

King's Speech Summary

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Introduction

The Prime Minister has consistently put [reform](#) of the planning system at the centrepiece of his economic promise. With little room for extra public spending under Labour's own fiscal rules, the Starmer project has pinned a lot of faith on the liberalisation of planning laws, hoping that this will be enough to kick start economic growth. Starmer's willingness to take on so-called 'nimbyism' has always been one of the clearest dividing lines between himself and his predecessor Rishi Sunak, and while his plan to reimpose mandatory housing targets on local authorities will likely make Conservative backbenchers shudder - Labour hope that doing so will pay off for the country in the long term.

Labour have also committed to what could be described as an 'anti-Liz Truss law'; a Budget Responsibility Bill which will mean the Office for Budget Responsibility has to assess any major fiscal announcement before it happens. Labour had already committed to this law before the General Election in a bid to rebrand themselves as the party of fiscal responsibility and remind voters of Truss's disastrous mini-budget, but - as [noted](#) by former Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls - this does tighten the Government's economic 'straitjacket'. Labour's own fiscal rules mean that they have limited room for extra public spending, and they are instead left very reliant on reform and private investment to deliver economic growth.

It is perhaps a signal of just how much the last Government had run out of steam (or made a quick decision to go with the General Election in July) in the end - that many of Labour's commitments are simply to complete things the Conservatives had failed to deliver; banning no-fault evictions, reforming football governance, modernising the Mental Health Act and introducing anti-smoking legislation. Labour might choose to take a slightly different approach, but the principles remain broadly the same.

Notable [omissions](#) from Labour's first King's Speech in over 14 years include AI regulation and votes at 16. Some commentators had expected a bill explicitly dedicated to AI, but the document only briefly mentions that the Government will 'establish the appropriate legislation' on artificial intelligence, without giving any further detail. Labour have also previously committed to lowering the voting age to 16, but this policy is clearly not an immediate priority. Labour instead committed to finishing the task begun by the last Labour leader to win a General Election Tony Blair in 1999 and abolishing hereditary peers from the House of Lords once and for all.

There is still the entire life of this Parliament for Labour to address the long list they (and others) have for measures to be introduced. With 40 Bills presented they clearly have a lot planned for this Parliamentary session and this is more a sign of the Government's immediate legislative

priorities. When looking at what has been mentioned on planning, devolution, constitutional reform and nationalisation of rail perhaps Labour are laying the foundations for the years to come and 'take the brakes of Britain' as the Government press release accompanying the speech suggests.

Constitutional Reform

The House of Lords was the primary focus of what Labour have set out to do in reforming the UK's constitution. Both measures seek to address perceived issues with the representation of the second chamber by removing the hereditary peers and looking to increase the number of women amongst the Lords spiritual. Starmer is looking to end the short term compromise (that lasted 25 years) that Tony Blair came to when he reduced the number of hereditary peers.

House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill

The Bill will:

- Mean that hereditary peers will no longer be able to sit and vote in the House of Lords.
- The Bill will extend and apply UK-wide.

Lords Spiritual (Women) Act 2015 (Extension) Bill

The Bill will:

- Extends this provision for a further period to support efforts to increase the number of female bishops in the House of Lords.
- Ensure that, whenever a vacancy arises among the 21 other bishops in the House of Lords, the position will continue to be filled by a female diocesan bishop if one is available.
- The Bill will extend and apply UK-wide.

Culture, Media and Sport

Despite the broad and somewhat overwhelming scope of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the King's speech in this policy domain was surprisingly narrow as it only detailed one bill that will be sponsored by the Department: a Football Governance Bill. It does not feel that long ago that King Charles was unveiling the Independent Football Regulator for the first time as a piece of legislation in the [2023 King's speech](#). However, the bill failed to make it through the wash up stage once the General Election was called in Spring 2024.

Nonetheless, to overcome this relative uncertainty surrounding the future of football governance, Labour has been steadfast in their commitment to implementing a regulator. A commitment elucidated in their [2024 manifesto](#) and then [reiterated](#) by the new Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Lisa Nandy, in her visit to Bury FC's Gigg Lane. Advocacy group Fair Game have immediately [responded](#) to Labour's plans as noted that it is 'music' to their ears while lamenting the Bill's incarnation under the Conservatives and welcoming changes made by the Labour Government to strengthen the Bill.

However, what is equally as significant is what was not included in the King's Speech with manifesto promises to reform gambling regulation and strengthen protections not making the cut. Meanwhile, for the creative industries, Labour's [sector vision for the creative industries](#) was not mentioned and King Charles had detailed that the Government planned to introduce legislation to regulate AI but this was not included in the list of bills - perhaps this reveals that this is a long term ambition of the Government.

Football Governance Bill

This Bill will:

- Establish a new independent regulator.
- Introduce a licensing system, where regulated clubs would require a licence to operate as professional football clubs.
- Introduce Financial regulation to require clubs to demonstrate sound basic financial practices; have appropriate financial resources to enable the club to meet cash flows, including in the event of a financial shock; and protect the core assets and value of the club - such as the stadium.
- Create a new, strengthened owners' and directors' test to make sure a club's custodians are suitable and protect fans from irresponsible owners.
- Set a minimum standard of fan engagement and require clubs to get fan approval to changes to the badge and home shirt colours, as well as placing the strong existing FA protections for club names on a statutory footing.

- Require clubs to seek the regulator's approval for a stadium sale or relocation.
- Prevent clubs from joining closed-shop, breakaway or unlicensed leagues, such as the European Super League.
- Ensure fair financial distributions between leagues.
- Establish a 'Football Club Corporate Governance Code'.
- Extend and apply to England and Wales.

Defence

In recognition of the dedication and service of the UK Armed Forces, the Labour Government will establish an Armed Forces Commissioner to support – and act as an independent voice of – the armed forces community. The Commissioner will be a point of contact for serving personnel and their families, and will endeavour to represent their individual and collective needs. The announcement of the new role will likely be welcome, with morale reportedly at record lows and ever-growing challenges to recruit and retain armed force personnel.

This reiterates Labour's [manifesto](#) commitment to establish 'an independent Armed Forces Commissioner to improve service life'.

Armed Forces Commissioner Bill

This Bill will:

- Create a new point of contact for armed forces to express any issues with service life.
- Ensure Parliament is kept up to date with issues facing the armed forces personnel, with annual reports to ensure accountability.
- Grant the Commissioner access to MoD sites and other relevant information to inspect and identify issues as necessary.
- Extend and apply UK-wide.

Economy and Business

One of Labour's key missions - to 'secure the highest sustained growth in the G7' - [relates](#) to the economy. It is clear that Labour wants growth to be the key theme of its first year in office, with 'growth' mentioned over and over again in the King's Speech.

To achieve this, Labour have previously made a series of legislative commitments which have now been confirmed. Attempting to avoid a repeat of Liz Truss's mini budget, Labour will legislate to ensure that all significant tax and spending changes are subject to an independent assessment by the OBR. As expected, legislation will be introduced to put the National Wealth Fund on a statutory footing and the Government will also legislate to deliver the new deal for working people in full.

While many will welcome the Government's goal of the Employments Rights Bill, the reforms could prove difficult for smaller businesses such as those in the hospitality sector. On this, CBI [stressed](#) the importance of meaningful consultation on the details, while UK Hospitality [mentioned](#) how key flexibility is in their sector. BusinessLDN also [mentioned](#) the Bill should strike the right balance and welcomed the commitment to consult with employers on the plans.

Labour will press ahead with audit reform which has been long delayed and was controversially omitted from the King's Speech last year. The Pension Schemes Bill comes after lengthy consultation under the previous Conservative government while the surprise Bank Resolution (Recapitalisation) Bill will ensure the Bank of England can better respond to small bank failures and ensure that managing the failure does not fall on taxpayers.

Budget Responsibility Bill

The Bill will:

- Deliver on the manifesto commitment to introduce a "fiscal lock" that requires every fiscal event which makes significant and permanent changes to taxation or spending to be subject to an independent assessment by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).
- Prevent large-scale unfunded commitments that are not subject to an OBR fiscal assessment.
- The Bill will extend and apply UK-wide.

National Wealth Fund Bill

The Bill will:

- Put the National Wealth Fund (NWF) on a permanent statutory footing.

- The NWF will play a central role in the Government's industrial strategy, growth and clean energy superpower missions, making investments across the country.
- The NWF will invest in the priority sectors set out in the manifesto.
- The Fund will deploy funding through the UK Infrastructure Bank, expanding its remit and providing an additional £7.3bn to catalyse private investment.
- Align critical institutions like the UK Infrastructure Bank and British Business Bank.
- The Bill will extend and apply UK-wide.

Pension Schemes Bill

The Bill will:

- Prevent people from losing track of their pension pots through the consolidation of Defined Contribution individual deferred small pension pots.
- Introduce a test that trust based defined contribution schemes will need to meet to demonstrate they deliver value.
- Place duties on trustees of occupational pension schemes to offer a retirement income solution or range of solutions, including default investment options, to their members.
- Consolidate the Defined Benefit market through commercial Superfunds.
- Reaffirm the Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) as a competent court, removing the need for pension schemes to apply to the courts to enforce TPO decisions in relation to the recovery of overpayments.
- Amending the Special Rules for End of Life (Pension Protection Fund and Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS)) by extending the definition of 'terminal illness'.
- The Bill will extend and apply to Great Britain.

Employment Rights Bill

The Bill will:

- Deliver the New Deal for Working People in full.
- Deliver on policies as set out in the Plan to Make Work Pay. The plan includes the following commitments:
 - Ban zero-hour contracts.
 - End 'Fire and Rehire' and 'Fire and Replace'.
 - Make parental leave, sick pay and protection from unfair dismissal available from day 1 on the job for all workers.
 - strengthening Statutory Sick Pay by lowering earnings limit.
 - Make flexible working the default from day 1 for all workers.
 - Make it unlawful to dismiss a woman who has had a baby for six months after her return to work, except in specific circumstances.
 - establishing a new Single Enforcement Body, also known as a Fair Work Agency.

- Establish a Fair Pay Agreement in the adult social care sector.
- Reinstate the School Support Staff Negotiating Body.
- Update trade union legislation.
- Simplify the process of statutory recognition.
- The Bill will extend and apply to Great Britain.

Bank Resolution (Recapitalisation) Bill

The Bill will:

- Require the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) to provide funds to the Bank of England upon request, to be used where necessary to support the resolution of a failing bank.
- Allow the FSCS to recover the funds provided by charging levies on the banking sector.
- Give the Bank of England an express ability to require a bank in resolution to issue new shares.
- Give the Bank of England a more flexible toolkit to respond to small bank failures in a way that promotes financial and economic stability and strengthens protections for public funds, whilst avoiding new upfront costs on the banking sector or additional costs for taxpayers.
- The Bill will extend and apply UK-wide.

Product Safety and Metrology Bill

The Bill will:

- Respond to new product risks and opportunities to enable the UK to keep pace with technological advances.
- Identify new and emerging business models in the supply chain.
- Ensure that the law can be updated to recognise new or updated EU product regulations, including the CE marking.
- Enable improvements to compliance and enforcement reflecting the challenges of digital borders.
- Update the legal metrology framework, which governs the accuracy of weights and measures for purchased goods.
- gives
- Gives the Government specific powers to make changes to GB legislation to manage divergence and take a UK-wide approach, where it is in our interests to do so.
- The Bill will extend and apply UK-wide.

Draft Audit Reform and Corporate Governance Bill

The Bill will:

- Replace the Financial Reporting Council with a new regulator – the Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority – with the powers it needs to tackle bad financial reporting and to build trust.
- This statutory regulator will form a platform for other changes:
 - extending Public Interest Entity (PIE) status to the largest private companies.
 - removing unnecessary rules on smaller Public Interest Entities.
 - powers to investigate and sanction company directors for serious failures.
 - a regime to oversee the audit market.
- The draft Bill is expected to extend and apply UK-wide.

The Crown Estate Bill

The Bill will:

- Grant The Crown Estate the power to borrow.
- Widen The Crown Estate's existing investment powers.
- Change the source of funding for expenses and salaries.
- Increase the maximum number of Commissioners on The Crown Estate Board from 8 to 12.
- The Bill will extend and apply to England and Wales and Northern Ireland.

Education

Perhaps unsurprisingly, education policy is at the forefront of Labour's first King's speech since 2009. Education policy forms an important part of Labour's 5 missions with their [5th mission](#), focusing on breaking down the barriers to opportunity. The pre-eminence of education was reasserted in Labour's [first steps for change](#) released earlier this year with their 6th step stressing that, once in Government, they would recruit 6,500 extra teachers through removing the VAT exemption for private schools.

This commitment to education was reasserted by the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, in her [Q&A](#) with the education sector yesterday. A sentiment [resonated](#) by King Charles in his speech as he declared that it was the mission of his Government to raise 'standards' in education and break down the barriers to opportunity.

However, the UK faces huge challenges - with the Resolution Foundation [noting](#) that education has experienced a reduction in per-person day to day spending by 7% since 2010 - and education and skills provision remains vital in addressing regional inequalities in the UK and meeting the demands of the green and digital transition. With this in mind, Labour's King's speech unveiled two bills that delivered on many of their [manifesto](#) commitments: 1) the Children's Wellbeing Bill; and 2) Skills England Bill. While the commitment to remove the VAT exemption from private schools will have to wait until a Budget despite King Charles' reiterating the Government's commitment to this in his speech.

In response to Labour's King's speech, Helen Dickinson, Chief Executive of the British Retail Consortium, [welcomed](#) reform of the apprenticeship levy and the establishment of Skills England. However, she noted that the BRC hopes that the new Growth and Skills Levy will use its funds to meet the demands of the 'modern workforce.' Meanwhile, Dani Payne of the Social Market Foundation (SMF) [revealed](#) that while simplifying the skills system through Skills England is a welcome development, it will not be an easy task. Payne also warned that learners, unions and providers seemed absent from the King's remarks. While Payne warned that poverty was alarmingly absent from Labour's Children's Wellbeing Bill.

Children's Wellbeing Bill

This Bill will:

- Strengthen multi-agency child protection and safeguarding arrangements.
- Introduce free breakfast clubs in every primary school.
- Limit the number of branded items of uniform and PE kits that a school can require.

- Create a duty on local authorities to have and maintain Children Not in School registers, and provide support to home-educating parents.
- Make changes to the legislation about regulating and inspecting independent schools, including by providing Ofsted stronger powers to investigate the offence of operating an unregistered independent school.
- Make changes to enable serious teacher misconduct to be investigated, regardless of when the misconduct occurred, the setting the teacher is employed in, and how the misconduct is uncovered.
- Require all schools to cooperate with the local authority on school admissions, SEND inclusion, and place planning, by giving local authorities greater powers to help them deliver their functions on school admissions and ensure admissions decisions account for the needs for communities.
- Require all schools to teach the national curriculum, giving every child a broad and rounded education. This will be commenced after the review of curriculum and assessment is concluded and is reflected in Programmes of Study.
- Ensure that any new teacher entering the classroom has, or is working towards, Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).
- Recognise the essential role of support staff in schools by giving them a national voice in the setting of their pay and conditions.
- Bring multi-academy trusts into the inspection system
- Extend to England and Wales and apply to England.

Skills England Bill

This Bill will:

- Develop a single picture of national and local skills needs.
- Ensure Skills England's work with industry, the Migration Advisory Committee, unions and the Industrial Strategy Council to build and maintain a comprehensive assessment of current and future skills needs.
- Identify the training for which the Growth and Skills Levy will be accessible.
- Ensure that the national and regional skills systems are meeting skills needs and are aligned, including using local and regional vacancy data as part of a robust evidence base.
- Require that Skills England convene MCAs and other key stakeholders to identify system issues and provide advice to Government, leading to a more coherent system.
- Ensure that Skills England takes on several of the functions of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.
- Extend to England and Wales and apply in England.

Energy and Environment

An environmentalist himself, King Charles may have been pleased with the energy and environment focus to Labour's new legislative agenda, with today's speech including Bills covering energy security, water and aviation.

The Great British Energy Bill will see the establishment of a publicly-owned clean energy company, headquartered in Scotland. The Bill, long promised during Labour's election campaign, will help deliver the party's mission to make the UK 'a clean energy superpower' and accelerate the transition to net zero, which it is hoped will lower energy bills for consumers. The Bill [was](#) warmly welcomed by Energy UK, who have lauded the Government's commitment to 'hit the ground running.' The Social Market Foundation – though not against the idea – [has](#) expressed concerns that the company will rely too heavily on the private sector and may need further public funding to shoulder the investment needed.

The Water Special Measures Bill also came as no real surprise, aligning with Labour's manifesto commitment to strengthen the powers of water regulators. The law [was](#) positively received by Friends of the Earth, who agree tougher action needs to be taken against polluting water executives. Though some may have expected clean air to feature in the speech, no such Bill was included in the agenda. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health [expressed](#) their disappointment at this, commenting that air quality remains a grave threat to public health and needs to be addressed. There was no specific mention of phasing out the sale of petrol and diesel cars either, nor legislation relating to electric vehicles. Clean fuel production was still a theme of the speech, however, with the introduction of the Sustainable Aviation Fuel bill to support investment in lower-emission aviation fuels.

National Animal Welfare charities, such as the League Against Cruel Sports, are [likely](#) to be disappointed that the speech included no laws on banning trail hunting or hunting trophies, given their praise of such bans in Labour's manifesto. Food security and agriculture were also among the themes excluded from the speech, despite manifesto pledges in these specific areas.

Great British Energy Bill

The Bill will:

- Establish a publicly-owned energy company, Great British Energy (GBE), headquartered in Scotland.
- Help to deliver Labour's target of clean energy by 2030, and bolster the UK's energy security and efficiency.

- Help to accelerate investment into clean energy, with GBE capitalized with £8.3 billion over the Parliament.
- Extend and apply to the UK. The Government looks to work with the Northern Ireland Executive on the particular opportunities for Northern Ireland.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (Revenue Support Mechanism) Bill

The Bill will:

- Introduce a revenue certainty mechanism to incentivise producers of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) to invest in new plants in the UK.
- Impose targets for use of SAF by fuel suppliers.
- Extend and apply to the UK.

Water (Special Measures Bill)

The Bill will:

- Introduce stronger regulations for personal criminal liability for water executives.
- Grant water regulators powers to ban bonuses if environmental standards fail to be met.
- Introduce a new 'code of conduct' to boost accountability for water executives, as well as fines and penalties.
- Bring in the requirement to install monitors at sewage outlets, the data of which will be scrutinised independently.
- Extend and apply to England and Wales.

Equalities

Labour have committed to extending the scope of the conversion therapy ban introduced by the last Government to make it trans inclusive. However they have been quite vague about the details, presumably because this issue remains controversial and the party remains divided on transgender rights. Labour have said the ban would not extend to 'legitimate psychological support, treatment, or non-directive counselling', but we will have to wait until the draft legislation is published to see exactly how the Government plans on defining conversion therapy.

Draft Equality (Race and Disability) Bill

The Bill will:

- Enshrine in law the full right to equal pay for disabled people and ethnic minorities.
- Introduce mandatory ethnicity and disability pay reporting for employers with over 250 employees.
- The draft Bill is likely to extend and apply to Great Britain.

Draft Conversion Practices Bill

The Bill will:

- Introduce new criminal offences to target acts of conversion which are not covered by existing legislation. The ban will not cover legitimate psychological support, treatment, or non-directive counselling.
- The Bill will extend and apply to England and Wales.

Health

We may have had a change in government but - on health at least - the legislative agenda remains very similar to what it was under the Conservatives. Labour will use this Parliamentary session to press on with anti-smoking legislation and reform of the Mental Health Act; measures which were committed to by Rishi Sunak but ultimately fell by the wayside before the General Election.

The resurrection of the Mental Health Bill will please campaigners who have been frustrated with the previous government's lack of progress on the issue. Last week, Dr Sarah Hughes, Chief Executive of Mind [said](#) that reform is 'a welcome first step', but adding that they will need 'funding and resources to be delivered and fully realised'. The Draft Mental Health Bill had already gone through extensive pre-legislative scrutiny under the last Government, so it will be interesting to see how much Labour take into consideration recommendations made by the Joint Committee.

So far Labour's Tobacco and Vapes Bill looks to be almost identical to that introduced by Rishi Sunak in his bid to create a 'smoke free generation'. Recent years have seen a growing cross-party consensus over the need for public health measures, and this year's King's Speech mentioned Labour's commitment to restricting the sale and advertisement of junk food and high caffeine energy drinks - although there was no mention of specific legislation on this.

Mental Health Bill

The Bill will amend the Mental Health Act 1983 by:

- Revising the detention criteria to ensure that people can only be detained if they pose a serious risk of harm to themselves or others.
- Shortening the period in which a patient can be kept in detention and ensure more frequent reviews of detention.
- Limiting the extent to which people with learning disabilities or autism can be detained under the Mental Health Act by introducing duties on commissioners and ensuring adequate supply of community services to prevent inappropriate detentions.
- Adding statutory weight to patients' rights when planning for care.
- Strengthening statutory roles which protect patients and extending access to Independent Mental Health Advocates.
- Removing police stations as places of safety under the Mental Health Act.
- The Bill will extend and apply to England and Wales.

These reforms will take years to implement as they require the training and recruitment of extra staff, so reforms will be introduced in phases.

Tobacco and Vapes Bill

The Bill will:

- Introduce a progressive smoking ban to gradually end the sale of tobacco products across the country. Children born on or after 1 January 2009 will never be able to legally purchase cigarettes.
- Give Ministers powers to regulate the marketing of vapes and other nicotine products to prevent them from being marketed to children.
- Provide enforcement authorities in England and Wales with the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for the underage sale of tobacco or vape products.
- The Bill will extend UK-wide, although the application of the measures will vary across the UK.

Home Affairs and Justice

As anticipated, this year's King's Speech included Labour's repeated commitment to end the Conservative's Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda. The commitment to introduce the new Border Security Command found a place in Starmer's first steps and appears in the new Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill. The Bill aims to strengthen national security by enhancing border security and bringing criminal people smugglers to justice. The new legislation also commits to an end of hotel use and clearing the asylum backlog. While scrapping the Rwanda scheme may win Starmer brownie points with some, [others](#) are concerned with the likelihood of being able to 'smash' these gangs through national legislation only, arguing that international cooperation is likely to be needed.

The commitment to strengthen community policing sits in line with Starmer's long term vision to be tough on crime, something that was set out earlier this year and within Starmer's first steps. Unlike the Conservative government, Labour have committed to raising standards within the police force as well as reforming it. However, similar to the Conservatives, the legislation set out does not address issues with retaining police officers.

Many will be pleased to see the focus on tackling violence against women and girls has not been forgotten with the mention of improved measures to improve the police response to spiking. However, the new Bill did not commit to making it a specific criminal offence, rather, a strengthening of the law to improve the police response.

The Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill put forward, displays an understanding from the Starmer Government to tackle the ongoing issue with court backlogs by allowing Associate Prosecutors to work on appropriate cases. However, while this is expected to reduce delays, it has been [argued](#) that the Bill misses the opportunity to propose longer term changes to tackle the court backlogs. Calls have been [made](#) for the Bill to have instead introduced a court modernisation programme.

The implementation of the Hillsborough Law delivers on Starmer's manifesto commitment to place a legal duty of candour on public servants and authorities with the aim of addressing the so-called 'unacceptable defensive culture', something that is often [linked](#) with inquiries such as the Infected Blood, Post Office and Grenfell. Labour have placed it as part of their wider effort to create a politics of public service. The proposal has been [welcomed](#) with the belief that the Bill will ensure a level playing field for bereaved people at inquests. Inquest have now [called on](#) the new Government to ensure a 'statutory duty of candour and parity of funding as a lasting legacy to those who died in the Hillsborough Disaster and to stop future injustice and trauma'.

Arbitration Bill

The Bill will:

- Implement the recommendations made in a 2022 Law Commission review of Arbitration Law.
- Clarify the law applicable to arbitration agreements that do not arise from investor-state agreements.
- Codify a duty on arbitrators to disclose circumstances that might give rise to justifiable doubts about their impartiality.
- Strengthen arbitrator immunity against liability for resignations and applications for removal.
- Empower arbitrators to make awards on a summary basis on issues that have no real prospect of success.
- Empower courts to make orders in support of emergency arbitrators.
- Revise the framework for challenges where the challenge alleges that the arbitral tribunal lacked jurisdiction.
- Extend and apply to England and Wales and Northern Ireland.

Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill

The Bill will:

- Enable stronger borders and a properly controlled and managed asylum system.
- Give the new Border Security Command and wider law enforcement the tools and powers they need to crack down on criminal gangs by building on the success of robust powers to counter terrorism and including stronger powers for law enforcement officers.
- Provide a strong deterrent and penalty for criminals involved in organised immigration crime.
- Fix the asylum system by things like ending hotel use, ensuring fast-track returns for individuals coming from safe countries and ending the Migration and Economic Development Partnership.
- Extend and apply UK-wide.

Crime and Policing Bill

The Bill will:

- Rebuild neighbourhood policing by getting neighbourhood police and Police Community Support Officers back on the beat in local communities.

- Deliver higher policing standards by expanding the powers of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services to intervene in failing police forces and introducing higher mandatory national vetting standards.
- Crack down on anti-social behaviour through the Introduction of new Respect Orders and fast-track Public Spaces Protection Orders.
- Create a new specific offence of assaulting a shopworker and introduce stronger measures to tackle low level shoplifting.
- Tackle knife crime and ban ninja swords and other lethal blades.
- Provide a stronger, specialist response to violence against women and girls and strengthen the law to improve the police response to spiking.
- Extend and apply to England and Wales.

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill

The Bill will:

- Require those responsible for certain premises and events to take steps to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce harm in the event of a terrorist attack occurring.
- Require smaller premises in the 'standard tier' to notify the regulator of their premises and put in place reasonably practicable procedural measures to keep the public safe.
- Focus the requirements for organisations at smaller premises on simple, low-cost activities surrounding policies and procedures.
- Require those responsible for larger 'enhanced tier' premises and certain public events to put in place counter terrorism measures.
- Extend and apply UK-wide.

Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill

The Bill will:

- Ensure victims of crime and antisocial behaviour get the support they deserve.
- Strengthen powers for the Victims' Commissioner to ensure that they are empowered to hold the system to account.
- Require offenders to attend their sentencing hearings.
- Protect the public from sex offenders, restricting parental responsibility for child sex offenders and implementing restrictions on sex offenders changing their names.
- Reduce delays in the courts system by allowing Associate Prosecutors to work on appropriate cases.
- Extend and apply to England and Wales (expected to).

Hillsborough Law

The Bill will:

- Improving transparency and accountability.
- Reducing the culture of defensiveness in the public sector.
- Help ensure that the lack of candour uncovered in recent reports is not repeated.
- Extent and application is to be determined.

Northern Ireland Legacy Legislation

The Bill will:

- Ensure the Government will work with all parties and communities in Northern Ireland to put in place a framework to deal with the legacy of the past.
- Explore options to strengthen the independence of the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery.
- Repeal the conditional immunity scheme.
- Reverse the policy prohibiting victims and families from bringing civil claims.
- Set out steps to allow the Troubles-era inquests that were prematurely halted to resume.
- Further legislation will follow after consultation with the Northern Ireland political parties, the Irish Government and all communities in Northern Ireland.
- The territorial extent of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 is UK-wide and mostly applies in Northern Ireland.

Housing

Planning reform with the intention of expediting house building has been a key focus for Starmer and the new Government, with the reintroduction of streamlining the planning process at the heart of the broader agenda to tackle housing shortages and make home ownership more attainable for the majority. The new legislation introduced also sits in line with accelerating the delivery of major infrastructure projects, something that rests at the heart of the Government's plan to again strengthen and support sustainable growth. In response to the announcements, BusinessLdn [argue](#) that the release of low quality 'grey belt' land will play a key role in reaching the Government's ambitious housing targets, while the Association of British Insurers [emphasise](#) the importance of planning measures that strengthen the country's resilience to climate change.

As expected, Starmer's plan for devolution has appeared in the King's Speech as a central element in supporting sustainable growth. In line with previous manifesto promises the proposed legislation is set to transfer so-called Westminster power into local communities and authorities. Labour have long intended to expand the devolution framework previously established to enhance the powers of mayors and local leaders, this shift in governance is part of Labour's broader mission to address regional inequalities and help foster economic potential across sectors. Efforts have already been made here with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Angela Rayner having already written to all areas without a devolution deal to kickstart proposals for extended powers. The Mayor of London has [welcomed](#) the English Devolution Bill which he believes will unlock the power and potential of cities. He applauded Starmer's Government for recognising the vital role regional mayors play in ultimately boosting economic growth through improving local communities.

Again as expected and in line with previous commitments as well as manifesto pledges, Labour have pledged to abolish Section 21 'no-fault' evictions and focus efforts on supporting and strengthening renters rights. Something the last Government failed to finalise in legislation. This move aims to provide more security for renters and essentially prevent arbitrary evictions. Homeless charity Crisis has [welcomed](#) the proposals in relation to rental reform and the banning of no-fault evictions due to the impact these have on homelessness. The Chief Executive detailed that this Government has proven that housing is a clear priority. In addition to this they call for the Government to use this opportunity to end the criminalisation of homelessness.

Here we also see another housing plan appear that was not delivered by the previous Conservative Government. The Draft Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Bill looks to reform the leasehold system through the inclusion of things like a ban on extortionate ground rents

and on the sale of new leasehold flats. The Holocaust Memorial Bill has also made a comeback with the straight forward aim of establishing a national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre sometime within the next parliament.

Planning and Infrastructure Bill

The Bill will:

- Streamline the delivery process for critical infrastructure.
- Simplify the consenting process for major infrastructure projects and enable relevant, new and improved National Policy Statements to come forward.
- Reform compulsory purchase compensation rules.
- Improve local planning decision making by modernising planning committees.
- Increase local planning authorities' capacity.
- Use development to fund nature recovery.
- Extend and apply to England and Wales, however some measures may also extend and apply to Scotland.

English Devolution Bill

The Bill will:

- Establish a new framework for English devolution, moving power out of Westminster and back to those who know their areas best.
- Put a more ambitious standardised devolution framework into legislation to give local leaders greater powers over the levers of local growth.
- Work to introduce new powers and duties for local leaders to produce Local Growth Plans.
- Make devolution the default setting.
- Allow local leaders to formally request powers according to the framework and the Government will be required to consider the request.
- Make it easier to provide devolved powers to more areas quickly.
- Improve and unblock local decision making through more effective governance arrangements.
- Empower local communities with a strong new 'right to buy' for valued community assets.
- Extend to England and Wales and apply to England.

Renters' Rights Bill

The Bill will:

- Overhaul the private rented sector.

- Abolish Section 21 'no fault evictions'.
- Strengthen tenants' rights and protections through things like empowering tenants to challenge rent increases.
- Give tenants the right to request a pet, which landlords must consider and cannot unreasonably refuse.
- Apply a Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector to ensure homes are safe, secure and hazard free.
- Apply 'Awaab's Law' to the sector.
- Create a digital private rented sector database to bring together key information for landlords, tenants, and councils.
- Support quicker, cheaper resolution when there are disputes through the introduction of a new ombudsman service—preventing them escalating to costly court proceedings.
- Make it illegal for landlords to discriminate against tenants in receipt of benefits or with children when choosing to let their property.
- Strengthen local councils' enforcement powers.
- Extend to England and Wales and apply to England.

Draft Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Bill

The Bill will:

- Enact remaining Law Commission recommendations to bolster leaseholders' fundamental rights to extend their lease and buy their freehold (enfranchisement) and take over the freeholders building management functions (Right to Manage).
- Reinvigorate commonhold by modernising the legal framework.
- Restrict the sale of new leasehold flats.
- Tackle existing ground rents by regulating ground rents for existing leaseholders.
- Bringing the injustice of 'fleecehold' private estates and unfair costs to an end.
- End the injustice of forfeiture so that leaseholders are protected against losing savings they have in their home.
- Extend and apply to England and Wales.

Holocaust Memorial Bill

The Bill will:

- Enable the Government to deliver on the longstanding commitment to build the planned Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.
- Authorise expenditure on the construction, maintenance and operation of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.
- Disapply the relevant sections of the London County Council (Improvements) Act 1900, ensuring that this legislation is no longer an obstacle.

- Extend to England and Wales and apply to England.

International Affairs

The [Labour Manifesto](#) was quite ambitious with its pledges relating to international affairs but only one Bill led on by Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office was announced in the King's Speech - the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (Status) Bill. It was initially a Private Members' Bill during the 2023-24 parliamentary year, and essentially means that the UK Government can treat the CPA and the ICRC similar to international Organisations the UK is a member of.

Conflict in the Middle East was also mentioned during the speech, with the King stating that his Government will 'do their part in trying to establish long term peace and security in the region as well as work towards a two-state solution recognising a sovereign Palestinian State.'

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (Status) Bill

The Bill will:

- change the status of the CPA and ICRC and enable both organisations to be treated in a manner comparable to an international organisation of which the United Kingdom is a member of.
- Enable specific privileges and immunities to be conferred on the CPA and ICRC, which is to be determined by the needs of each organisation.
- Ensure that confidential information provided by the ICRC can remain confidential.
- Extend and apply UK-wide.

Local Government

In March this year Labour laid out an extensive [plan](#) for local government, committing to handing over new powers to local leaders in a range of areas, including transport and planning, skills, employment support, and energy, backed by long-term integrated funding settlements. It has been clear that Labour are serious about devolution, with Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner [engaging](#) in discussions with the 12 metro mayors (11 of which are Labour) within their first week in power. Today's announcement of the English Devolution Deal - which introduces key recommendations of the Gordon Brown Commission report and represents the biggest package of devolutionary measures since Tony Blair - further cements this, with the bold ambition to make devolution the default setting.

The Social Market Foundation [backs](#) the Government's agenda, highlighting that greater devolution is 'a key driver of economic growth'. Public sector membership organisation Solace has [welcomed](#) the Bill but has said it 'must mean proper devolution to all areas and not just delegation', while BusinessLDN [argues](#) that metro mayors across the country should now be given additional powers and funding, and added that Transport for London should be granted a multi-year funding deal.

English Devolution Bill

The Bill will:

- Create a new framework for English devolution.
- Give local leaders enhanced powers over strategic planning, local transport networks, skills and employment.
- Introduce new powers and duties for local leaders to produce Local Growth Plans.
- Make devolution the default setting.
- Provide a simpler process for establishing new combined and combined county authorities.
- Create a legislative foundation that enables the widening and deepening of devolution, in favour of mayoral settlements where there is the possibility and desire to do so.
- Establishing more effective governance arrangements, which allow for greater local decision making.
- Introducing a 'right to buy' for valued community assets.
- Extend to England and Wales and apply to England.

Science, Innovation and Technology

At first glance, this could have been an even more momentous King's speech for the still infant Department for Science, Innovation and Technology as King's Charles [declared](#) that his Government would bring forward appropriate legislation to regulate AI. However, in a perhaps disappointing turn, this ambition did not make it beyond the King's remarks in the House of Lords as it was not included in the 40 list of bills.

Instead we got: 1) Digital Information and Smart Data Bill; and 2) Cyber Security and Resilience Bill. Both Bills are unlikely to draw headlines akin to Labour's other legislative plans. However, their position in the King's speech reflects the UK's impending digital transition and the importance of data security and protecting against cyber attacks in that transition. Notably, this follows an [alert](#) from the National Cyber Security Centre on 9 July 2024, which warned that China state-sponsored actors have evolved their techniques for launching cyber attacks.

As a reflection of the importance of the digital transition, these bills have largely been supported by industry. Specifically, the Data and Marketing Association (DMA), [noted](#) that they 'strongly support the Digital Information & Smart Data Bill' as they stressed the significance of 'responsible' use of data to help 'public services, advancements in scientific and medical research, and growth in the private sector'.

Digital Information and Smart Data Bill

This Bill will:

- Establish Digital Verification Services.
- Develop a National Underground Asset Register.
- Set up Smart Data schemes. This is the secure sharing of a customer's data upon their request, with authorised third-party providers.
- Make changes to the Digital Economy Act to help the Government share data about businesses that use public services.
- Move to an electronic system for the registration of births and deaths.
- Apply information standards to IT suppliers in the health and social care system.
- Modernise and strengthen the ICO to create a CEO, board and chair.
- ICO will be given new stronger powers
- Implement reforms to some data laws that will maintain high standards of protection.
- Promote standards for digital identities around privacy, security and inclusion.
- Establish a Data Preservation Process that coroners (and procurators fiscal in Scotland) can initiate when they decide it is necessary and appropriate to support their investigations into a child's death.

- Extend and apply UK-wide.

Cyber Security and Resilience Bill

This Bill will:

- Expand the remit of current regulation to protect more digital services and supply chains.
- Put regulators on a strong footing to ensure essential cyber safety measures are being implemented.
- Mandate increased incident reporting to give the government better data on cyber attacks.
- Extend and apply UK-wide

Transport and Infrastructure

Today's speech set out a number of transport measures, including the Government's decision to reform the bus network to give more power over routes and timetables to local leaders – something that follows on from Labour's extensive [plan](#) for local government that was published in March this year. In response, the Confederation of Passenger Transport [said](#) that the bus industry will 'work closely with the new Government to help transform the sector', and the Urban Transport Group [said](#) the speech 'sends a strong signal of intent' about how serious the new Government is about transforming transport.

The speech also confirmed Labour's intention to introduce a Railways Bill, which will set up the framework to allow the Government to bring railways into public ownership under the long awaited Great British Railways (GBR). Rail Partners have [called](#) today's commitment an 'important milestone' but warn that getting the detail right is 'critical to achieve the Government's ambitions for green growth and reduce the railway's financial burden on the taxpayer'. The Railway Industry Association (RIA) [expressed](#) their support for the establishment of GBR and called today's speech 'a strong legislative programme for driving growth by building sustainable infrastructure and improving transport'.

In the aim of accelerating the delivery of homes and infrastructure, the speech announced the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which includes many measures that will be widely welcomed. However, the bold decision to take powers away from local areas to block new infrastructure has [faced criticism](#) that it goes against devolution. The legislation will mean that communities can debate only 'how, not if' homes are built, and local authorities that do not create plans to build housing quickly enough will see ministers step in.

Planning and Infrastructure Bill

The Bill will:

- Improve the planning system at a local level, modernise planning committees, and increase the capacity of local planning authorities to provide their services.
- Speed up housebuilding and infrastructure delivery by:
 - Streamlining the delivery of critical infrastructure, including accelerating national grid updates and supporting renewable energy, as well as simplifying the consenting process for major infrastructure projects and creating a review process that enables the opportunity for National Policy Statements to be updated every five years.
 - Reforming compulsory purchase compensation rules.
 - Improving local planning decision making by modernising planning committees.

- Boosting the capacity of local planning authorities.
- Using development to support nature recovery.
- Extend and apply to England and Wales.

Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill

The Bill will:

- Act as an early step towards the wider programme of rail reform.
- Set public-sector operators as the default position.
- Make sure train operations transfer to a public-sector operator as soon as existing contracts expire or operators fail to meet their commitments.
- Extend and apply to Great Britain.

Better Buses Bill

The Bill will:

- Extend bus franchising powers to local leaders other than metro mayors.
- Speed up the bus franchising process.
- Remove the ban on publicly owned bus companies.
- Safeguard local bus services by providing greater accountability over bus operators.
- Handing powers on bus funding and future transport planning to local leaders.
- Extend to England and Wales and apply to England.

Railways Bill

The Bill will:

- Enable the Government to bring contracts into public ownership as they come to an end or if operators fail to meet their commitments.
- Bring track and train together, and combine planning services on a whole-system basis.
- Bring together in a single public body - Great British Railways (GBR) - the management of the network and the delivery of passenger services.
- Introduce measures to protect the interests of passengers, including a new passenger watchdog, the Passenger Standards Authority.
- Reform the ticketing system.
- Impose on GBR a statutory duty to promote the use of rail freight, alongside a target set by the Secretary of State for Transport.
- Support open access.
- Immediately set up a 'shadow GBR' to operate during the transition.
- The Bill will extend and apply to Great Britain.

High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill

The Bill will:

- Repurpose the High Speed Rail (Crewe–Manchester) Bill to provide powers to push on with rail projects that improve east to west connectivity in the north of England.
- Provide powers to construct rail infrastructure in and around Manchester.
- Extend and apply to Great Britain.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (Revenue Support Mechanism) Bill

The Bill will:

- Support the decarbonisation of the aviation sector.
- Introduce a revenue certainty mechanism for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) producers looking to invest in new plants in the UK.
- Extend and apply to the UK.