to follow allies in adopting a form of foreign agent registration, updating the Official Secrets Acts for the 21st century, as well as the case for updating treason laws.
- The Government has commissioned the Law Commission to review the Official Secrets Act.
- The Government is considering international partners' legislation, including the US and Australia, to see whether the UK would benefit from something similar.

## Victims law reform

- The Government will consult on a Victims' Law in early 2020.
- The main elements on which the Government will consult are:
  - Strengthening the Victims' Code so that it keeps up with victims' needs and address the complexities of the justice system
  - Enhancing powers for the Victims' Commissioner
- A revised Victims' Code will be published in early 2020. It will set out the minimum level of service victims can expect from criminal justice.
- The Government will explore how support offered to survivors of terrorism and their families can be strengthened.

# Infrastructure

## National infrastructure strategy

- The National Infrastructure Strategy will be published alongside the first Budget and will set out further details of the Government's plan to invest £100bn to transform the UK's infrastructure.
- The Strategy will set out the Government's long-term ambitions across all areas of economic infrastructure including transport, local growth, decarbonisation, digital infrastructure, infrastructure finance and delivery.
- The Strategy will have two key aims:
  - To unleash Britain's potential by levelling up and connecting every part of the country. Prosperity will be shared across all of the UK, and longstanding economic challenges addressed, through responsible and prudent investment in the infrastructure
  - To address the critical challenges posed by climate change and build on the UK's world-leading commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- The Strategy will also provide the Government's formal response to the National Infrastructure Commission's 2018 National Infrastructure Assessment.

## Airline insolvency legislation

- Enhance the Civil Aviation Authority's regulatory powers to improve oversight of airlines in distress and mitigate the impacts of a future failure.
- Put in place reforms to airline insolvency, so as to strike a better balance between strong consumer protection and the interests of taxpayers.

- Extend the Civil Aviation Authority's existing remit to apply to the repatriation of both ATOL and non-ATOL protected passengers.
- Establish a repatriation 'toolkit' of mechanisms for companies and passengers, including making it easier for the Civil Aviation Authority to grant a Temporary Airline Operating Licence so that an airline can continue repatriating passengers following insolvency.

## Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill

- Introduce new Government powers to direct an airport or other relevant body to prepare and submit a proposal to the Civil Aviation Authority to change the design of airspace.
- Modernise the licensing framework for air traffic control.
- Give police new powers to tackle the unlawful use of unmanned aircraft, including the ability to require a person to land an unmanned aircraft and enhanced stop and search powers where particular unmanned aircraft related offences have taken place.

## Railways minimum service levels legislation

- Minimum Service Agreements will set out the minimum service pattern to be provided during rail strikes, as well as the minimum number and nature of staff needed.
- Any strike against a rail employer shall be unlawful unless a Minimum Service Agreement is in place. If the Minimum Service Agreement is not honoured, the strike is unlawful, and injunctions or damages may be sought against the union.

# Infrastructure

- The Government will consult on how best to implement this legislation, including ensuring that sanctions are not directed at individual workers, and how this would interact with the wider industrial relations framework.

## Rail reform

- The Government will publish a White Paper informed by the recommendations of the Williams Review next year. This will end the complicated franchising model to create a simpler, more effective system.
- The Government has committed to a number of major investments in the railway, including:
  - Midlands Rail Hub, to improve services around Birmingham and throughout the West and East Midlands
  - Northern Powerhouse Rail
  - Reopening a number of the lines and stations closed under the Beeching cuts in the 1960s
  - Significant upgrades to urban commuter and regional services outside London

## High Speed Rail 2 (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill

- Provide powers to compulsorily acquire land needed to construct and operate the railway.
- Provide planning permission to deliver the scheme. The details of planning will be developed on a site-by-site basis with the local planning authority.
- Set out how railway regulation will apply to HS2.

- Allow for the modification, or disapplication, of existing legislation that would apply to construction of the scheme, reflecting the fact that the scheme will have been approved by Parliament.

## Science, space and research

- Set out plans to significantly boost public R&D funding.
- Back a new approach to funding high-risk, high-payoff research in emerging fields of research and technology. The Government will work with industry and academics to finalise this proposal.
- Introduce a new fast-track immigration scheme for the best and brightest scientists and researchers.
- Reduce bureaucracy in research funding to ensure our brilliant scientists are able to spend as much time as possible creating new ideas.
- Establish a new National Space Council and launching a comprehensive UK Space Strategy.

## Broadband legislation

- Cheaper and faster light-touch tribunal process for telecoms companies to obtain interim code rights (or access rights) for a period of up to 18 months, will be implemented. This will mean that they can install broadband connections where the landlord has failed to respond to repeated requests for access.
- The Building Act 1984 will be amended, so that Building Regulations require all new build developments to have the infrastructure to support gigabit-capable connections.

# Infrastructure

- Developers will be required to work with broadband companies to install gigabit capable connections in virtually all new build developments, up to a cost cap.
- The Government has recently pledged £5bn to support the rollout of gigabit capable broadband in the hardest to reach 20% of the country.

## **National Security and Investment Bill**

- A notification system will be introduced, allowing businesses to flag transactions with potential security concerns to Government quickly and easily.
- Allow for conditions to a transaction to be added, or for a transaction to be blocked, as a last resort for non-compliance with the regime.
- A safeguarding mechanism for parties to appeal where necessary.

# Environment

## Environment Bill

- Establishes a new environmental governance framework with legally binding targets, a long-term plan and the new Office for Environmental Protection.
- Sets a legally binding target to reduce fine particulate matter (PM2.5), increases local authorities' powers to tackle air pollution sources and gives the Government the power to recall vehicles which don't meet emissions standards. It will mandate 'biodiversity net gain' in the planning system, introduce Local Nature Recovery Strategies and give communities greater say over tree protections.
- It will also contain a number of measures on waste and the circular economy, including extended producer responsibility, consistent recycling, action on waste crime, deposit return schemes, better litter enforcement and a ban on exporting polluting plastic waste to non-OECD countries. There will be charges for certain single use plastic items.
- Water will be better managed with powers to direct water companies to work together to meet demand for water.

## Climate change

- The Government's first budget will prioritise the environment, with investment in carbon capture, offshore wind, nuclear energy, electric vehicle infrastructure, energy investment, and the £1bn Ayrton Fund for clean energy in developing countries.
- The UN Climate Change Summit (COP26) will be hosted in Glasgow in 2020.

- Tree-planting will be increased, a £60m Nature for Climate fund created, a £500m Blue Planet Fund created, diplomatic efforts to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030 will be led and environmental protections won't be compromised in trade negotiations.
- £4bn will be invested in flood defences and £9.2bn in home, school and hospital energy investment.
- Offshore wind ambition will be increased to 40GW, with floating turbines.
- £800m will be invested in the first fully deployed carbon capture storage cluster and £500m for low-carbon techniques in energy-intensive industries.

## Animal welfare legislation

- There will be a statement in law that animals are sentient beings and a duty on the Government to take this into account in its policies.
- The maximum penalty for animal cruelty will be extended from six months to five years.
- Measures will implement commitments to end excessively long journeys for slaughter and fattening, primates as pets, cat microchipping and importing hunting trophies of endangered animals.



# The Union

## The Union

- The Government 'believes strongly in upholding the constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom'.
- Brexit will increase the Devolved Administrations' decision-making powers.
- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will tackle inequality and deprivation in all four nations, replacing the EU Structural Funds.
- The Government will 'carefully consider' the recommendations of Lord Dunlop's independent review of its Union capability.
- Scotland:
  - A second independence referendum next year would be 'a damaging distraction'
  - There will be £1.2bn from the latest spending round. Babcock have been given a £1.25bn contract for new frigates to be built in Fife and Scottish farmers have had a £211m cash boost
  - There will be a post-Brexit deal for Scottish fishing
  - Alcohol duty will be reviewed to support Scottish whisky and gin producers
  - North Sea oil and gas will have a 'transformational sector deal'
- Wales:
  - £790m is being invested into city and growth deals for the whole of Wales. A Marches growth deal will also be negotiated
  - Welsh car manufacturing will be supported
  - The A55 will be upgraded and the West Wales Parkway Station funded
  - The spending round provides £600m to the Welsh Government

- Northern Ireland:
  - The Government will continue to work to restore the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly
  - It will legislate when needed to maintain Northern Irish governance
  - Northern Ireland will receive £162m in growth deal funding
  - After devolution is restored, corporation tax will be devolved, and Air Passenger Duty may also be
  - The Government is engaging with political parties, MPs and wider society following the Stormont House institutions consultation to reach a consensus before setting out proposals to implement the Stormont House Agreement

## Constitution and democracy

- A Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission will develop proposals to restore trust in institutions and democracy.
- The Fixed-term Parliaments Act will be repealed.
- Photographic ID will be needed to vote (with a free document available).
- Postal votes will be reformed with campaigners banned from handling them, a limit on the number a person can hand-in and a requirement to re-apply.
- The number of people someone can act as a proxy for will be limited to two.
- More people will be allowed to help disabled voters as a companion with a requirement for more assistance to be provided to them.
- There will be a consultation on electoral integrity to protect against foreign interference.
- Other electoral reforms will include allowing British citizens overseas to vote for life.

# Other measures

## Public Finances

- Significant progress has been made in restoring the health of the public finances. A strong fiscal position has been achieved through spending control and a record low rate of borrowing. These measures will successfully allow the Government to invest more in the economy and deliver sustainable and inclusive growth for all.
- The Government's economic strategy will focus on creating a fair taxation system for hard working families and businesses.

## Foreign Affairs

- The Government will continue to ensure that the UK plays a leading role globally, maintained through its membership across several international bodies and commitment to spending on defence and international development.
- These commitments include the UK's global priority to provide 12 years of quality education for all girls by 2030, in order to boost economic growth and improve women's rights in some of the poorest countries in the world.
- Once the UK leaves the EU, the UK will regain control of trade policy and will seek to reform the WTO and update trading rules.
- Ambitions for trade policy include: covering 80% of total UK external trade with free trade agreements by 2022, negotiating free trade agreements with major economies including the USA, New Zealand, Australia and Japan, the launching of 10 new free ports, ensure a future US deal will protect UK consumers, farmers and companies and ensuring the NHS is not and will never be for sale to the private sector.

## Boycotts by public institutions

- A coherent approach to foreign relations will be created for all public institutions to adhere to. This will prevent public institutions from manifesting their own views on international relations and will avoid sanctions of boycotting and campaigns against trade partners.
- The UK government will define guidelines of interaction with international neighbours, to ensure public institutions do not go beyond settled policies with foreign countries.
- Main benefits of these measures include ease on the taxpayer's responsibility, which will be directed towards one agreed foreign policy and the promotion of community cohesion through prohibiting divisive behaviour towards the treatment of others.

## Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill

- The Bill will seek to ensure the Windrush Compensation Scheme (launched on 3 April 2019) is given financial authority, to ensure the grievances faced by the Windrush Generation are relieved. The Home Office's estimate is that the Scheme will cost between £120 - £310 million.

## Thomas Cook Compensation Bill

- Following the insolvency of the airline company the Government seeks to compensate costs which Thomas Cook would have been liable for. The Government's priority is to introduce a capped compensation scheme for customers of Thomas Cook who have faced the most serious hardships, including: life changing injuries, illness or loss of life.

# Other measures

## **Birmingham Commonwealth Games Bill**

- The Government will seek to introduce necessary measures to ensure the successful operation of the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- This includes: ensuring affordable access to the Games tickets, managing taxpayer and public investment in the Games and ensuring transport operation, links and access to and within Birmingham/West Midlands runs efficiently.
- The Government and local partners are investing £778 million into the city and region to stage the Games.

## **Integrated Security, Defence and Foreign policy Review**

- The Government will undertake a comprehensive review of Security, Defence and Foreign policy, which will include: The Armed Forces, intelligence services and Counter-Terrorism. The review will seek to update Security, Defence and Foreign policy to new technological opportunities and security challenges which have arisen since 2015. This will include the priority of ensuring cooperation with Europe on security and intelligence is strengthened, whilst the UK engages in leaving the European Union.

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