

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH 2021

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AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

This country has risen to challenges with no precedent in recent history. We have led the way in responding to Putin's brutal attack on Ukraine, rallying the world against his aggression and imposing punishing sanctions on Russia.

We have led the way in protecting lives and livelihoods in the battle against COVID-19. Thanks to the astonishing rollout of the vaccine and booster programmes – something that was only possible outside the European Union – we were the first European nation to protect half our population with at least one dose, and the first major European nation to boost half our population too.

And thanks to Government action to protect jobs, and the phenomenal resilience of British people and businesses, our economy is bouncing back. Today unemployment is back to pre-crisis levels and last year we were the fastest growing economy in the G7.

But while we can be proud of what we have achieved, the economic aftershocks of COVID-19 and the biggest war in Europe since 1945 mean huge disruptions to the global economy, with people in every major country facing real pressures in the cost of living. No country is immune and no government can realistically shield everyone from the impact.

It is right that we continue doing whatever we can to ease the burdens people are grappling with now, supporting the hardest hit with £22 billion of help to address the cost of living and cutting hundreds of pounds off household bills. But we must also remember that for every pound of taxpayer's money we spend on reducing bills now, it is a pound we are not investing in bringing down bills and prices over the longer term. And that if anything, this moment makes clear our best remedy lies in urgently delivering on our mission to turbo charge the economy, create jobs and spread opportunity across the country.

This is a Queen's Speech to get our country back on track and ensure that we deliver on the promises we made at the start of this Parliament. It will focus on the priorities of the great British public – priorities that this Government shares. It will boost economic growth across the country to address the cost of living, helping to create the conditions for more people to have high-wage, high-skill jobs. It will back our police in making our streets safer – so we can tackle the anti-social behaviour that blights communities. And it will support the NHS in clearing the COVID-19 backlogs – so our family and friends can get the care they deserve.

These are our top priorities – growing the economy, safer streets and supporting the NHS to clear the COVID-19 backlogs.

A new Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will help spread opportunities by driving local growth and regeneration, creating more of the jobs, homes and high streets that people want. Our Schools Bill will better prepare young people to take up these opportunities by levelling up education, raising standards to support our ambition for 90 per cent of primary school children to achieve the expected standards in reading, writing and maths by 2030. And we will level up skills and help people acquire those they need through the introduction of a new lifelong learning initiative: the Lifelong Loan Entitlement – which will allow everyone to train and study flexibly, at any stage in their careers, whether to get a first high-skilled job, or to retrain or change careers.

We will make our transport system more reliable for those who use it and more efficient for the taxpayers who support it with a new Great British Railways governing body – so that our railway network can provide those connections needed for growth, expanding opportunity and supporting families. And we will do more to strengthen the rights of tenants and ensure better quality, safer homes.

We will lay the foundations for longer term growth, showing leadership not just by dealing with the problems of today but ensuring we are better prepared for tomorrow. Our new Energy Security Bill will not only accelerate our transition to more secure, more affordable and cleaner homegrown energy supplies, it will also encourage the creation of tens of thousands of high-skill, high-paid jobs. And a new UK Infrastructure Bank will utilise its £22 billion financial capacity to help grow the economy to address the cost of living and support the transition to net zero by 2050. Meanwhile, the sale of Channel 4 will unleash the potential of the UK's creative sector and we will publish measures to ensure that digital competition is fair for all.

We will get on with growing our economy by making the most of our Brexit freedoms, lightening the regulatory burden to boost UK businesses in a way that works best for us. We will attract business, investment, and encourage innovation by making the UK the best regulated economy in the world. Our Brexit Freedoms Bill will enable law inherited from the EU to be changed more easily to suit the UK without taking decades of parliamentary time. We will bolster our world class financial services industry, create a first-rate data rights regime and unlock the potential of revolutionary technology for our farming sector. And we will reform our public procurement regime so that more small and medium-sized businesses benefit.

One of our greatest new freedoms is the power to negotiate new Free Trade Agreements from scratch, as we have done with Australia and New Zealand. In this session, we will make the changes necessary for their implementation.

We will get on with making our streets safer, backing our police and giving them the tools they need to do the job. More than 13,500 extra police are now protecting the public from crime as part of our pledge to recruit an extra 20,000 police officers. Through this Queen's Speech we will give the police new powers to deal with highly disruptive protests, strengthen our ability to crack down on economic crime, and

ensure that our law enforcement and intelligence agencies are able to tackle a growing and diversifying range of state threats.

We will get on with supporting the NHS as it works to clear the COVID-19 backlogs and implement our long-term plan to fix social care. And we will continue investing the record-breaking billions we are providing the NHS which mean this Government is putting more into our health service than any other Government before.

Finally, we will get on with providing the leadership needed in challenging times. Britain will remain a steadfast friend of Ukraine as it continues its heroic struggle against Russia's invasion. We will not waver – and we will not let up – until Putin fails.

At home, we will strengthen ties across all parts of the United Kingdom. We will introduce legislation to address the legacy of the past in Northern Ireland, establishing a new Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery to provide better outcomes for victims, survivors and veterans.

Together, these measures make this Queen's Speech one that will help us meet today's challenges. They will ensure we can continue building back a better Britain after the pandemic, boosting our growth and recovery so that every part of our country can thrive.

After two years of COVID-19, I know that the last thing people need are further challenges. I know people are struggling with their bills, and that they are anxious about the future.

But we will get the country through it just as we got through COVID-19, with every ounce of ingenuity and compassion and hard work.

While we must keep our public finances on a sustainable footing – and we cannot completely shield people from the fallout from global events – where we can help, we will.

And over the coming months we will continue examining what more we can do to ease the pressures on hard-working people and families.

From the moment I became Prime Minister, my mission has been to deliver for the British people. Over the remainder of this Parliament, this Government will work night and day to ensure we do just that.

HER MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government's priority is to grow and strengthen the economy and help ease the cost of living for families. My Government will level up opportunity in all parts of the country and support more people into work. My Ministers will continue to support the police to make the streets safer, and fund the National Health Service to reduce the COVID backlogs. In these challenging times, my Government will play a leading role in defending democracy and freedom across the world, including continuing to support the people of Ukraine.

My Government will drive economic growth to improve living standards and fund sustainable investment in public services. This will be underpinned by a responsible approach to the public finances, reducing debt while reforming and cutting taxes. My Ministers will support the Bank of England to return inflation to its target.

A Bill will be brought forward to drive local growth, empowering local leaders to regenerate their areas, and ensuring everyone can share in the United Kingdom's success. The planning system will be reformed to give residents more involvement in local development [**Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill**].

My Government will improve transport across the United Kingdom, delivering safer, cleaner services and enabling more innovations. Legislation will be introduced to modernise rail services and improve reliability for passengers [**Transport Bill**].

My Ministers will bring forward an Energy Bill to deliver the transition to cheaper, cleaner, and more secure energy. This will build on the success of the COP26 Summit in Glasgow last year [**Energy Security Bill**]. Draft legislation to promote competition, strengthen consumer rights and protect households and businesses will be published. Measures will also be published to create new competition rules for digital markets and the largest digital firms [**Draft Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill**].

My Government will establish the UK Infrastructure Bank in legislation, with objectives to support economic growth and the delivery of net zero [**UK Infrastructure Bank Bill**].

Reforms to education will help every child fulfil their potential wherever they live, raising standards and improving the quality of schools and higher education **[Schools Bill, Higher Education Bill]**. My Ministers will publish draft legislation to reform the Mental Health Act **[Draft Mental Health Act Reform Bill]**.

My Government will continue to seize the opportunities of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, to support economic growth. Regulations on businesses will be repealed and reformed. A bill will enable law inherited from the European Union to be more easily amended **[Brexit Freedoms Bill]**. Public sector procurement will be simplified to provide new opportunities for small businesses **[Procurement Bill]**.

New legislation will strengthen the United Kingdom's financial services industry, ensuring that it continues to act in the interest of all people and communities **[Financial Services and Markets Bill]**. The United Kingdom's data protection regime will be reformed **[Data Reform Bill]**.

My Government will continue to champion international trade, delivering jobs across the country and growing the economy. Legislation will be introduced to enable the implementation of the United Kingdom's first new Free Trade Agreements since leaving the European Union **[Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill]**.

My Ministers will encourage agricultural and scientific innovation at home. Legislation will unlock the potential of new technologies to promote sustainable and efficient farming and food production **[Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill]**.

My Government will protect the integrity of the United Kingdom's borders and ensure the safety of its people. My Ministers will take action to prevent dangerous and illegal Channel crossings and tackle the criminal gangs who profit from facilitating them. Legislation will be introduced to ensure the police have the powers to make the streets safer **[Public Order Bill]**.

A bill will be brought forward to further strengthen powers to tackle illicit finance, reduce economic crime and help businesses grow **[Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill]**. Measures will be introduced to support the security services and help them protect the United Kingdom **[National Security Bill]**.

My Government will lead the way in championing security around the world. It will continue to invest in our gallant Armed Forces. My Ministers will work closely with

international partners to maintain a united NATO and address the most pressing global security challenges.

The continued success and integrity of the whole of the United Kingdom is of paramount importance to my Government, including the internal economic bonds between all of its parts. My Government will prioritise support for the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and its institutions, including through legislation to address the legacy of the past [**Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill**].

My Government will ensure the constitution is defended. My Ministers will restore the balance of power between the legislature and the courts by introducing a Bill of Rights [**Bill of Rights**]. Legislation will prevent public bodies engaging in boycotts that undermine community cohesion [**Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill**].

My Government will introduce legislation to improve the regulation of social housing to strengthen the rights of tenants and ensure better quality, safer homes [**Social Housing Regulation Bill**]. Legislation will also be introduced to ban conversion therapy [**Conversion Therapy Bill**]. Proposals will be published to establish an independent regulator of English football.

In this year of my Platinum Jubilee, I look forward to the celebrations taking place across the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth, and to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham this summer.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Estimates for the public services will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Other measures will be laid before you.

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Queen's Speech focuses on the priorities of the great British public.

The Speech sets out how the Government is **growing the economy to address the cost of living**:

- We are already providing support to families worth over £22 billion in 2022-23 to help with cost of living pressures. The Government will not hesitate to take further steps to support households if needed. We will continue to focus on bringing forward measures to help people into work, which is the best approach to managing the cost of living long term.
- We have a strong labour market, with unemployment back to below its pre-pandemic rate, and we are supporting people into high-skilled, well-paid work through our multi-billion pound Plan for Jobs.
- The fiscal outlook remains uncertain, which is why we must continue with our work to repair the public finances and return them to a sustainable path.
- We will regenerate our towns and cities, shifting power and accountability to local leaders to improve those areas, drive economic growth, and give communities a louder voice to deliver the ambitions set out in our landmark *Levelling Up White Paper*.
- We will deliver a stronger and more highly performing education system that provides young people with the skills and knowledge they need to fulfil their potential, no matter where they live.
- We will complete the establishment of the UK Infrastructure Bank, utilising its £22 billion financial capacity to support growth, improve connections across the country and help level up the UK whilst supporting our transition to net zero by 2050.
- We will deliver a more secure, homegrown energy system that is cleaner and more affordable.
- We will continue to deliver improvements to transport networks across the UK, providing for reliable services, reducing journey times and spreading economic growth to all regions.
- We will modernise business rates, creating a fairer and more accurate system that will promote investment, productivity and decarbonisation.

- We will strengthen our public service broadcasters to make sure they continue to thrive, benefitting the UK's creative economy and producing outstanding British content.
- Our Social Housing Regulation Bill will eradicate the poor treatment of tenants by some landlords. We will focus on levelling up homeownership for all as part of a fair and just housing system.
- Similarly, the Renters Reform Bill will abolish so-called 'no fault' Section 21 evictions and strengthen landlords' rights of possession, providing a fair and effective market for both tenants and landlords.
- We will end the supremacy of European law and seize the benefits of Brexit to grow the economy to address the cost of living and support business innovation and entrepreneurship, while cutting £1 billion of EU red tape for businesses.
- We will legislate to enable the implementation of the UK's world class trade deals with Australia and New Zealand, delivering economic opportunities across a range of sectors and businesses in all parts of the UK.
- We will remove unnecessary barriers inherited from the EU to enable the development and marketing of precision bred plants and animals and grow the economy by positioning the UK as the leading country in which to invest in agri-food research and innovation.
- Our public procurement regime will be made more simple, transparent and accessible to better meet the country's needs. This will bring a huge boost to businesses and voluntary, charitable and social enterprises, who will be able to compete for public contracts.
- We will create a world class data rights regime, reduce burdens on businesses, boost the economy, and help scientists to innovate.
- The Financial Services and Markets Bill will enhance the UK's position as a global leader in financial services, through the establishment of a coherent, agile and internationally-respected approach to financial services regulation.

The Government will **make the streets safer** by cutting crime and ensuring the police and security services have the powers they need:

- We will get more police on our streets, cut crime and protect the public. We have already recruited over 13,500 more police officers and launched a new Drugs Strategy to shut down county lines gangs.
- We have already made significant reforms in this Parliament. Our Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act will ensure that the most serious sexual and violent

offenders will spend longer in prison, while the police will have new stop and search powers to target those convicted of crimes involving knives.

- We will undertake the biggest overhaul of state threats legislation for a generation, providing our world class law enforcement and intelligence agencies with enhanced powers to tackle the full range of evolving state threats.
- Our Public Order Bill will give the police the powers they need to prevent a minority of protestors from using guerrilla tactics that cause misery to the hard-working public, disrupting businesses, costing millions in taxpayers' money and putting lives at risk.
- We will also prevent criminals and terrorists from exploiting the UK's economy by introducing the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill, which will crack down on illicit finance and strengthen the UK's reputation as a place where legitimate businesses can grow.
- A draft Victims Bill will strengthen rights for victims by placing the Victims' Code on a statutory footing, restore victims' confidence that their voices will be properly heard and that perpetrators will be brought to justice.

The Government is **funding the NHS to clear the COVID-19 backlog**:

- Following the unprecedented challenges placed on the NHS by COVID-19, we will spend more than £8 billion from 2022-23 to 2024-25, supported by the revenue from the Health and Social Care Levy, to clear the COVID-19 backlogs.
- The NHS vaccination programme has been the biggest and fastest in the NHS' history, saving countless lives and enabling us to learn to live with COVID-19. Millions of people are being invited to receive a Spring booster for an additional dose for the most vulnerable individuals
- We have recruited an additional 27,000 nurses, we are investing £1.5 billion to create an additional 50 million GP appointments, and we are delivering our manifesto commitment to build 40 new hospitals. We are also investing £2.3 billion to increase diagnostic activity with ambitions to roll out up to 160 community diagnostic centres over the next three years.

The Government is **providing the leadership needed in these challenging times**:

- We will keep standing up for freedom and democracy against Russia's barbaric attack against Ukraine by building a network of security and defence partnerships and strengthening economic ties across the globe.
- Our Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill will stop public bodies from adopting their own approach to international relations.

- We will introduce a Bill of Rights to ensure there is a proper balance between the rights of individuals, our vital national security and effective government, strengthening freedom of speech, our common law traditions and reducing reliance on Strasbourg case law.
- We will ban abhorrent conversion therapy practices intended to change sexual orientation.
- We will fulfil our manifesto commitment to address the legacy of Northern Ireland's past, providing better outcomes for victims, survivors and their families and giving veterans the protections they deserve.
- We will deliver a carefully balanced package of identity and language measures which will recognise and celebrate Northern Ireland's diversity of identities and culture, accommodating cultural difference and enhancing and developing the Ulster Scots/Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland while also protecting the Irish language.
- We will protect and promote the combined strengths of the UK and the values we share, and ensure our institutions benefit people in every part of our country. We will ensure that opportunity is shared across every corner of the UK and are committed to effective collaboration with devolved governments and local leaders to deliver for people across the UK and truly level up.

GROWING THE ECONOMY TO ADDRESS THE COST OF LIVING

Economic Growth and Support for Businesses

"My Government will drive economic growth to improve living standards and fund sustainable investment in public services. This will be underpinned by a responsible approach to the public finances, reducing debt while reforming and cutting taxes. My Ministers will support the Bank of England to return inflation to its target."

- The UK economy is resilient and has bounced back from the pandemic with output above pre-pandemic levels. Unemployment is back below pre-pandemic levels and demand for workers remains strong with record vacancies.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine has created new challenges for the global economy – highlighting Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas. The Government has set out a long-term *British Energy Security Strategy* to boost homegrown power generation, and create cheaper, cleaner energy in the UK, for the UK. This will ensure we are not dependent on a foreign country to keep our homes warm and lit. This is not only a matter of tackling climate change, it is a matter of national security.
- Our *Plan for Growth* and *Tax Plan* will lower taxes, improve productivity and growth and increase living standards by focusing on innovation, skills and infrastructure. The Government is committed to delivering on the *Plan for Growth* jointly with the private sector.
- The Government is improving the skills system to make technical education more attractive and easier to obtain through apprenticeships, T-Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications and the Lifelong Loan Entitlement. The Government's ambition is to encourage greater levels of private sector investment in employee training, both for apprentices and for employees more generally. The Government will consider whether further intervention is needed to encourage employers to offer the high-quality employee training the UK needs. This will include examining whether the current tax system – including the operation of the Apprenticeship Levy – is doing enough to incentivise businesses to invest in the right kinds of training.
- The Government is increasing investment in infrastructure through the establishment of the UK Infrastructure Bank and delivering on its ambitious capital plans. We will invest over £600 billion in public sector gross investment over the next five years, reaching the highest sustained levels of public sector net investment as a proportion of GDP since the late 1970s.
- By 2024-25, the Government will be investing £20 billion per year in research and development to drive innovation, including establishing the Advanced Research

and Invention Agency. The Government has announced reforms to Research and Development tax reliefs and will continue to reform and improve these tax reliefs at the next Budget.

- The Government is lowering trade barriers and increasing investment through ambitious free trade agreements, taking advantage of the benefits of Brexit to remove non-tariff barriers.
- The Government is supporting energy intensive businesses with their energy costs by extending the Energy Intensive Industries Compensation Scheme, and intends to increase the aid intensity to up to 100 per cent. We will also consider other measures to support business including increasing the renewable obligation exemption to 100 per cent.
- The Brexit Freedoms Bill will ensure that the UK continues to seize the benefits of Brexit and utilises our regulatory freedoms. Future regulation will be in line with our new regulatory principles. Our rules will be proportionate and created in collaboration with business to help spur economic growth.
- As part of their challenge to institutional investors last summer, the Prime Minister and Chancellor have committed to working with industry to identify and remove barriers to long-term investment within the UK.
- The Government is delivering a competitive and dynamic economy, including by planning the introduction of a new digital competition regime as well as new competition and consumer reforms to support free, open and innovative markets with high consumer standards..
- Building on the successes of last year's Build Back Better Business Council, the Prime Minister's Business Council brings together a new cohort of business leaders to support the delivery of the *Plan for Growth* and its three Pillars stimulating collaboration between government and the private sector, and prioritising investment in infrastructure, innovation and skills.

Employment

- The Government is supporting people into high-skilled, well-paid work through our multi-billion pound *Plan for Jobs*.
- The Kickstart scheme, which ran from September 2020 - March 2022, has provided 160,000 Kickstart jobs to young people. Youth unemployment has decreased from 11.8 per cent in the three months to February 2020, to 11.3 per cent in the three months to February 2022.

- As Kickstart comes to an end, young people will continue to be supported by the Department for Work and Pensions' Youth Offer, which has been extended to 2025 and supports young job seekers on Universal Credit into work through its Youth Employment Programme, Youth Hubs, and Youth Employability coaches.
- The Government has announced more than £1.1 billion of funding over the next three years for programmes that enable people with disabilities or long-term health conditions to find and sustain employment. These include the Access to Work scheme and the Work and Health Programme.
- In 2020, the Government doubled the number of work coaches to 27,000 in just over eight months and is now continuing to invest over £900 million for each year of this Spending Review on work coaches, to ensure Universal Credit claimants receive the best support to find employment. Work coaches are the first point of contact when a claimant loses their job and begins claiming Universal Credit.
- The Government has invested £90 million in the 2021 Spending Review to extend the Job Entry Targeted Support scheme for a further year, to the end of September 2022. So far, over 176,000 jobseekers have been supported by the scheme, and over 43,000 people on the Scheme moved into work.
- The Restart scheme, launched in July 2021 with referrals running to Summer 2024, provides up to 12 months of intensive, tailored employment support to help jobseekers who have been unemployed for over nine months increase their prospects of finding work.
- The new, enhanced 50+ offer, launched in the 2021 Spending Review and worth over £20 million, will support older jobseekers to return to, or remain in, work and benefit from fuller working lives.
- The Government's Way to Work campaign aims to move 500,000 jobseekers into work by June 2022. This campaign will help to fill record vacancies, supporting job ready people into the labour market, helping them progress into a career. We know work is the best way for people to improve their lives and support their families - households on Universal Credit are at least £6,000 a year better off in full-time work than out of work.

Trade and Investment

- We are using our Brexit freedoms to deliver an independent trade policy and strengthen our links with the world's largest and fastest-growing economies.
- Our Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU is the world's biggest zero-tariff, zero-quota free trade deal, allowing businesses in Britain to trade freely with Europe while allowing us to seize new opportunities around the world.

- As an independent trading nation, we have established a new, simpler tariff regime and already secured trade deals with 70 countries plus the EU, partners which accounted for over £808 billion of bilateral trade in 2021.
- We are putting the UK at the centre of a network of modern trade deals spanning the Americas and Pacific. Our Japan deal went further on digital trade supporting future-facing industries where the UK prospers, like services and tech. Our deals with Australia and New Zealand reduce tariffs so British consumers enjoy lower costs and more choice while making British exporters more competitive.
- We're on track to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership this year – a free trade area of over 500 million people, with a combined GDP of £9 trillion, covering some of the world's fastest-growing economies and most reliable supply chains.
- We have resolved costly frictions in our trade relationship with the United States, eliminating unjustified tariffs on Scotch Whisky and other products as well as reaching a resolution for the expansive removal of tariffs on UK steel and aluminium exports. And we are working on further collaboration to strengthen the transatlantic trade relationship.
- The Government has launched a new Export Strategy to address the barriers to exporting, particularly for small and medium sized enterprises, and to transform the way we deliver support to exporters through the Export Support Service, a one-stop shop for exporting guidance. The Government has also expanded UK Export Finance support to help UK exporters to sell overseas.
- The UK remains a top destination for foreign direct investment. By the end of 2020, the UK's inward foreign direct investment stock levels reached \$2.2 trillion, the third highest in the world. We are intent on building on this, including through the Office for Investment which supports attracting high value investment into the UK, such as the recent £10 billion Sovereign Investment Partnership with the United Arab Emirates.
- We have established Freeports as national hubs for international trade, innovation and commerce, regenerating communities across the UK, attracting new businesses, spreading jobs, investment and opportunity to towns and cities across the country. Eight have been announced in England. Two Freeports have been announced for Scotland with the Government committed to deliver at least one in each of Wales and Northern Ireland.

Other Support for Businesses

- The Government recognises that this is also a worrying time for businesses given the global situation. Energy prices have increased globally, while businesses are navigating supply chain issues as the world economy recovers from the pandemic and adapts to the shock of war in Ukraine.
- The Government has reduced the burden of business rates in England and has provided over £17 billion worth of additional rates relief since 2020. Changes announced at the end of the review in October 2021 will reduce the burden of business rates by a further £7 billion over the next five years.
- To help small and medium-sized enterprises gain the skills they need to succeed, the Government is subsidising the cost of high-quality training. Help to Grow: Management offers businesses world class leadership training through the UK's top business schools, with the Government covering 90 per cent of the cost.
- The Government is helping firms to adopt new digital technologies, with Help to Grow: Digital providing free, impartial advice and offering eligible companies a 50 per cent discount on approved software, worth up to £5,000 per company, to improve their productivity.
- To support the decarbonisation of non-domestic buildings, the Government has introduced targeted business rates exemptions for eligible plant and machinery used in onsite renewable energy generation and storage, and a 100 per cent relief for eligible low-carbon heat networks with their own rates bill.
- The Government is supporting small businesses to create jobs with a further increase to the Employment Allowance to £5,000 per year – this is a tax cut worth up to £1,000 per employer.
- The Government has made additional commitments to the British Business Bank to help businesses access the finance they need. This includes £1.6 billion to provide investment funds for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the North, Midlands, and South West of England, £150 million to invest alongside business angels across the UK, and resources to provide 33,000 Start-Up Loans over the next three years.

Cost of Living

- The Government understands how the rising cost of living is making life harder for people. These are global challenges, however, the Government is providing support worth over £22 billion in 2022-23 to help families with these pressures. The Government will continue to keep the situation under review, recognising the high level of current uncertainty and continue to monitor the ongoing impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the economy. We will be ready to take further steps, if needed, to support households.
- We are boosting the incomes of the lowest paid:
 - raising the National Living Wage by 6.6 per cent to £9.50 from April 2022, meaning an extra £1,000 a year for a full-time worker;
 - increasing the National Insurance Threshold in July, worth £330 in the year from July for a typical employee – the single largest personal tax cut for a decade; and
 - giving 1.7 million families around an extra £1,000 a year, on average, through our cut to the Universal Credit taper rate and increase to the work allowance.
- We are helping families with their energy costs:
 - providing a £150 council tax rebate for those in Bands A-D in England from April and £144 million of discretionary funding for Local Authorities to support households who need support but are not eligible for the Council Tax rebate;
 - a £200 reduction in households' energy bills delivered from October. This helps households smooth out the increased costs of energy bills at a time when they are particularly high, with the costs of the reduction spread as widely as possible so that no household pays more than £40 per year through the levy.
 - on top of this, we are providing a £150 rebate on the energy bills of three million low-income households from October through the Warm Home Discount;
 - providing seasonal cold weather payments of an extra £25 a week for up to four million people during sustained cold periods; and
 - giving up to £300 in Winter Fuel Payments to people of State Pension age.

- We are supporting people with household bills:
 - we have cut fuel duty by 5p for 12 months, saving drivers an average of £100 a year – having already frozen it for twelve consecutive years;
 - we have doubled the value of the Household Support Fund to £1 billion, helping local authorities support those on the lowest incomes with their food and utility costs;
 - investing £200 million a year to continue the Holiday Activities and Food Programme – which benefited over 600,000 children last summer;
 - increased the value of the Healthy Start Vouchers by a third to £4.25 a week; and
 - we have doubled free childcare to 30 hours since 2010, worth £5,000 per child per year for the parents of the 330,000 registered children.

- And we are helping with the cost of housing:
 - maintaining the increase to Local Housing Allowance in cash terms – an intervention that was worth an extra £600 on average to 1.5 million households in 2020-21; and
 - provided £670 million to help local authorities support households struggling with council tax bills.

- Government decisions since Spending Round 2019 will have benefitted the lowest-income households the most, as a proportion of income. Our modelling also shows that:
 - the lowest-income 60 per cent of households receive more in public spending than they contribute in tax;
 - households in the lowest income decile will receive more than £4 in public spending for every £1 they pay in tax, on average; and
 - the impact of Government policy since the 2019 Spending Round on the lowest-income 40 per cent of households is expected to be worth more than £1,000 a year on average, while there will have been a net benefit on average for the poorest 80 per cent of households.

Public Finances

- The fiscal outlook remains uncertain. Spending on public debt interest repayments has risen sharply in recent months, to reach record levels in each of the last three months. This is why we must continue with our work to repair the public finances and return them to a sustainable path. Debt is now on track to fall in the next few years due to the tough and responsible decisions taken to rebuild our fiscal resilience. Lower debt means we have more fiscal space to respond to future shocks and that our economy is more secure.
- Action taken last year returned the public finances to a sustainable path, and the Government is on track to meet its fiscal rules – with debt falling and no borrowing for day-to-day spending in the medium term. Public Sector Net Borrowing fell to £151.8 billion last year and is forecast to fall this year to £99.1 billion – more than half the peacetime record reached last year.
- Lower borrowing in this forecast reflects, in part, stronger than expected tax receipts last year, thanks in part to the Government's *Plan for Jobs* – which has protected jobs and businesses.
- The improvement seen in the public finances has created some additional headroom against the Government's fiscal rules, which the Government has prioritised using to deliver reductions in tax.
- However, this year (2022-23) we are forecast to spend £83 billion on debt interest and the global economic outlook is uncertain. Keeping a margin of safety against fiscal rules is therefore prudent and not unusual, particularly given the uncertain outlook following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and given the heightened sensitivity of our debt to interest rates and inflation. The Office for Budget Responsibility has said that this Government is "broadly in line with the headroom retained by previous Chancellors".

Levelling Up

- The UK is one of the greatest countries on earth, with an unparalleled history and a boundless future. We are home to globally renowned scientists making new discoveries every day, innovative entrepreneurs creating products and services which deliver jobs and growth, and a National Health Service which is the epitome of the kindness and compassion of millions of our citizens.
- But while talent is spread equally across our country, opportunity is not yet. Levelling up is this Government's mission to change that, ending geographical disparities by giving everyone the opportunity to harness their ability and flourish. Our *Levelling Up* White Paper set out a long-term plan to transform the UK, including a complete 'system change' of how Government works. At the core of this new way of making and implementing policy is twelve bold, national missions – all quantifiable and to be achieved by 2030. These missions form the heart of the Government's agenda for the 2020s and will be a cross-government, cross-society effort.
- We will do this by improving economic dynamism and innovation to drive growth across the whole country, unleashing the power of the private sector to unlock jobs and opportunity for all. We will improve productivity, boost economic growth, encourage innovation, create good jobs, and enhance educational attainment across all parts of the UK. We will also extend, deepen, and simplify local devolution in England where the local appetite exists, while continuing to support the City and Growth deal areas in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
- We have made good progress towards spreading opportunity across the country since 2019, with:
 - £5 billion committed to Project Gigabit to bring gigabit-capable broadband to 85 per cent of the UK by 2025, and the £1 billion Shared Rural Network deal with mobile operators delivering 4G coverage to 95 per cent of the UK by the end of 2025;
 - five-year consolidated transport settlements amounting to £5.7 billion in eight city regions outside London, £5 billion of funding for buses and active travel over this Parliament; and £96 billion for the Integrated Rail Plan delivering faster, more frequent and more reliable journeys across the North of England and the Midlands;
 - a new schools funding formula in England ending the previous postcode lottery, and an extra £4 billion for schools in England in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22, with the devolved administrations receiving funding through the Barnett formula;

- total government investment in skills of £3.8 billion in England planned by 2024-25, including a Lifetime Skills Guarantee, enabling 11 million adults to gain an A Level or equivalent qualification for free (with equivalent funding transferred to the devolved administrations through the Barnett formula) as well as a new UK-wide adult numeracy programme - Multiply - and skills bootcamps in England;
 - a lower Universal Credit taper rate – down from 63 per cent to 55 per cent – and a higher National Living Wage, making work pay for millions of people, and letting them keep more of what they earn;
 - over 13,500 new police officers already recruited in England and Wales as part of the commitment to have 20,000 more officers;
 - control of our immigration system by ending free movement and introducing a new points-based immigration system, giving the UK the freedom to decide who comes to our country based on the skills people have to offer;
 - £1.49 billion in City and Growth Deals in every part of Scotland, £791 million across Wales and £617 million for deals covering the whole of Northern Ireland;
 - eight innovative Freeports bringing jobs, investment and prosperity across England through cutting through existing red tape and lowering the tax burden, with a commitment to deliver more Freeports in each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland;
 - 101 towns across England receiving funding from the £3.6 billion Towns Fund to unleash their economic potential, and £4.8 billion infrastructure investment across the UK via the Levelling Up fund;
 - nearly £2 billion in Culture Recovery funding to help museums, theatres, cinemas and heritage organisations survive the pandemic; and
 - £30 billion of public investment for the industrial revolution on clean growth and the transition to a lower carbon economy.
- But there is much more to do to truly level up the UK. Levelling up will require us to:
 - boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging;
 - spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest;

- restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been weakened; and
- empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.
- Levelling up is not about pulling down more prosperous areas, any particular points of the compass or preferment for any one part of the country at the expense of any other, but rather extending opportunity across the UK.
- Only by building on every UK city, town and village's unique strengths will we be able to grow our economy to address the cost of living, make our streets safer, and fund the NHS to clear the COVID-19 backlogs.
- The prize of levelling up is enormous. By levelling up skills, health, education, and wellbeing, we can grow the economy and boost GDP by tens of billions of pounds each year. But most importantly of all, we can finally realise the potential of every place and every person in the UK.

Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill

“A bill will be brought forward to drive local growth, empowering local leaders to regenerate their areas, and ensuring everyone can share in the United Kingdom’s success. The planning system will be reformed to give residents more involvement in local development.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Level up the UK, grow the economy in the places that need it most and regenerate our towns and cities – giving people the opportunities they want, where they live.
- Improve the planning system to give communities a louder voice, making sure developments are beautiful, green and accompanied by new infrastructure and affordable housing.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Laying the foundations for all of England to have the opportunity to benefit from a devolution deal by 2030 – giving local leaders the powers they need to drive real improvement in their communities.
- Improving outcomes for our natural environment by introducing a new approach to environmental assessment in our planning system. This benefit of Brexit will mean the environment is further prioritised in planning decisions.
- Capturing more of the financial value created by development with a locally set, non-negotiable levy to deliver the infrastructure that communities need, such as housing, schools, GPs and new roads.
- Simplifying and standardising the process for local plans so that they are produced more quickly and are easier for communities to influence.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Placing a duty on the Government to set Levelling Up missions and produce an annual report updating the country on delivery of these missions.
- Creating a new model of combined authority: the ‘County Deal’ which will provide local leaders with powers to enhance local accountability, join up services and provide transparent decision making to rejuvenate their communities, increase their ability to reflect local preferences in arrangements including directly elected leaders’ titles.

- Unlocking new powers for local authorities to bring empty premises back into use and instigate rental auctions of vacant commercial properties in town centres and on high streets.
- Giving residents more of a say over changing street names and ensuring everyone can continue to benefit from al fresco dining.
- Strengthening neighbourhood planning and digitalising the system to make local plans easier to find, understand and engage with; by making it easier for local authorities to get local plans in place, we will limit speculative development.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will, in the main, extend to England and Wales and apply to England only, with some provisions extending and applying across the UK.

Key facts

- The UK is the fifth largest economy in the world. If cities in the North and Midlands were as productive as London and South East, UK GDP could be boosted by around £180 billion.
- Nine Combined Authority mayors have been elected since 2017, which has resulted in more decisions on business support, employment support, public health, and transport being taken by locally accountable leaders.
- 72 per cent of retail sales in 2020 took place in store but vacancy rates on high streets remain high at 13.5 per cent. A one per cent increase in vacancy rates is equal to around a nine per cent fall in prime rental incomes.
- This Government is already delivering the highest levels of housing in 30 years – with 244,000 homes delivered last year. People increasingly support more homes being built in their local area, up from 28 per cent in 2010 to 57 per cent in 2018 but the current system cannot meet the national demand for housing.
- Results from a YouGov poll shows that 69 per cent of respondents had never engaged with a Local Plan consultation, rising to 80 per cent for 18-35 year olds.

Schools Bill

“Reforms to education will help every child fulfil their potential wherever they live, raising standards and improving the quality of schools and higher education.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Level up opportunity by delivering a stronger and more highly performing school system that works for every child, regardless of where they live.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Supporting school to be part of a family of schools in a strong trust to level up school standards and thus enable all children to achieve their potential wherever they live and whatever their background. This will support the ambition that by 2030, 90 per cent of primary school children will achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by a third.
- Ensuring that funding is allocated on a fair and consistent basis for all schools wherever they are so all schools deliver world class outcomes for their pupils.
- Strengthening the school attendance regime so children can benefit from being in school.
- Providing the tools to improve safeguarding for children wherever they are educated, including through ‘children not in school’ registers.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Strengthening the regulatory framework for academy trusts and establishing new statutory standards to drive clarity and consistency of expectations for academy trusts, underpinned by intervention powers to ensure action can be taken to tackle serious failure if it occurs.
- Supporting more schools to become academies in strong trusts by removing barriers to conversion for faith schools and grammar schools and bringing schools into the academy sector where this is requested by local authorities.
- Enabling better, more targeted, and more consistent multi-agency support to the children and families who need it most across England by making necessary reforms to the attendance legal framework. The Bill will require schools to publish an attendance policy and will put attendance guidance on a statutory footing, making roles and responsibilities clearer.

- Implementing a direct National Funding Formula, so that each mainstream school will be allocated funding on the same basis, wherever it is in the country, and every child will be given the same opportunities, based on a consistent assessment of their needs.
- Establishing ‘children not in school’ registers, as well as creating a duty on local authorities to provide support to home educating families. This will provide accurate data to help identify children who are not receiving a safe or suitable full-time education, and to enable support to be offered to interested parents of registered children.
- Improving safeguarding by expanding registration requirements for independent educational institutions, enhancing enforcement, and working with Ofsted to expand investigatory powers.
- Strengthening the current teacher misconduct regime to include more educational institutions and increasing powers to investigate individuals who commit misconduct and enact appropriate regulatory discipline procedures.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend to England and Wales and apply to England only.

Key facts

Standards and academies

- The proportion of schools rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted has increased by 18 percentage points from 2010.
- More than seven out of ten sponsored academies are now rated as Good or Outstanding compared to about one in ten of the local authority-maintained schools that they replaced.
- Over 434,000 children are now being educated in Good and Outstanding academies which have improved since they joined strong trusts. Supporting more schools to become academies will enable more children to benefit from the advantages of strong trusts.

Funding

- Currently, funding levels can vary significantly between individual schools simply because of where they are located. For example, the funding for a small, rural primary school can vary by £100,000 depending on where it is in the country. The funding for a large, deprived secondary school can vary by £1.25 million.

Attendance

- Pupils' attainment, wellbeing, and wider development are secured by good attendance. By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils with no absences are 1.3 times more likely to achieve level four or above in reading and maths tests, and 3.1 times more likely to achieve level five or above, than pupils who missed ten to 15 per cent of all sessions.
- Prior to the pandemic, pupil absence fell substantially. From 2009-10 to 2018-19, the fall was from 6.0 per cent to 4.7 per cent of school sessions, representing around 15 million more days in school. Despite this, the prevalence of persistent absenteeism (even prior to COVID-19) was unacceptably high, with one in nine pupils missing more than ten per cent of possible sessions in 2018-19.

Children not in school

- It is estimated that there were more than 115,000 children who were home educated at some point during the 2020-21 academic year, which is an increase of 34 per cent on the previous year. Local authorities need accurate data to identify children in their areas who are not receiving a safe or efficient full-time suitable education, and also to offer support to interested parents of home educated children.

Transport Bill

“My Government will improve transport across the United Kingdom, delivering safer, cleaner services and enabling more innovations. Legislation will be introduced to modernise rail services and improve reliability for passengers.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Simplify the railways to ensure a better and more reliable service for passengers, to support economic growth across the country and ensure the survival of the railways.
- Keep the UK at the forefront of transport innovation, helping deliver the reforms we have promised to decarbonise transport, transform the way we travel, and better connect communities.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Creating Great British Railways, which will deliver a better experience for passengers and freight customers with more punctual and reliable services.
- Enabling efficiencies and economies of scale across the rail sector, which is currently difficult to achieve in today's fragmented system.
- Enabling innovation in transport, improving safety and providing new choices for the public, whilst attracting investment to the UK.
- Enabling the installation of more electric vehicle charge points throughout the UK as part of the transition away from new petrol and diesel car and van sales by 2030 and building public confidence to switch to zero emission vehicles.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Providing a new body, Great British Railways, with the powers it needs to act as the single national leader of the railways, with clear lines of accountability for decision-making and joined-up leadership to deliver a customer-focused railway, including by improving accessibility and promoting open data. Great British Railways will work within a clear mandate, goals and budgets set by the Government, who will reserve powers of direction.
- Transferring contracting powers for passenger services to Great British Railways, and ensuring we retain the best of the private sector by expanding its role under the new model, introducing new passenger service contracts focussed on getting the trains running punctually and reliably.

- Introducing new laws that safely enable self-driving and remotely operated vehicles and vessels, support the roll-out of electric vehicle charge points and enabling the licensing of London pedicabs.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- Between the privatisation of the railways in 1997 and the start of the pandemic passenger numbers more than doubled, rising more quickly than most of Europe.
- The private sector has invested around £1 billion per year into the railways in recent years, and in 2019 rail travel had its highest share of all miles travelled in Great Britain since 1967.
- The plans retain a significant role for the private sector, which will operate services to the specifications laid down by Great British Railways, and will unleash exciting new opportunities for the private sector to innovate in areas such as ticket retailing, and long term asset maintenance.
- Legislation for self-driving vehicles will enable an emerging UK sector in this new technology, predicted by the Connected Places Catapult in 2020 to be worth £41.7 billion to the UK economy by 2035 and expected to create 38,000 new skilled jobs.
- We estimate that the UK could take a market share of ten per cent from a global autonomous shipping market worth £110 billion by 2030.
- 75 per cent of adults in England believe there are not enough charge points, a top barrier to switching to electric vehicles. To address this, we have recently announced our Electric Vehicle Strategy which sets out our vision and action plan for the rollout of elective vehicle charging infrastructure in the UK.

Energy Security Bill

“My Ministers will bring forward an Energy Bill to deliver the transition to cheaper, cleaner, and more secure energy. This will build on the success of the COP26 Summit in Glasgow last year.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver the commitments in the *British Energy Security Strategy* and the *Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution* to build a more secure, homegrown energy system that is cleaner and more affordable.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Maintaining a safe and secure energy supply and helping to protect consumers against global price fluctuations. We will increase our energy security by supporting a low-carbon energy system and reducing our dependence on gas over the long term.
- Protecting consumers from unfair pricing. The energy price cap is the best safety net for millions, preventing suppliers from overcharging consumers. The Bill will enable the extension of the price cap beyond 2023, and it will regulate the heat networks sector.
- Attracting billions in private investment and supporting tens of thousands of new, skilled jobs across the UK. Developing Carbon Capture Usage and Storage and low carbon hydrogen will create new industries, transforming our former industrial heartlands.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Introducing state-of-the-art business models for Carbon Capture Usage and Storage transport and storage, low carbon hydrogen and industrial carbon capture which will fire the starting gun on new, low-carbon technologies.
- Reducing the risk of fuel supply disruption by giving Government the power to give directions to, require information from, and provide financial assistance to core fuel sector businesses to ensure resilience and continuity of fuel supply.
- Supporting industry to step up investment in growing the consumer market for electric heat pumps by providing for a new market standard and trading scheme. This will support innovation and help to lower the costs of heat pumps over time.
- Appointing Ofgem as the new regulator for heat networks, ensuring consumers get a fair price and a reliable supply of heat.

- Extending the energy price cap, preventing suppliers from overcharging consumers.
- Enabling the first ever large-scale hydrogen heating trial, allowing us to inform the role of hydrogen in heat decarbonisation in 2026.
- Introducing competition in Britain's onshore electricity networks, encouraging investment and innovation, and enabling savings.
- Creating a new pro-innovation regulatory environment for fusion energy.
- Establishing a new Future System Operator, providing strategic oversight across electricity and gas systems. It will drive progress towards net zero, energy security and minimising consumer costs.
- Facilitating the safe, and cost-effective clean-up of the UK's legacy nuclear sites, ensuring the UK is a responsible nuclear state.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply mainly to Great Britain, with some provisions extending and applying across the UK.

Key facts

- The *Ten Point Plan*, *Net Zero Strategy* and *British Energy Security Strategy* are driving an unprecedented £100 billion of private sector investment in new British industries by 2030 and supporting around 480,000 clean jobs by the end of the decade.
- At the Global Investment Summit in October 2021, the Prime Minister announced a package of 18 deals to support green growth worth £9.7 billion.
- Between 1990 and 2019 we grew our economy by more than three-quarters. At the same time, we cut greenhouse emissions by over 40 per cent, faster than any other country in the G7.
- Renewable electricity generation has more than quadrupled since 2010. Offshore wind has increased tenfold, while coal has fallen by 94 per cent.
- We must continue to make progress towards our commitment to reduce emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 and become net zero by 2050.
- By extending the energy price cap beyond 2023, the Government will be protecting 22 million households who are on default tariffs.

Draft Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill

“Draft legislation to promote competition, strengthen consumer rights and protect households and businesses will be published. Measures will also be published to create new competition rules for digital markets and the largest digital firms.”

The purpose of the draft Bill is to:

- Protect consumers’ hard-earned cash from scams and rip-offs and boost consumers’ rights.
- Reform the UK’s competition regime, putting the power in the hands of consumers and strengthening public and business confidence in the power of free markets to deliver prosperity.
- Create a best in class competition regime, to make markets for consumer goods and services more competitive and dynamic, to ensure that consumers get the best deals.
- Boost competition by introducing a new regime to address the far-reaching market power of a small number of very powerful tech firms.

The main benefits of the draft Bill would be:

- Preventing fake reviews so consumers have information they can trust.
- Enabling the Competition and Markets Authority to take swift and decisive action on behalf of consumers and to boost competition, ensuring we have an economy where firms compete to give consumers the best deals.
- Providing more choice and better quality services for consumers and businesses. This will lower prices for everyday goods and services that rely on online advertising.
- Creating opportunities for UK tech companies to flourish and offer new products and services, which will drive innovation and a more dynamic digital economy.
- Ensuring that businesses across the economy that rely on very powerful tech firms, including the news publishing sector, are treated fairly and can succeed without having to comply with unfair terms.

The main elements of the draft Bill are:

- Tackling subscription traps by requiring businesses to provide clearer information to consumers and to send reminders before a contract auto-renews.

- Updating consumer law to prohibit commissioning fake reviews, offering to provide fake reviews, or hosting consumer reviews without taking reasonable steps to ensure reviews are genuine.
- Strengthening protections for consumers using Christmas savings clubs and other similar schemes, which are not currently regulated.
- Updating and simplifying regulations for package travel, so more businesses comply with the law, non-flight packages are better protected, and the quality of information and guidance is improved.
- Giving the Competition and Markets Authority the ability to decide for itself when consumer law has been broken, and to issue monetary penalties for those breaches.
- Improving the quality and oversight of services offering dispute resolution, so consumers have more and better alternatives to going to court.
- Empowering the Digital Markets Unit to designate a small number of firms who are very powerful in particular digital activities, such as social media and online search, with Strategic Market Status. This status will lead to these firms facing legally enforceable rules and obligations to ensure they cannot abuse their dominant positions at the expense of consumers and other businesses.
- Giving the Digital Markets Unit powers to proactively address the root causes of competition issues in digital markets. It will impose interventions to inject competition into the market, including obligations on tech firms to report new mergers and give consumers more choice and control over their data.

Territorial extent and application

- The consumer policy provisions will extend and apply across Great Britain. Competition and digital market measures will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- Government research estimates that consumers hold £1.8 billion worth of unwanted subscriptions and that UK consumers lose a further £23 billion annually from problems with purchases and the value of their time in trying to resolve the problem.
- Research from 2015 estimated £23 billion of purchases a year are influenced by online reviews. Some estimates show that up to 50 per cent of reviews on

popular e-commerce websites are not genuine and that fake reviews make consumers more than twice as likely to choose poor-quality products.

- The Competition and Markets Authority's first *State of UK Competition* report found that competition across the economy may have declined in the previous 20 years.
- The Competition and Markets Authority has provided £2.6 billion of net benefit to consumers annually on average over the past three years. The Authority's annual impact assessment 2020-21 estimated that in each year from 2018-19 to 2020-21 the following consumer savings were delivered:
 - £110 million from competition enforcement;
 - £445 million from merger control;
 - £1.88 billion from market studies and investigations; and
 - £130 million from consumer protection.
- Weak competition in the UK's digital advertising market is leading to higher prices for consumers. The Competition and Markets Authority estimates that consumers lose £2.4 billion per year from Facebook and Google's high advertising prices alone.
- The independent Cairncross Review in 2019 identified an imbalance of bargaining power between news publishers and digital platforms. The Competition and Markets Authority found publishers see Google and Facebook as 'must have' partners as they provide almost 40 per cent of large publishers' traffic.

UK Infrastructure Bank Bill

“My Government will establish the UK Infrastructure Bank in legislation, with objectives to support economic growth and the delivery of net zero.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Finalise the creation of the UK Infrastructure Bank by establishing it in law with clear objectives to support regional and local economic growth and deliver net zero, and ensuring it has the full range of spending and lending powers.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring the Bank can become fully operational and is able to utilise its £22 billion financial capacity to help grow the economy to address the cost of living and support the transition to net zero by 2050.
- Providing a boost to infrastructure investment by cementing the Bank’s leading role in the market. The Bank will partner with the private sector to unlock more than £18 billion of additional investment in infrastructure.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Enshrining the Bank’s objectives and functions in legislation to ensure that it will be a long-lasting institution with a clear policy mandate to support economic growth, including at a regional and local level, and the delivery of net zero.
- Protecting the Bank’s operational independence by setting out clear accountability for how it is to be run, including reporting and board requirements.
- Providing the Bank with the necessary powers to lend directly to local authorities and the Northern Ireland Executive, enabling the Bank to play a key role in delivering public sector infrastructure projects.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- The UK Infrastructure Bank is a British state-owned investment bank. It is intended to help with the Government’s plan to support economic growth in regional and local sectors across the UK and reach net zero carbon by 2050.

- The UK's core infrastructure - including power, heat and transport networks - accounts for over two-thirds of UK carbon emissions. Low carbon investment must therefore scale up quickly to deliver net zero. The Bank is part of a wider infrastructure strategy aimed at addressing this shortfall and builds on the existing expertise of the National Infrastructure Commission and the Infrastructure Projects Authority.
- The Bank has £22 billion of financial capacity to offer a range of financial tools, including debt, equity and guarantees. It has already undertaken several investments, including a £107 million loan to support Tees Valley Combined Authority in the redevelopment of the South Bank Quay in the Teesworks Freeport area. Once finished, this will host a GE Renewable Energy site for the manufacture of offshore wind turbines, creating around 800 jobs.
- The Bank will focus on investments in under-invested areas where it can take a lead in the market and encourage more private finance into these areas. Through this focus, the Bank will partner with the private sector to unlock more than £18 billion of additional investment in infrastructure.
- Infrastructure projects required to meet our objectives often do not garner the confidence or secure the finance needed from the private sector as they tend to be complex, novel and long-term. The Bank will provide the long-term policy certainty required to support the growth of key nascent industries, for example Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage which encounters many of the same problems experienced by the offshore wind industry in its early days.
- Disparity in infrastructure across the country has been identified as a key driver of economic disparities. Without intervention, the private sector is likely to continue to target geographic areas which have historically received higher levels of private capital for further investment.

Non-Domestic Rating Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver manifesto commitments to review and create a fairer, more accurate business rates system, meaning businesses will have the confidence they are paying the right tax.
- Support businesses and employees to enhance productivity and energy efficiency by making improvements to their place of work.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Modernising the business rates system with more frequent revaluations based on more accurate data, driving growth by making rates bills more responsive to economic changes.
- Incentivising business ratepayers to invest in their properties and decarbonise with new reliefs backed by the Government.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Shortening the business rates revaluation cycle from five to three years from 2023.
- Improving the valuation accuracy and timeliness in a shorter revaluation cycle through new duties on ratepayers, with measures to support compliance.
- Creating a power for the Valuation Office Agency to provide ratepayers with information on the calculation of their rateable value.
- Tightening appeals against rates on the basis of changing circumstances – building on our recent legislation and £1.5 billion pandemic support fund by future-proofing business rates against further shocks.
- Introducing new 12-month rates relief on increases to rateable value arising from improvements made to a property, and a new 100 per cent rates relief for low-carbon heat networks that are assessed as separate entities for business rates.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend to England and Wales, and with the exception of some minor provisions, apply to England only.

Key facts

- The Government has provided over £17 billion worth of additional rates relief since 2020. Changes announced at the end of the review in October 2021 will reduce the burden of business rates by a further £7 billion over the next five years.
- Introducing a new relief to support investment in property improvements will enable occupying businesses to invest in expanding their properties and making them work better for customers and employees. This is part of a £750 million package to support investment, which includes exemptions for green plant and machinery like solar panels and 100 per cent relief for low-carbon heat networks.

Media Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Reform decades-old laws to boost our public service broadcasters, which develop talent and skills, drive growth in the creative industries across the UK and deliver distinctive, diverse British content.
- Enable a change of ownership of Channel 4 to give it the tools it needs to succeed in the future as a public service broadcaster while protecting its distinctiveness.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Delivering a new public service remit for TV while making sure public service broadcasters continue to service audiences across the UK with universally-available, high-quality programming.
- Making sure public service broadcast content is always carried and easy to find for UK audiences on connected devices and major online platforms, including on smart TVs, set-top boxes and streaming sticks.
- Enabling a change of ownership of Channel 4 so it can continue to thrive and grow its impact for years to come as part of the wider public service broadcasting system.
- Protecting viewers using video-on-demand services through a new Video-on-Demand Code, to be drafted and enforced by Ofcom.
- Removing a threat to the freedom and sustainability of the press by repealing Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Ensuring that public service content is prominent, available and easily accessible across a range of platforms.
- Updating the public broadcasting framework to better facilitate the delivery of public service broadcasting through digital platforms and promoting the production and distribution of distinctively British content.
- Giving Ofcom new regulatory powers to draft and enforce a Video-on-Demand Code to make sure services which target and profit from UK audiences are subject to stricter rules protecting UK audiences from harmful material.

- Allowing for the conversion of Channel 4 from a statutory corporation to a new corporate structure that could be sold, and other changes concerning Channel 4's obligations and remit to ensure the sustainability of the broadcaster.
- Updating the public service remit of S4C (Sianel Pedwar Cymru), the Welsh language television service, to include digital and online services. Removing the current geographical broadcasting restrictions so that S4C can broaden its reach and offer its content on a range of new platforms in the UK and beyond.
- Repealing Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 which would (if commenced) force new publishers to pay the costs of any court judgment if they were not a member of the approved regulator, regardless of the outcome of the court judgment.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- In 2019, the UK's public service broadcasters were able to spend just under £3.2 billion on the content they showed. Whereas, Netflix alone spent an estimated \$13.9 billion (£11.5 billion).
- The share of total viewing for 'linear' TV channels such as ITV and the BBC fell by more than ten per cent between 2017 and 2020. The share for subscription video-on-demand services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video rose from six per cent to 19 per cent over the same period.
- The UK has a unique broadcasting ecology, worth about £12 billion a year and responsible for 180,000 jobs across the UK (including film).
- Independent production in the UK is now booming - revenues have grown from £500 million in 1995 to £3 billion in 2020.

Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Improve cyber resilience and digital connectivity for individuals and businesses across the UK, further growing the economy.
- Ensure that smart consumer products, including smart phones and televisions, are more secure against cyber-attacks.
- Accelerate and improve the roll out of mobile and broadband networks so that more people can have good digital connectivity more quickly.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Protecting consumers from cyber-attacks by ensuring that manufacturers, importers and distributors only sell smart devices that meet tougher security standards.
- Ensuring product security requirements, which protect devices from emerging threats, will be regularly updated. Manufacturers will also be required to have a point of contact for reporting software vulnerabilities. This will increase consumer confidence in new technologies.
- Accelerating the rollout of broadband in the coming years, to enable faster and more reliable connectivity for more of the population. By 2025 the Government is aiming for a minimum of 85 per cent gigabit-capable coverage.
- Reducing the number of new sites and installations needed to meet the Government's digital connectivity targets by utilising existing equipment. This makes it cheaper and easier to install apparatus, giving operators more funding to invest in digital rollout, helping communities and businesses across the UK.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Requiring manufacturers, importers and distributors of smart devices to comply with minimum security standards. The legislation also imposes duties on these businesses to investigate and take action in cases of non-compliance.
- Providing a robust regulatory framework that can adapt and keep pace with rapid technological advances, techniques used by cyber criminals, hostile states and broader global regulation.
- Reforming the Electronic Communications Code to support faster, fairer and more collaborative negotiations for the use of private and public land to enable

deployment of telecommunications networks.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will, in the main, extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- The average UK household was estimated to have nine or more smart devices in 2020.
- In the first half of 2021 alone, there were 1.5 billion attempted compromises of connectable products, double the equivalent 2020 figure. Personal data has been lost and compromised devices have been used to launch attacks on businesses, governments and critical infrastructure. This Bill is a vital lever that will help protect these organisations from such attacks.
- To provide faster and more reliable connectivity to both the public and businesses, the Government wants 95 per cent of the UK's geographic landmass to have 4G coverage by 2025, and for the majority of the population to have 5G coverage by 2027.

Electronic Trade Documents Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Put electronic trade documents on the same legal footing as paper documents, removing the need for wasteful paperwork and needless bureaucracy. This will enable businesses to move from paper-based to digital-based transactions when buying and selling internationally. This will help business efficiency and support economic growth.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Increasing efficiency and lowering trade administration costs for businesses because processing electronic documents is faster and cheaper than paper equivalents.
- Raising the security and compliance of trade by utilising the transparency and traceability benefits electronic documents offer.
- Realising environmental benefits from reduced use of paper and courier emissions in trade administration.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Bringing about much needed modernisation to long-standing statutes such as the Bills of Exchange Act 1882 and the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1992.
- Removing the legal obstacle to the use of trade documents in digital form, and ensuring that such documents have the same effects as paper counterparts.
- Allowing the adoption of new digital solutions which bypass the need for paper and wet ink signatures.
- Ensuring that trade documents in electronic form meet certain criteria designed to replicate the key features of paper trade documents. These criteria include: ensuring that an electronic document is subject to exclusive control (only one person, or persons acting jointly, can exercise control over it at any one time) and once transferred the previous holder should no longer be able to exercise control over the document.

Territorial extent and application

- This Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- The Digital Container Shipping Association estimates that if 50 per cent of the container shipping industry were to adopt electronic bills of lading, the collective global savings would be in the region of £3 billion. Most respondents to the Law Commission consultation expect savings for businesses trading internationally of at least five per cent on transaction costs.
- Respondents also noted that processing electronic trade documents is much more time efficient than processing paper documents. According to CargoX, as cited by Trade Finance Global, transferring a paper-based trade document can take seven to ten days, whereas processing the document electronically will reduce this to as short as 20 seconds.
- Digitising trade documents would reduce the estimated 28.5 billion paper trade documents currently used each year.

High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Provide the powers to build and operate the next stage of the High Speed Two (HS2) network between Crewe and Manchester.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Supporting the UK's recovery from COVID-19 and rebuilding the economy through the delivery of large scale, high-quality infrastructure that will stimulate short-term economic activity, generate long-term growth, and tackle regional disparity by delivering a new transport spine in the North West.
- Helping the UK to meet its targets on carbon, biodiversity, and wider environmental sustainability, through the provision of a low-carbon alternative for travel for many decades to come and the commitment to aim for ten per cent net gain in biodiversity.
- Enabling enhancements to the existing Rail Network across the North, freeing up much needed capacity on key routes, such as Stockport to Manchester, and relieving the bottleneck at Crewe. It also provides critical infrastructure to allow the delivery of Northern Powerhouse Rail and new Manchester Metrolink routes.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Providing the powers to compulsorily acquire the land needed for the railway, construct the railway, and operate it.
- Seeking outline planning permission to deliver the scheme.
- Setting out how existing railway regulation will apply to HS2.
- Modifying, or disapplying, existing legislation that would apply to the construction of the scheme, reflecting that the scheme will have been approved by Parliament.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend across the UK, but apply to England and Scotland only.

Key facts

- This Bill is part of delivering the Integrated Rail Plan which, at £96 billion, is the single biggest investment in Britain's rail network ever.
- The route runs north-east from Crewe towards Manchester, and includes two new stations, one at Manchester Airport (which is subject to third party funding) and the other adjacent to Manchester Piccadilly station.
- Completion of the scheme and start of services is expected between 2035-41.
- HS2 is already supporting over 22,000 skilled jobs and has created more than 825 apprenticeships. To date, over 2,400 companies have now delivered work on HS2 Ltd. At its peak, HS2 is forecast to support over 34,000 jobs in construction and rail engineering activities, and 3,100 permanent jobs in operation and maintenance.
- The proposed scheme for this phase will further shorten journey times, making Manchester just over an hour away from London. It will also almost triple train capacity between Manchester to Birmingham (from 450 seats currently to up to 1,100 seats per hour once the route opens).

Draft Audit Reform Bill

The purpose of the draft Bill is to:

- Rebuild trust in the UK's audit, corporate reporting and corporate governance system and the insolvency regulatory framework.
- Ensure accountability for those with key roles in that system.
- Increase resilience and choice in the statutory audit market – reinforcing the UK's reputation as a world-leading destination for investment.

The main benefits of the draft Bill would be:

- Strengthening the UK's position as a global leader in corporate governance by improving confidence in the UK market, better protecting jobs and investments, and reducing the cost of capital for well-run companies.
- Improving protection for the UK against risks to jobs, pensions, and suppliers from unexpected company collapses, by improving scrutiny of the largest non-listed companies and strengthening the insolvency framework to increase confidence in the system.
- Increasing competition in the audit market by supporting the growth of challenger firms to reduce the dominance of the largest audit firms, giving businesses greater choice and making the market more resilient.

The main elements of the draft Bill are:

- Establishing a new statutory regulator, the Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority, that will protect and promote the interests of investors, other users of corporate reporting and the wider public interest.
- Providing new measures to open up the market, including a new approach of managed shared audit in which challenger firms undertake a share of the work on large-scale audits. This will improve the quality and usefulness of audit; and boost resilience, competition, and choice in the audit market.
- Bringing the largest private companies in scope of regulation in the definition of 'public interest entities', recognising the public interest in companies of this size.
- Giving the new regulator effective powers to enforce directors' financial reporting duties, to supervise corporate reporting, and to oversee and regulate the accountancy and actuarial professions.

- Reforming the regulation of Insolvency Practitioners to give greater confidence to creditors and strengthening corporate governance of firms in or approaching insolvency so that ‘asset stripping’ can be more effectively tackled.

Territorial extent and application

- The draft Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- In 2021 the Financial Reporting Council found that nearly a third of the major company audits that it inspected required improvement.
- There has been consolidation in the audit sector in the last 30 years, falling from eight to four major audit firms. In 2020, every company in the FTSE 100 and 91 per cent of the FTSE 250 were audited by one of the four largest audit firms.
- Three independent reviews undertaken by Sir John Kingman, Sir Donald Brydon and the Competition and Markets Authority made recommendations to the Government on audit and corporate reporting. Many of their recommendations require primary legislation and will be taken forward in this Bill. The Government’s response to the consultation on its White Paper, *Restoring trust in audit and corporate governance*, will be published shortly.
- Previous corporate collapses have had a significant impact on individuals and the economy:
 - 9,000 redundancies were made, 555 retail stores closed and 1,286 companies and government entities owed money following the collapse of Thomas Cook;
 - 11,000 jobs put at risk by the collapse of BHS; and
 - 7,000 suppliers and contractors impacted by the collapse of Carillion.

Brexit Freedoms Bill

“My Government will continue to seize the opportunities of the United Kingdom’s departure from the European Union, to support economic growth. Regulations on businesses will be repealed and reformed. A bill will enable law inherited from the European Union to be more easily amended.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Fulfil the manifesto commitment to end the supremacy of European law and seize the benefits of Brexit by ensuring regulation fits the needs of the UK, which in turn will enable economic growth.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring that retained EU law can be amended, repealed or replaced with legislation which better suits the UK, without this taking decades of parliamentary time to achieve.
- Modernising the UK’s approach to making regulations, improving the nimbleness and competitiveness of the UK economy whilst maintaining high standards.
- Enabling the UK to be the best regulated economy in the world and creating a regulatory environment that encourages prosperity, innovation, entrepreneurship and the cutting of £1 billion of burdensome EU red tape for businesses.
- Asserting the sovereignty of Parliament by removing the supremacy of retained EU law over UK law in our legal system.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Creating new powers to strengthen the ability to amend, repeal or replace the large amounts of retained EU law by reducing the need to always use primary legislation to do so.
- Removing the supremacy of retained EU law as it still applies in the UK.
- Clarifying the status of retained EU law in UK domestic law to reflect the fact that much of it became law without going through full democratic scrutiny in the UK Parliament.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- As a condition of membership, the UK was required to abide by EU law, giving up its sovereignty and the ability to set rules that diverged from the EU. These laws were implemented into the UK legal system during our EU membership through the European Communities Act 1972 and other legislation. This EU-derived legislation was transferred into UK law as retained EU law. This was a bridging measure when we left the EU to ensure short-term legal stability, but in the knowledge that much of it was not right for the UK in the longer term.
- The Government's review of retained EU law has, to date, identified over 1,400 pieces of EU-derived law that have been transferred into UK law. Many of these were agreed as a messy compromise between 28 different EU member states and they did not always reflect the UK's own priorities or objectives. Much of this law was also imposed and changed with minimal parliamentary scrutiny in the past.
- The supremacy of EU law still applies to legislation passed before we left the EU; a total of 2,376 Acts of Parliament. By removing the principle of supremacy, the relationship between EU-derived law and those Acts of Parliament will be changed to ensure that EU-derived law no longer takes priority over laws passed by the UK Parliament. The Bill is an opportunity to address this, realise the benefits of Brexit and ensure that there is no higher law than an Act of Parliament.
- The Bill will significantly reduce the amount of time needed to make retained EU legislation fit for the UK, meaning the Government can more quickly implement the benefits of Brexit.

Procurement Bill

“Public sector procurement will be simplified to provide new opportunities for small businesses.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Take advantage of the benefits of Brexit by reforming the UK’s public procurement regime to create a simpler and more transparent system that better meets the country’s needs, rather than being based on transposed EU directives.
- Boost business by making public procurement more accessible for new entrants such as small businesses and voluntary, charitable and social enterprises, enabling them to compete for public contracts.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Taking back control of the rules that govern how public money is spent and cutting red tape. Now that we no longer have to abide by bureaucratic EU rules and regulations, our intention is to create a simpler regime that works better for the UK, reducing costs and improving productivity. For example, by establishing a single digital platform for supplier registration, businesses will only have to submit their data once to qualify for any public sector procurement.
- Introducing new arrangements to buy at pace when needed to protect life, health, or public order, so we can easily replicate the great success of the Vaccine Taskforce now we are outside the EU.
- Giving public sector buyers more freedom and flexibility by allowing them to better negotiate with suppliers and to design the buying process to meet the needs of their specific procurement.
- Making it easier, especially for small and medium-sized businesses, to bid for public sector contracts.
- Enabling smaller contracts to be restricted to UK suppliers, as permitted by World Trade Organization rules, and ensuring that procurement activities aid jobs and innovation.
- Helping buyers to disqualify suppliers who are unfit to bid for public contracts because of past misconduct, corruption or poor performance.
- Saving time for public bodies, as a result of new streamlined procedures, meaning better commercial outcomes that deliver greater value for money for taxpayers.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Enshrining in law the objectives of public procurement including: delivering value for money, maximising public benefit, treating suppliers equally and without discrimination, and acting, and being seen to act, with integrity.
- Requiring buyers to have regard to the Government's strategic priorities for public procurement as set out in the National Procurement Policy Statement.
- Introducing new, clearer arrangements for how contracting authorities can buy at pace if necessary to protect life or health, public order or safety, with strengthened safeguards for transparency.
- Tackling unacceptable behaviour and poor performance through new exclusion rules and giving buyers the tools they need to properly take account of a bidder's past performance.
- Providing a number of sector-specific features where necessary, including tailored rules to better suit defence and security procurement in order to protect our national interests.
- Reforming the Single Source Contract Regulations to ensure we continue to pay fair prices on single source defence contracts while providing value for money.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply to England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with some provisions extending and applying across the UK. The Scottish Government has decided not to implement these reforms for devolved bodies in Scotland.

Key facts

- Amounting to around £300 billion, public procurement accounts for around a third of all public expenditure every year. By improving the way public procurement is regulated, the Government can not only save the taxpayer money but drive social, environmental and economic benefits across every part of the UK.
- The new regime will also ensure compliance with our international obligations including the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement, which gives British businesses guaranteed access to £1.3 trillion in public procurement opportunities overseas.

Financial Services and Markets Bill

“New legislation will strengthen the United Kingdom’s financial services industry, ensuring that it continues to act in the interest of all people and communities”.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Maintain and enhance the UK’s position as a global leader in financial services, ensuring the sector continues to deliver for individuals and businesses across the country. This will promote a competitive marketplace for the effective use of capital, supporting economic growth.
- Seize the benefits of Brexit, by establishing a coherent, agile and internationally-respected approach to financial services regulation that best suits the interests of the UK.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Cutting red tape in the financial sector to make the UK an even more attractive place to invest and do business, while making sure that high standards are maintained.
- Harnessing the opportunities of innovative technologies in financial services, including supporting the safe adoption of cryptocurrencies and resilient outsourcing to technology providers.
- Supporting individuals’ confidence in financial services by ensuring continued access to cash across the UK and protecting people from scams.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Revoking retained EU law on financial services and replacing it with an approach to regulation that is designed for the UK.
- Updating the objectives of the financial services regulators to ensure a greater focus on growth and international competitiveness.
- Reforming the rules that regulate the UK’s capital markets to promote investment.
- Ensuring that people across the UK continue to be able to access their own cash with ease.
- Introducing additional protections for those investing or using financial products, to make it safer and support the victims of scams.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- Financial and related professional services are vital to the UK economy, employing more than 2.3 million people across the UK, and contributing more than £193 billion (including £75 billion in tax) to the economy.
- Since the Chancellor's speech at Mansion House in July 2021, we have made significant progress delivering the Government's ambitious vision for the financial services sector to ensure it acts in the interests of communities and citizens, creating jobs, supporting businesses, and powering growth across all parts of the UK. The Government has:
 - continued to negotiate a ground-breaking Mutual Recognition Agreement with Switzerland, incorporated financial services provisions in trade deals with Australia and New Zealand, and reached agreement in principle on a Digital Economy Agreement with Singapore; and
 - continued to take forward measures in response to the Kalifa Review of UK Fintech, such as securing funding to establish the Centre of Finance, Innovation and Technology, to ensure the UK remains a world-leader in fintech.
- Removing restrictions on trading in wholesale markets will benefit around 3,200 investment firms in the UK who are currently prevented from getting the best price for investors.
- Cash remains an important payment method for millions of people across the UK, particularly those in vulnerable groups. Cash is the second most frequently used method of payment in the UK, and around 5.4 million adults (ten per cent) rely on cash to a very great or great extent in their daily lives.

Data Reform Bill

“The United Kingdom’s data protection regime will be reformed.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Take advantage of the benefits of Brexit to create a world class data rights regime that will allow us to create a new pro-growth and trusted UK data protection framework that reduces burdens on businesses, boosts the economy, helps scientists to innovate and improves the lives of people in the UK.
- Modernise the Information Commissioner’s Office, making sure it has the capabilities and powers to take stronger action against organisations who breach data rules while requiring it to be more accountable to Parliament and the public.
- Increase industry participation in Smart Data Schemes, which will give citizens and small businesses more control of their data. The Bill will also help those who need health care treatments, by helping improve appropriate access to data in health and social care contexts.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Increasing the competitiveness and efficiencies of UK businesses by reducing the burdens they face, for example by creating a data protection framework that is focused on privacy outcomes rather than box-ticking.
- Making sure that data can be used to empower citizens and improve their lives, via more effective delivery of public healthcare, security, and government services.
- Creating a clearer regulatory environment for personal data use that will fuel responsible innovation and drive scientific progress.
- Ensuring that the regulator takes appropriate action against organisations who breach data rights and that citizens have greater clarity on their rights.
- Simplifying the rules around research to cement the UK’s position as a science and technology superpower.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Ensuring that UK citizens' personal data is protected to a gold standard while enabling public bodies to share data to improve the delivery of services.
- Using data and reforming regulations to improve the everyday lives of people in the UK, for example, by enabling data to be shared more efficiently between public bodies, so that delivery of services can be improved for people.
- Designing a more flexible, outcomes-focused approach to data protection that helps create a culture of data protection, rather than “tick box” exercises.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will, in the main, extend and apply across the UK, with some measures extending and applying to England and Wales only.

Key facts

- The UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 are highly complex and prescriptive pieces of legislation. They encourage excessive paperwork, and create burdens on businesses with little benefit to citizens. Because we have left the EU, we now have the opportunity to reform the data protection framework. This Bill will reduce burdens on businesses as well as provide clarity to researchers on how best to use personal data.
- Analysis by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport indicates our reforms will create over £1 billion in business savings over ten years by reducing burdens on businesses of all sizes.
- The UK's data market represented around four per cent of GDP in 2020, and data-enabled trade makes up the largest part of UK international services trade (exports of £234 billion in 2019).
- 2018 economic analysis by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Ctrl-Shift estimates that the productivity and competition benefits enabled by safe and efficient data flows would create a £27.8 billion uplift in UK GDP.

Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill

“My Government will continue to champion international trade, delivering jobs across the country and growing the economy. Legislation will be introduced to enable the implementation of the United Kingdom’s first new Free Trade Agreements since leaving the European Union.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Ensure the UK can comply with the obligations in the Free Trade Agreements with both Australia and New Zealand when they come into force by making the necessary changes to the UK’s domestic procurement regulations.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Delivering the key Brexit benefit of our own independent trade policy by enabling the UK to implement its first ‘from scratch’ Free Trade Agreements in over 50 years to boost the UK economy. The Australia and New Zealand deals will each remove tariffs on 100 per cent of UK goods exports to those countries, benefiting UK businesses.
- Supporting the Government’s levelling up agenda. The UK-Australia and UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreements will benefit all parts of the UK, delivering economic opportunities across a range of sectors and businesses including for financial services in Scotland, distillers in Northern Ireland, aerospace manufacturers in the West Midlands, fintech in Wales and carmakers in the North East.
- Driving economic growth across the UK. These agreements will help boost the UK’s economy and provide significant opportunities for UK businesses to grow and take advantage of the preferential market access which we have secured.

The main element of the Bill is to:

- Provide a power to make changes to UK procurement regulations to implement the obligations in the Government Procurement chapters of the Australia and New Zealand Free Trade Agreements.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- The Bill is a key step in allowing the Government to deliver the significant benefits of these two Agreements by making the changes to the procurement rules needed to avoid the UK being in breach of the Agreements upon their entry into force.
- The Government's economic analysis of the UK-Australia Agreement predicts that it will increase trade with Australia by 53 per cent and boost the UK economy by £2.3 billion.
- The Government's economic analysis of the UK-New Zealand Agreement predicts that it will increase trade with New Zealand by 59 per cent and boost the UK economy by £800 million.

Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill

“My Ministers will encourage agricultural and scientific innovation at home. Legislation will unlock the potential of new technologies to promote sustainable and efficient farming and food production.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Remove unnecessary barriers inherited from the EU to enable the development and marketing of precision bred plants and animals, which will drive economic growth and position the UK as the leading country in which to invest in agri-food research and innovation.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Enabling precision breeding technologies to improve the sustainability, resilience, and productivity of agricultural systems. Technologies such as gene editing have the potential to increase disease resistance in crops, which can reduce pesticide use, lower costs to farmers and increase food production.
- Unlocking innovation to help us cement our place as a science superpower, and to help meet the ambitions in the Government’s *25 Year Environment Plan*.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Creating a new, simpler regulatory regime for precision bred plants and animals that have genetic changes that could have arisen through traditional breeding or natural processes. No changes will be made to the regulation of animals until animal welfare is safeguarded.
- Introducing two notification systems for research and marketing purposes where breeders and researchers will need to notify Defra of precision bred organisms. The information collected on precision bred organisms will be published on a public register.
- Establishing a new science-based authorisation process for food and feed products developed using precision bred organisms.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend to England and Wales, but apply to England only.

Key facts

- Legislation for genetically modified organisms was produced 30 years ago and has not kept pace with our knowledge of precision breeding technologies, such as gene editing. In 2018, the European Court of Justice ruled that the definition of a genetically modified organism covers all gene edited organisms. This means that all gene edited organisms, including those that could have been produced by traditional breeding methods, need to be fully authorised.
- Since 2018, around 40 per cent of small businesses and 33 per cent of larger companies involved in plant breeding in Europe have stopped or reduced research and development activities relating to precision breeding technologies.
- Globally, between 20 per cent and 40 per cent of all crops grown are lost to pests and diseases, representing a significant waste of land use and environmentally costly agricultural inputs. Precision breeding is key to improve crop resistance to pests and diseases through precision breeding technologies will have a range of benefits. For example:
 - **Disease resistance:** Virus Yellows are a group of viruses that can cause yield losses of up to 50 per cent in sugar beet and as a result pesticide is applied to control the disease. A UK Research and Innovation funded study has identified several promising sources of genetic resistance. Using gene editing to give resistance to Virus Yellows would reduce the need for pesticides, helping to protect the environment, increase food production and reduce costs to farmer;
 - **Climate resilience:** Developing wheat that is resilient to climate change will help to increase food production from a crop which 2.5 billion people depend on globally. Researchers at the John Innes Centre in Norwich have used gene editing techniques to identify a key gene in wheat that is responsible for maintaining 50 per cent of yield. This discovery presents an exciting opportunity to identify variations of the gene that can give wheat varieties yield resilience to climate change; and
 - **Public health:** Researchers at Rothamsted Research in Hertfordshire are testing a wheat that has been gene edited to have lower levels of the amino acid asparagine. When certain food products such as potatoes, cereals and coffee are heated to a high temperature, a probable cancer-causing compound called acrylamide is formed from asparagine. The use of gene editing could help reduce the risk of acrylamide formation, which could have benefits for public health and the safe manufacturing of food products.

Higher Education Bill

“Reforms to education will help every child fulfil their potential wherever they live, raising standards and improving the quality of schools and higher education.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Ensure that our post-18 education system promotes real social mobility, helping students onto pathways in which they can excel, and is financially sustainable. This will help support people get the skills they need to meet their career aspirations and to help grow the economy.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring people are supported to get the skills they need throughout their life. The Bill will enable the introduction of the Lifelong Loan Entitlement, a new and flexible way of providing loan support for post-18 study. This will provide individuals with a loan entitlement equivalent to four years of post-18 education (£37,000 in today’s fees) that they can use over their lifetime for a wider range of studies, including shorter and technical courses.
- Fulfilling the manifesto commitment to tackle uncontrolled growth of low-quality courses.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Ensuring that appropriate fee limits can be applied more flexibly to higher education study within the Lifelong Loan Entitlement and that they can be effectively regulated.
- Subject to the conclusion of the higher education reform consultation:
 - setting minimum qualification requirements for a person living in England to be eligible to get student finance support to enter higher education, helping to ensure students can pursue the best post-18 education and training options for them by taking pathways through which they can excel; and
 - fulfilling the manifesto commitment to tackle uncontrolled growth of low-quality courses by taking specific powers to control numbers of students entering higher education at specific providers in England.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply in the main to England and Wales, with some provisions extending across the UK.

Key facts

- We have four universities in the global top ten. Our powerhouses of research have led the world in vaccine discovery and produced a Nobel prize winner each year for the last two decades on average. Two thirds of British start-ups valued at \$1 billion or over were founded by graduates of British universities. Last year, 18 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds were 82 per cent more likely to go to university than in 2010.
- The current student finance system does not incentivise or offer a clear route for an adult to undertake higher learning flexibly over their lifetime. A 2018 survey found around 24 per cent of the population had considered part-time higher education in the last ten years but had not enrolled. The main reasons for this were financial concerns (tuition fee costs were cited by 44 per cent of respondents).
- Our skills system has been very efficient at producing graduates but there is still a need to ensure people get the quality technical skills that employers want. Data shows that only four per cent of young people achieve a qualification at higher technical level by the age of 25 compared to the 33 per cent who get a degree or above. Moreover, only 66 per cent of working-age graduates (not including postgraduates) were in high-skilled employment in 2020.
- Data from the Office for Students shows that students who enter higher education with lower prior attainment are more likely to drop out. For example, students entering with A level grades of DDD have a drop-out rate of 6.7 per cent compared with a drop out rate of 4.7 for students entering with A level grades of CCC.
- There are some higher education courses where outcomes are unacceptably low, leading to bad outcomes for students and taxpayers. In 2021 the Office for Students found that at 25 higher education providers fewer than half of the students who began a degree could expect to finish it and move on to professional employment or further study.

Social Housing Regulation Bill

“My Government will introduce legislation to improve the regulation of social housing to strengthen the rights of tenants and ensure better quality, safer homes.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Increase social housing tenants’ rights to better homes and enhance their ability to hold their landlords to account, addressing concerns that the Grenfell Tower tragedy raised.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring the Regulator of Social Housing can better stand up for social housing tenants, inspect properties and act as the ultimate watchdog on standards.
- Strengthening the Regulator of Social Housing to ensure issues are resolved faster for tenants with stronger powers to issue fines, intervene in mismanagement, and powers to complete emergency repairs.
- Providing greater transparency for tenants on how their landlord is performing, how their homes are managed and who is responsible for compliance with health and safety requirements.
- Strengthening the economic regulation of the social housing sector, increasing protections for tenants’ homes and supporting continued investment in the new supply of social housing.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Enabling the Regulator to intervene with landlords who are performing poorly on consumer issues, such as complaints handling and decency of homes, and to act in the interest of tenants to make sure issues are rectified.
- Enabling the Regulator to inspect landlords to make sure they are providing tenants with the quality of accommodation and services that they deserve.
- Creating new Tenant Satisfaction Measures which will allow tenants to see how their landlord is performing compared to other landlords and help the Regulator decide where to focus its attention.
- Ensuring tenants of housing associations will be able to request information from their landlord in a similar way to how the Freedom of Information Act works for tenants of Local Authority landlords.

- Guaranteeing that the Regulator will be able to act more quickly where it has concerns about the decency of a home. They will only be required to give 48 hours notice to a landlord before a survey is carried out.
- Providing powers for the Regulator to arrange emergency repairs of tenants' homes following a survey and where there is evidence of systemic failure by the landlord. This will ensure that serious issues are resolved rapidly where a landlord is unable or unwilling to act.
- Ensuring there will be no cap on the fines that the Regulator can issue to a landlord who fails to meet required standards.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend primarily to England and Wales, and apply to England only, with some provisions extending and applying across the UK.

Key facts

- The social housing sector provides homes to over four million households across England.
- The sector is made up of private registered providers of social housing, who own nearly 60 per cent of the housing stock, and local authority landlords, who own nearly 40 per cent.
- Over 8,000 residents contributed to discussions and responded to our consultation on the Social Housing Green Paper and Call for Evidence on regulation, which led to the Social Housing White Paper, including the bereaved, survivors and residents of the Grenfell community.

Renters Reform Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Fulfil the manifesto commitments to abolish so-called 'no fault' section 21 evictions and strengthen landlords' rights of possession, delivering on the levelling up mission to halve the number of non-decent rented homes by 2030 and create a rental market that is fairer and more effective for tenants and landlords.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Delivering a better deal for renters through reforms that will provide 4.4 million households with more secure and higher quality homes.
- Providing a more effective legal framework and a more stable rental market for landlords to remain and invest in.
- Giving local councils effective tools to crack down on the minority of non-compliant landlords and poor practice.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Abolishing so-called 'no fault' evictions by removing Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988, providing security for tenants in the private rented sector and empowering them to challenge poor practice and unfair rent increases without fear of retaliatory eviction.
- Reforming possession grounds for landlords, introducing new and stronger grounds for repeated incidences of rent arrears and reducing notice periods for anti-social behaviour, ensuring that they can regain their property efficiently when needed.
- Applying the legally binding Decent Homes Standard in the Private Rented Sector for the first time ever, giving tenants safer, better quality and better value homes.
- Introduce a new Ombudsman for private landlords so that disputes can easily be resolved without the need to go to court, which is often costly and lengthy, and ensure that when residents make a complaint, landlords take action to put things right.
- Introducing a new property portal to help landlords understand their obligations, give tenants performance information to hold their landlord to account as well as aiding local authorities.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend to England and Wales and apply to England only.

Key facts

- There are currently 4.4 million households in the private rented sector in England, making it the second largest tenure (19 per cent of households).
- Around one million (21 per cent) private rental homes don't meet the Decent Homes Standard. This is down from 41 per cent in 2009 but still much higher than other tenures (12 per cent of social sector homes and 16 per cent of owner-occupied homes).
- In 2019-20, more than one fifth of renters (22 per cent) did not end their last tenancy by choice and faced an average of £1,400 of moving costs as well as likely paying more for the home they moved into.
- The measures in the Bill will support the Government's levelling up mission on housing for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50 per cent by 2030.
- We will shortly publish a White Paper which will set out more detail on our proposals for landmark reform in the private rented sector.

Housing Reform

- The Government is committed to helping more people to own the home of their dreams. We believe home ownership provides people with greater security to raise a family and live comfortably.
- Alongside the work to improve the regulation of social housing, the Government remains committed to creating a fair and just housing system that works for everyone.
- The Government will be taking forward a comprehensive programme of reform to improve fairness and transparency in the leasehold market.
- The Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Act 2022 will come into force on 30 June. This means that landlords will be prevented from requiring a financial ground rent in most new long residential leases. We will also publish accompanying guidance for enforcement officers and consumers.
- This was the first part of our seminal programme to implement leasehold and commonhold reform in this Parliament. Building on this, the Government remains committed to:
 - transforming the experience of leaseholders by making it easier and cheaper for them to extend their lease or buy their freehold, and simpler and quicker to take control of the management of their building;
 - better protecting and empowering leaseholders by giving them more information on what their costs cover and ensuring they are not subject to any unjustified legal costs and can claim their own legal costs from their landlord;
 - banning new leasehold houses so that all new houses are freehold from the outset other than in exceptional circumstances; and
 - delivering a reformed commonhold system as an alternative to leasehold ownership.
- We will continue to work closely with the Competition and Markets Authority as their investigation into mis-selling and unfair terms in the leasehold sector continues. In recent months, the Authority secured commitments from fifteen businesses that had bought freeholds from the housing developer Countryside to remove egregious doubling ground rents terms for their leaseholders and revert charges to original rates. We encourage developers who have not yet engaged with the investigation to do so.

- This is part of a wider housing reform agenda to level up homeownership. We have set ambitious housing missions for renters to have a secure path to ownership and reduce the number of non-decent rented homes. The Government is also supporting more first-time buyers to get onto the housing ladder; has announced the offer to regenerate 20 towns and cities across England; launched a £1.5 billion Levelling Up Homebuilding Fund; is increasing the amount of affordable housing and is also reducing homelessness.

Key facts

- There are around 4.6 million leasehold homes in England, representing almost one in five of the total housing stock.
- The Law Commission's investigation on how to help existing leaseholders and revitalise commonhold provided a set of recommendations in 2020 for the Government to consider. They highlighted the need to make the process of lease extensions and freehold acquisitions easier and cheaper, the need to revise the eligibility of Right to Manage and simplify this process, and to re-invigorate commonhold as a workable alternative to leasehold.
- Multiple industry surveys over the last six years have reported major problems with the system, including owners of long leasehold properties unaware of being in a 'landlord and tenant relationship' and having different rights to owner occupiers.

Harbours (Seafarers' Remuneration) Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Protect seafarers working aboard vessels visiting UK ports by ensuring the ports have powers ultimately to refuse access to ferry services that do not pay an equivalent to the National Minimum Wage to seafarers while in UK waters.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring all ferry crews receive a fair wage whilst in UK waters when operating regularly to or from UK ports.
- Deterring other companies from repeating what P&O did to 786 seafarers, by closing legislative gaps used by some ferry companies operating regularly in and out of UK ports, to pay their seafarers less than national minimum wage.
- Safeguarding fair competition between vessels registered with the UK Ship Register or domestic operated vessels and those operating internationally under other Flags.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Empowering ports (statutory harbour authorities) to surcharge ferry operators if they do not pay the equivalent of the National Minimum Wage and ultimately to suspend them from access to the port.
- Providing powers of direction to require operators of vessels on frequent and scheduled services to ensure that their seafarers receive a fair wage while in UK territory and territorial waters.
- Requiring ferry operators to have access to all relevant details of employment terms, even if they do not employ crew directly.
- Providing for legal sanctions in case of non-compliance with such directions, including supplying false or incomplete information.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- 786 P&O seafarers' employment was ruthlessly terminated by P&O Ferries in March 2022. We understand that the great majority accepted either 'redundancy' terms or rehire on less favourable agency contracts.
- On Wednesday 30 March, the Transport Secretary announced nine commitments to protect UK seafarers, in light of the P&O Ferries summary dismissals. Among other things, these commitments focus on:
 - ensuring a fair wage for seafarers;
 - working with international partners to discuss the development of 'National Minimum Wage corridors' with numerous bilateral discussions already underway; and
 - reforming Tonnage Tax to make it easier for maritime businesses to set up in the UK.
- The Government has already applied the National Minimum Wage to all seafarers working on domestic ferry services and on offshore support vessels serving oil and gas installations in the UK continental shelf.
- The National Minimum Wage was increased by 6.6 per cent to £9.50 an hour from April 2022.

Social Security (Special Rules for End of Life) Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Allow more people nearing the end of their life to get fast-tracked access to three key disability benefits.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring thousands more people at the end of their lives can access certain benefits earlier, without needing a face-to-face assessment or waiting period, with the majority of individuals receiving the highest rate of those benefits.
- Aligning with the NHS's approach to end of life care, which involves clinicians thinking about their patient's support needs, including financial support.
- Having new, easily understood criteria which support implementation by clinicians and charities who often facilitate access to this support. It also ensures consistency across the benefit and welfare systems.

The main element of the Bill is:

- Amending the definition of terminal illness in existing legislation, so that individuals who are considered by a clinician as having twelve months or less to live (rather than the current six months) can have fast-tracked access to important disability benefits.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across Great Britain.

Key facts

- The 'Special Rules' system ensures people nearing the end of their lives do not have to spend time filling in forms or attending assessments to get fast-tracked access to three disability benefits: Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance.
- Since the Special Rules were first introduced in 1990 there have been advances in how the NHS treats and cares for people nearing the end of their lives meaning that terminally ill people are living longer. It is right that legislation reflects this.
- The Government has already brought forward regulations introducing similar changes into Universal Credit, and Employment and Support Allowance.

MAKING THE STREETS SAFER

Cutting Crime

- The first job of any government is to keep its people safe, which is why we have made it our absolute priority to put more police on the streets, cut crime and protect the public.
- We have recruited over 13,500 new police officers as part of our manifesto commitment to put 20,000 extra police on the streets – and we are backing them with funding of almost £17 billion this year. We support them in using their powers effectively and lawfully to prevent and detect crime.
- We have also launched a first of its kind Drugs Strategy backed by record investment – which means we can shut down county lines, cut off the supply of drugs by criminal gangs, build a world-class system of treatment and recovery for those addicted to crack cocaine and heroin, and reduce the recreational use of drugs.
- Everyone deserves the security and confidence that comes from having a safe street and a safe home which is why cutting crime is central to our mission of levelling up across the UK – our ambition is to cut homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime, particularly in the worst-affected areas

Preventing Crime

- We are also determined to prevent crime happening in the first place. We are committed to ensuring young people have a brighter future and through the £200 million 10-year Youth Endowment Fund we are funding what works to reduce serious youth violence.
- The Government's work on prevention is rightly concentrated on those areas most affected by crime and takes an evidence-led approach to reduce neighbourhood crime, serious violence and homicide through:
 - 'Grip' funding for the police to allow them to carry out targeted and visible patrols to deter crime where there is the greatest risk of serious violence;
 - the Safer Streets Fund, providing resources for new and traditional interventions to improve the safety of public places; and
 - providing multi-year funding for the network of Violence Reduction Units, bringing together local partners to drive down violence by tackling the particular drivers of violence in their area.

Violence against women and girls

- Crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, and Female Genital Mutilation can have a profound and long-lasting impact on victims and have absolutely no place in our society.
- In December 2021, the Government published the first national Criminal Justice System scorecards. The scorecards increase public transparency of how the police, Crown Prosecution Service and courts tackle crime, allowing us to improve the way rape and other serious offences are handled.
- Through the Rape Action Plan we will be aiming to increase the number of cases reaching court, reduce the number of victims withdrawing from the process, and ultimately prevent more crime by putting more rapists behind bars.

Key facts

- Law enforcement partners are cracking down ruthlessly on criminals and gangs. Through their use of stop and search, the police made nearly 80,000 arrests and removed almost 16,000 offensive weapons from our streets in 2021 alone. We have seen the closure of over 1,500 county lines, 600 operations against organised crime groups, and more than 220,000 drug seizures.
- Stop and search is up by 22 per cent compared with 2019-20, representing more than 126,000 more stop and searches, helping protect the public by increasing the risk for criminals of being caught – and taking weapons and drugs off the street.
- Crime overall – excluding fraud and computer misuse – is down 13 per cent in the year ending December 2021 compared to the year ending December 2019, with neighbourhood crime down by 25 per cent. However there is still work to do – especially on homicide.
- There were 691 homicides recorded by the police in the year ending December 2021, an increase of 14 per cent compared with the previous year ending December 2020 (604).
- In the year ending December 2021, the police recorded a 13 per cent rise in recorded violence against the person, compared to the year ending December 2020, partly driven by improvements to the recording of stalking and harassment offences which rose by 21 per cent.
- Of all sexual offences recorded by the police in the year ending December 2021, 37 per cent (67,125) were rape offences. This was a 21 per cent increase from 55,592 in the year ending December 2020. Other sexual offences increased by 22 per cent to 116,462 compared with 95,156 the previous year.

- The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act will ensure that:
 - the most serious sexual and violent offenders will spend longer in prison;
 - the maximum sentence for assaulting an emergency worker has been doubled and whole life orders to those who commit premeditated murder of a child will be extended; and
 - the police have new stop and search powers to target those convicted of offences involving knives or offensive weapons, with Serious Violence Reduction Orders being trialled by police forces to bear down on homicide and serious violence.

- We are also tackling repeat offending by known criminals and the £18 billion cost of these crimes to society each year by:
 - investing almost an extra £900 million to combat drugs, taking the total funding over £3 billion in the next three years – the biggest funding increase in 15 years. Our *10-year Drugs Strategy* aims to cut off the supply of drugs to criminal gangs, expand treatment and rehabilitation for those with a drug addiction and reduce the recreational use of drugs;
 - ensuring more prison-leavers secure employment, as this means they are less likely to continue committing crime;
 - providing basic, temporary accommodation so those leaving prison do not end up on the street where they are around 50 per cent more likely to reoffend; and
 - GPS tagging 10,000 burglars, robbers and thieves over the next three years, to deter offending and help police pin criminals to the scene of their crimes.

Public Order Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to ensure the police have the powers to make the streets safer.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Make the streets safer by preventing a minority of protestors from using guerrilla tactics that cause misery to the hard-working public, disrupt businesses, interfere with emergency services, cost millions in taxpayers’ money and put lives at risk.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring the police have the tools they need to better manage and tackle the dangerous and highly disruptive tactics, used by a small minority of selfish protestors, to wreak havoc on people going about their daily lives.
- Preventing our major transport projects and infrastructure from being targeted by protestors who seek to disrupt thousands of journeys and cause costly delays in construction and operation that are paid for by taxpayers.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Introducing new criminal offences of locking-on and going equipped to lock-on, thereby criminalising the protest tactic of individuals intentionally attaching themselves to others, objects, or buildings to cause serious disruption.
- Making it illegal to obstruct major transport works, including disrupting the construction or maintenance of projects, such as HS2.
- Creating a new criminal offence for interfering with key national infrastructure, which covers any behaviour which obstructs or delays the operation of key infrastructure, such as airports, railways, and printing presses.
- Extending stop and search powers for police to search for and seize articles related to protest-related offences.
- Introducing Serious Disruption Prevention Orders, a new preventative court order targeting protestors who are determined to repeatedly inflict disruption on the public; breach of the order will be a criminal offence.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply to England and Wales.

Key facts

- Disruptive protests have become increasingly common in recent years. Between 13 September and 20 November 2021 alone, the police made almost 1,000 arrests relating to the Insulate Britain protests. In addition to the valuable police time spent on these protests, police forces have spent in excess of £4 million.
- During Extinction Rebellion's protests of April and October 2019 some of London's busiest areas were brought to a standstill for several days. This had a disproportionate impact on commuters and small businesses, with the policing operation for the two extended protests costing £37 million, more than twice the annual budget of London's Violent Crime Taskforce in 2018-19.
- Additionally, managing the October 2019 protest alone required over 418,000 police officer hours. These officers were pulled away from their regular duties protecting the public, fighting crime, and responding to calls for help from the public.
- HS2 Ltd estimated in October 2021 that sustained protester activity at some sites had cost the project up to £80 million.

National Security Bill

“Measures will be introduced to support the security services and help them protect the United Kingdom.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Further protect our national security, the safety of the British public and our vital interests from those who seek to do the UK harm, in line with the manifesto commitment to ensure the security services have the powers they need.
- Undertake the biggest overhaul of state threats legislation for a generation to provide our world class law enforcement and intelligence agencies with an enhanced suite of tools, powers and protections to tackle the full range of evolving state threats.
- Prevent the exploitation of our civil legal aid and civil damage payments by convicted terrorists.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Enhancing our ability to deter, detect and disrupt state actors who target the UK, preventing spies from harming our strategic interests and preserving the integrity of our society.
- Restricting the ability of convicted terrorists to receive civil legal aid and ensuring that terrorists cannot gain civil damages which might fund terrorism.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Reforming existing espionage laws (Official Secrets Acts 1911, 1920 and 1939) to provide effective legislation to tackle modern threats.
- Bringing in new offences to tackle state-backed sabotage, foreign interference, the theft of trade secrets and assisting a foreign intelligence service.
- We will introduce a Foreign Influence Registration Scheme requiring individuals to register certain arrangements with foreign governments to deter and disrupt state threats activity in the UK, bringing the UK into line with similar schemes in the United States of America and Australia.
- Providing powers to allow state threats to be tackled at an earlier stage, by expanding the ability to prosecute people for preparing activities, and for other offences that are committed by those acting for a foreign state to be labelled as state threats and sentenced accordingly.

- Introducing new civil measures to use as a tool of last resort where prosecution of a hostile actor is not possible. This includes the ability to restrict a state threat actor from access to certain places, or where they can work and study, preventing any harm from being done where there is no other option to prosecute or disrupt the activity.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- Our espionage laws date back to 1911 and do not account for how threats to our national security have evolved and diversified over time. Russia's action in Salisbury, China's attempts to interfere in our democracy and persistent effort by foreign actors to steal intellectual property generated in the UK demonstrate why we need new laws to help the intelligence agencies and police detect, deter, disrupt and prosecute state threat actors seeking to harm the UK.
- This legislation will further support the extensive previous and ongoing cross-government efforts to counter state threats, including the recent Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022, in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill also being introduced in this session.

Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill

“A bill will be brought forward to further strengthen powers to tackle illicit finance, reduce economic crime and help businesses grow.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Crack down on the kleptocrats, criminals and terrorists who abuse our open economy, ensuring we drive out dirty money from the UK.
- Ensure these people, including Putin’s cronies, do not benefit from the UK’s open society.
- Strengthen the UK’s reputation as a place where legitimate businesses can grow and create jobs.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Tackling economic crime, including fraud and money-laundering, by delivering greater protections for consumers and businesses, boosting the UK’s defences, and allowing legitimate businesses to thrive.
- Protecting national security, by making it harder for kleptocrats, criminals and terrorists to engage in money laundering, corruption, terrorism-financing, illegal arms movements and ransomware payments.
- Supporting enterprise by enabling Companies House to deliver a better service for over four million UK companies, maintaining our swift and low-cost routes for company creation and improving the collection of data to inform business transactions and lending decisions across the economy.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Broadening the Registrar of Companies’ powers so that they become a more active gatekeeper over company creation and custodian of more reliable data, including new powers to check, remove or decline information submitted to, or already on, the Company Register.
- Introducing identity verification for people who manage, own and control companies and other UK registered entities. This will improve the accuracy of Companies House data, to support business decisions and law enforcement investigations.

- Providing Companies House with more effective investigation and enforcement powers and introducing better cross-checking of data with other public and private sector bodies.
- Tackling the abuse of limited partnerships (including Scottish Limited Partnerships), by strengthening transparency requirements and enabling them to be properly wound up.
- Creating powers to more quickly and easily seize and recover crypto assets, which are the principal medium used for ransomware. The creation of a civil forfeiture power will mitigate the risk posed by those who cannot be criminally prosecuted but use their funds to further criminality.
- Enabling businesses in the financial sector to share information more effectively to prevent and detect economic crime.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- The social and economic cost to the UK from economic crime is estimated at £8.4 billion per year. To help tackle this, the Government recently brought forward the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act that included provision for a new Register of Overseas Entities owning or buying property in the UK, on which this Bill will build.
- Government action already taken means more proceeds of crime are being recovered. Between 2015-16 and 2020-21 just over £1.3 billion was recovered from criminals using Proceeds of Crime Act powers.
- Companies House plays a key role in the UK's strong, transparent and attractive business environment and incorporation is among the fastest and cheapest in the world, with 99 per cent of applications processed within 24 hours. Companies House already supports law enforcement with about 750 investigations every month, up from fewer than ten a month six years ago.
- The Bill will strengthen the accuracy and reliability of the companies register, which informs many business and lending decisions. Research shows this is worth £1-3 billion a year to the UK economy.

Modern Slavery Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Strengthen the protection and support for victims of human trafficking and modern slavery and increase the accountability of companies and other organisations to drive out modern slavery from their supply chains.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Reducing the prevalence of modern slavery in supply chains through increased transparency from businesses and public bodies, building on the strong foundations of our existing approach to increase the pressure on those that do not take action.
- Enshrining in domestic law the Government's international obligations to victims of modern slavery, especially regarding their rights to assistance and support, providing greater legal certainty for victims.
- Ensuring law enforcement agencies have stronger tools to prevent modern slavery occurring, protect victims of modern slavery and bring perpetrators to justice.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Strengthening the requirements on businesses with a turnover of £36 million or more to publish an annual modern slavery statement to set out steps taken to prevent modern slavery in their operations and supply chains.
- Mandating the reporting areas to be covered in modern slavery statements; requiring organisations to publish their statements on a government-run registry, extending these requirements to public bodies and introducing civil penalties for organisations that do not comply with the requirements.
- Strengthening the operation of Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders and Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders, which place conditions on an individual, to prevent and disrupt modern slavery crimes and better protect victims. These will be backed up by criminal sanctions for any breaches.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will, in the main, extend and apply to England and Wales, with some provisions extending and applying across the UK.

Key facts

- Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. In 2015, the Government introduced the landmark Modern Slavery Act making it the first country in the world to have legislation dedicated to tackling modern slavery.
- The number of live police operations has increased since the Modern Slavery Act became law, from 188 police operations in December 2016 to 4,322 in January 2022. In the year to September 2021, the police recorded 9,158 modern slavery offences, an increase of six per cent from the year to September 2020 when there were 8,622 offences recorded. The greater recognition of modern slavery through the Act has enabled us to crack down on modern slavery operations and tackle these crimes at the source.
- More potential victims are being identified and protected due to greater awareness and improved understanding of modern slavery. In 2021, 12,727 potential victims of modern slavery were referred through the National Referral mechanism to the Home Office, a 20 per cent increase on the previous year (10,601).
- In March 2021, the Government launched an online modern slavery statement registry and encourages all organisations to publish their annual modern slavery statements on the registry. Since its launch, over 7,000 statements have been submitted covering over 23,350 organisations on a voluntary basis.

Online Safety Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver the manifesto commitment to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online by improving protections for users, especially children, whilst protecting freedom of expression.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Preventing online fraud and scams by requiring large social media platforms and search engines to prevent the hosting or publication of fraudulent paid-for advertising.
- Tackling the most serious illegal content, including child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Ensuring communication offences reflect the modern world, with updated laws to tackle threatening communication online as well as criminalising cyberflashing.
- Safeguarding freedom of expression. Tech companies will no longer be able to arbitrarily remove content. If users feel like they have been treated unfairly, they will have the right to appeal. And journalistic and democratically-important content will also be protected from arbitrary removal.
- Restoring public trust by making companies responsible for their users' safety online, whilst supporting a thriving and fast-growing digital sector.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Introducing a duty of care on online companies, making them responsible for protecting users and tackling illegal content. This will create safeguards and standards so that users know when and how companies are using tools to identify illegal content and to stop harmful material being viewed by children.
- Empowering users by ensuring the largest platforms give users tools to exercise greater control over the types of people and content they interact with.
- Protections for democratic and journalistic content. The Bill sets a higher bar for the removal of content that contributes to democratic political debate, and all 'recognised news publishers' will be exempt from the Bill's safety duties (for both children and adults).
- Requiring providers who publish pornographic content on their services to prevent children from accessing that content, and for the largest platforms to put

in place proportionate systems and processes to prevent fraudulent adverts being published or hosted on their service.

- Ensuring the big social media companies keep their promises to users by enforcing their terms and conditions consistently. Requiring platforms to have effective and accessible user reporting and redress mechanisms to report concerns about harmful content, and challenge infringement of rights (such as wrongful takedown).
- Designating Ofcom as the independent online safety regulator and giving it robust enforcement powers to uphold the regulation. This will include fines of up to £18 million or ten per cent of qualifying annual global turnover – whichever is greater – as well as business disruption measures, making them less commercially viable in the UK. Senior managers of tech firms can be held criminally liable if they fail to comply with information requests from the regulator.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- In 2020, adult internet users in the UK spent an average of three hours and 37 minutes online each day, up by nine minutes compared to 2019. However, over 80 per cent of UK adults expressed a concern about going online in 2020.
- In a month-long period during 2020, the Internet Watch Foundation and its partners blocked at least 8.8 million attempts by UK internet users to access child sexual abuse material online.
- During COVID-19 lockdowns, research by YouGov showed that 47 per cent of children and teens had seen content they would rather avoid, leaving them feeling uncomfortable (29 per cent), scared (23 per cent), and confused (19 per cent). One in seven (13 per cent) were exposed to harmful content on a daily basis.

Draft Victims Bill

The purpose of the draft Bill is to:

- Put victims at the heart of the criminal justice system, ensuring their experiences are front and centre of the process and encouraging them to remain engaged in the criminal justice system, enabling justice to be done and making our communities safer.
- Ensure we have an effective justice system that serves society by restoring victims' confidence that their voices will be properly heard and that perpetrators will be brought to justice.

The main benefits of the draft Bill would be:

- Improving the support victims receive in and beyond the criminal justice system, particularly for victims of sexual violence, domestic abuse and serious violence.
- Holding agencies such as the police, Crown Prosecution Service and HM Courts and Tribunals Service to account for the service they provide to victims.
- Providing clarity about what victims can and should expect from the criminal justice system.

The main elements of the draft Bill are:

- Enshrining the Victims' Code in law.
- Increasing transparency and oversight of the services that criminal justice agencies provide to victims by granting a greater role for Police and Crime Commissioners and inspectorates to assess delivery.
- Enabling improvements in the quality and consistency of support services for victims of sexual violence, domestic abuse and serious violence.
- Elevating and increasing awareness of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors so that they can better work together with other agencies to consistently meet the needs of victims.

Territorial extent and application

- The draft Bill will extend and apply to England and Wales.

Key facts

- Victims who have received support from services such as Independent Sexual Violence Advisors are nearly 50 per cent less likely to withdraw from the criminal justice process, compared to those who did not receive support.
- Rape and serious sexual offences have high rates of victims dropping out of the system. Between July and September 2021, 45 per cent of sexual offences were assigned a police outcome of 'evidential difficulties – victim does not support action', the highest level since 2015-16.

Draft Protect Duty Bill

The purpose of the draft Bill is to:

- Keep people safe by introducing new security requirements for certain public locations and venues to ensure preparedness for and protection from terrorist attacks.

The main benefits of the draft Bill would be:

- Enhancing national security and reducing the risk to the public from terrorism by improving protective security practices in public places.
- Providing clarity on protective security and preparedness responsibilities for organisations in scope of the Duty.
- Expanding the support available to help those responsible for delivering security in public places.

The main elements of the draft Bill are:

- Establishing a new requirements framework which requires those in control of certain public locations and venues to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.
- Delivering an inspection and enforcement regime, which will seek to educate, advise, and ensure compliance with the Duty.

Territorial extent and application

- The draft Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- Following the appalling terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena and lessons learnt, in particular those from the Inquiry's Security Chapter, the Government has worked closely with partners and victims' groups, including Survivors Against Terror and Figen Murray and the Martyn's Law Campaign Team, to develop these proposals for a new Protect Duty.
- Independent research conducted in 2019 showed that without legal compulsion, counter terrorism security efforts are often prioritised behind legally required activities. The consideration and application of security processes and measures is inconsistent as a result.

- Seven in ten respondents to the Protect Duty consultation agreed that those responsible for publicly accessible locations should take appropriate and proportionate measures to protect the public from attacks.

FUNDING THE NHS TO CLEAR THE COVID BACKLOGS

Health and Social Care Funding

- From April 2022, the Health and Social Care Levy has come into effect. This necessary, fair and responsible levy will tackle the COVID-19 backlogs, reducing waiting times and delivering millions more scans, tests and operations, while reforming the way routine services are delivered so the NHS is fit for the future.
- The new Health and Social Care Levy, along with an increase to the rates of dividend tax, will raise around £13 billion per year for spending on health and social care across the UK. Funding from the Levy, on top of the historic long-term NHS settlement announced in 2018, means that the NHS resource budget in England will increase to £162.6 billion in 2024-25, up from £123.7 billion in 2019-20. This includes over £8 billion the government plans to spend over the next three years to tackle the elective backlog. The Government has also committed to a £5.9 billion investment in NHS capital over three years, to provide new beds, equipment and technology.
- We will build 40 new hospitals by 2030 and upgrade more than 70 further hospitals.
- We are transforming diagnostic services with new Community Diagnostic Centres to deliver extra checks and scans providing new surgical hubs, increasing bed capacity, and new equipment. The settlement will also support NHS Trusts to invest in local priorities, including maintenance of their estate.
- The funding will deliver further advances in digitalising our frontline NHS and enabling better digital interactions for patients.

Key facts

- Health and care services have spent £43 billion on additional revenue costs related to COVID-19 in 2020-21.
- In 2021-22, £39 billion of resource funding has been provided for COVID-19 in 2021-22. This included:
 - £16 billion for Test and Trace;
 - £13.7 billion for the NHS, including funding to support the NHS's recovery from the impact of COVID-19 and tackle the elective backlog;
 - £2.7 billion for the Vaccine Deployment Programme;
 - £2.3 billion for the Vaccine Taskforce;

- £2.4 billion to continue to maintain and distribute stocks of personal protective equipment;
- £1.1 billion for COVID-19 Grants;
- £440 million for medicines and therapeutics; and
- £329 million for Managed Quarantine Services.

Elective Recovery

- Our nurses, doctors and care workers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, treating over half a million patients, administering more than 140 million vaccines and saving over a hundred thousand lives. But the pandemic has taken its toll and waiting times are longer than ever before.
- At the start of the pandemic there was a need for a temporary postponement of all non-urgent elective operations, to prevent the overwhelming of NHS services and free up 30,000 beds. Today, over six million people in England are currently waiting for routine tests, operations and procedures. We know that waiting lists will rise before they fall again because we want to ensure the ‘missing demand’ lost during the pandemic returns and that people receive the care they need. We are aware that over ten million people who otherwise would have come forward did not do so over the pandemic
- The new Health and Social Care Levy, along with an increase to the rates of dividend tax, will raise around £13 billion per year for spending on health and social care across the UK. And we must make sure that every penny is well spent so that, between community pop up clinics, more face-to-face GP appointments, new cancer screening machines, and a hugely expanded mental health provision, the NHS can maximise its ability to check and treat patients.
- The plan to clear the backlogs commits the NHS to deliver 17 million more diagnostic tests over the next three years and to increase our annual capacity by nine million additional treatments and diagnostic procedures. In addition the NHS will aim to deliver around 30 per cent more elective activity than it was doing before the pandemic by 2024-25.
- The plan provides further commitments from the NHS:
 - a reduction in maximum waiting times, so that waits of longer than a year for elective care are eliminated by March 2025 except for a limited number of specific cases. Within this, no one will wait longer than two years by July 2022, or longer than 65 weeks by March 2024;
 - diagnostic tests are a key part of many elective care pathways. By March 2025, 95 per cent of patients needing a diagnostic test receive will receive it within six weeks; and
 - by March 2023 we will return the number of people waiting more than 62 days to start treatment after being urgently referred due to suspected cancer back to pre-pandemic levels. By the following year, 75 per cent of patients who have been urgently referred by their GP for suspected cancer

symptoms will have been diagnosed or have cancer ruled out within 28 days.

Key facts

- To support recovery of elective services, the Government plans to spend more than £8 billion from 2022-23 to 2024-25, supported by the revenue from the Health and Social Care Levy. This is in addition to the £2 billion Elective Recovery Fund and £700 million Targeted Investment Fund already made available last year to help drive up and protect elective activity.
- We plan to spend £8 billion to deliver 30 per cent more elective activity by 2024-25 than before the pandemic.
- The Government has also committed to a £5.9 billion investment in capital, for new beds, equipment and technology:
 - £1.5 billion towards elective recovery services, to include new surgical hubs, increased bed capacity and equipment to help elective services recover, including surgeries and other medical procedures;
 - £2.1 billion to modernise digital technology on the frontline, improve cyber security and the NHS's use of data and redesign care pathways; and
 - £2.3 billion to help increase the volume of diagnostic activity and reduce patient waiting times with ambitions to roll out at least 100 community diagnostic centres over the next three years to help clear backlogs of people waiting for tests, such as MRI, ultrasound and CT scans.
- In December 2021 and January 2022 NHS staff completed over 2.4 million operations and other elective care while also providing treatment to nearly 135,000 COVID-19 patients in England.
- In January 2022, 75 per cent of patients saw a cancer specialist within two weeks following a referral from their GP and 89.6 per cent of patients received treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat.

Delivering Healthcare Priorities

- Alongside the remarkable effort of recovery the Government continues to deliver on the people's priorities for healthcare.
- There are over 30,000 more nurses working in the NHS now compared to September 2019, putting us over halfway towards meeting the 50,000 nurse commitment by March 2024.
- We are delivering on our manifesto commitment to build 40 new hospitals.
- We are investing £1.5 billion to create an additional 50 million general practice appointments through growing and diversifying the GP workforce. We are working with NHS England, Health Education England and the profession to increase the GP workforce in England by boosting recruitment, addressing the reasons why doctors leave the profession, and encouraging them to return to practice. Furthermore, the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme enables Primary Care Networks to recruit a wide range of additional clinical roles for full reimbursement of salary and on-costs.

Key facts

- GP appointment numbers are now above pre-pandemic levels. Excluding COVID-19 vaccinations appointments, in March 2022 there were 1.29 million average appointments per working day compared to 1.19 million in March 2020, an increase of 8.6 per cent.
- In the twelve months up to January 2022, excluding COVID-19 vaccination appointments, an estimated 315 million appointments were booked across all general practices in England. This is an increase of three million compared to the twelve months up to January 2020 (312 million appointments).
- Excluding COVID-19 vaccination appointments, an estimated 319.8 million appointments were booked across all general practices in England in the twelve months up to March 2022. Compared to the twelve months up to March 2020 (310.3 million) this is an increase of 3.1 per cent.
- There were 1,462 more full-time equivalent doctors in general practice in March 2022 compared to March 2019. Additionally, there were 13,800 additional staff recruited towards the 26,000 in the same period, covering a range of roles, for example clinical pharmacists.
- There are currently record numbers of staff working in NHS hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups in the NHS. This includes record numbers of nurses and doctors. Over the past year we have seen almost 4,300 more doctors and over 11,800 more nurses.

- The Government has committed to build 40 new hospitals by 2030, backed by an initial £3.7 billion. Together with eight previously announced schemes, this will mean 48 hospitals delivered by the end of the decade, the biggest hospital building programme in a generation. The first of the 48 hospitals opened for patients last year and a further six are in construction. The new hospitals will transform the way we deliver healthcare infrastructure for the NHS, prioritising sustainability, digital technology and the latest construction methods.

Social Care and integration

- We are reforming adult social care, an issue successive governments have failed to address.
- From October 2023, we will end unpredictable costs by placing a £86,000 limit on the amount people anyone in England will have to spend on their personal care cost over their lifetime. The new cap will end the pain of unlimited care costs so that more people can preserve their savings and assets and pass something on to their loved ones.
- We are also significantly expanding the means test from October 2023 in order to better protect those with lower levels of wealth. The means test is the best way to help make care affordable for people with lower assets. People with less than £100,000 of savings will be eligible for help from the state, and everyone will keep at least £20,000 of their assets. This is more than four times the current limit of £23,250, and more generous than what was proposed in 2015. Someone's house will also not be taken into consideration in this financial assessment if they, or an eligible family member such as a spouse is living in it.
- In addition, our Adult Social Care White Paper sets out a 10-year vision for adult social care and our plans to invest £1.7 billion over the next three years for reform of the system. Through this, we are helping people live independent lives in their homes for longer through greater choice and support; we are improving quality of care; and we are boosting the career prospects of our social care workforce.
- Implementation of the Government's Integration White Paper will ensure patients receive better, more joined-up care. Building on the Health and Care Act 2022, it will bring the NHS and local government closer together to join up health and social care services through the design of a shared outcomes framework, with a single accountable person who will be responsible for the delivery of these shared outcomes including shared health and care plans for people locally. It also sets out the actions the Government will take, working with key partners, to make progress across the key enablers of integration including workforce, data and technology, financial pooling and alignment, oversight and leadership to make integrated health and social care a reality for everyone across England.

Key facts

- In September 2021 the Government announced £5.4 billion for adult social care reform. This includes reforming the social care charging system to protect people in England from unlimited and unpredictable care costs.
- In December 2021, the Government published its adult social care reform white paper '*People at the Heart of Care*', which set out a 10-year vision for investment

in the social care system, including a £500 million investment in the social care workforce, at least £300 million to integrate housing into local health and care strategies, and at least £150 million to improve technology and increase digitisation across social care.

- Better Care Fund budgets reflect the cooperation between health and social care partners. In 2021-22, voluntary contributions totalled £3 billion in addition to the nationally mandated minimum, double the figure from 2015-16.
- In 2019-20, 95 per cent of local areas agreed that joint working had improved as a result of the Better Care Fund. Local areas committed £9.9 billion to the Fund in 2021-22.

Spring COVID Booster Programme

- Millions of people are now being invited to receive a Spring COVID-19 booster following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation for an additional dose for the most vulnerable individuals in the population.
- Eligible groups include those aged 75 and over, residents of older adult care homes, and those aged 12 and over who are immunosuppressed. The NHS continues to offer first, second and third doses for those who are yet to come forward for one.
- The NHS vaccination programme has been the biggest and fastest in health service history. It has saved over a hundred thousand lives, reduced hospital admissions and built a wall of defence which has allowed us to learn to live with COVID-19.

Key facts

- Over 140 million COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered in the UK.
- 92.5 per cent of people in the UK have received a first dose, 86.5 per cent have received a second dose and 68.3 per cent have received a booster or third dose.
- Between 21 March and 4 May 2022, over 2.8 million spring booster doses have been administered in England.
- Based on the direct effect of the booster vaccination and booster vaccine coverage rates, the UK Health Security Agency estimates that around 186,600 hospitalisations have been prevented in those aged 25 years and over in England from 13 December 2021 to 17 April 2022.

Draft Mental Health Act Reform Bill

“My Ministers will publish draft legislation to reform the Mental Health Act.”

The purpose of the draft Bill is to:

- Ensure patients suffering from mental health conditions have greater control over their treatment and receive the dignity and respect they deserve.
- Make it easier for people with learning disabilities and autism to be discharged from hospital.

The main benefits of the draft Bill would be:

- Modernising the Act so that it is fit for the 21st century and provides a framework for services in which people experiencing the most serious mental health conditions can receive more personalised care, with more choice and influence over their treatment and a greater focus on recovery.
- Helping to address the existing disparities in the use of the Act for people from ethnic minority backgrounds – especially for detentions and for the use of Community Treatment Orders.
- Ensuring that detentions only happen where strictly necessary.
- Improving how we support offenders with acute mental health needs, ensuring they have access to the right treatment, in the right setting, at the right time – with faster transfers from prison to hospital, and new powers to discharge patients into the community while ensuring the public is protected.

The main elements of the draft Bill are:

- Amending the definition of mental disorder so that people can no longer be detained solely because they have a learning disability or because they are autistic.
- Changing the criteria needed to detain people, so that the Act is only used where strictly necessary: where the person is a genuine risk to their own safety or that of others, and where there is a clear therapeutic benefit.
- Giving patients better support, including offering everyone the option of an independent mental health advocate, and allowing patients to choose their own ‘nominated person’, rather than have a ‘nearest relative’ assigned for them.

- Introducing a 28-day time-limit for transfers from prison to hospital for acutely ill prisoners and ending the temporary use of prison for those awaiting assessment or treatment.
- Introducing a new form of supervised community discharge. This will allow the discharge of restricted patients into the community, with the necessary care and supervision to adequately and appropriately manage their risk.
- Increasing the frequency with which patients can make appeals to Tribunals on their detention and provide Tribunals with a power to recommend that aftercare services are put in place.
- Introducing a statutory care and treatment plan for all patients in detention. This will be written with the patient and will set out a clear pathway to discharge.

Territorial extent and application

- The draft Bill will extend and apply to England and Wales only.

Wider action on mental health

- Last year our Mental Health Recovery Action Plan, backed by a one-off targeted investment of £500 million, ensured additional support for members of groups which have been most impacted by COVID-19, including; those with severe mental illness, young people, and front-line staff.
- We remain committed to our ambitious plans to expand and transform NHS mental health services to reach an additional two million people, backed by £2.3 billion more in real terms per year by 2023 to 2024.
- This includes the establishment of 33 new maternal mental health services, bringing together psychological therapy, maternity services and reproductive health for women who have mental health needs following trauma or loss related to their maternity experience. These services will be available across the whole of England by March 2024.
- We are also accelerating the roll out of mental health support teams in schools and colleges across the country, meaning 399 teams will be up and running by 2023.
- The Department of Health and Social Care is running a Call for Evidence seeking views to inform a new 10-Year Mental Health Plan and updated National Suicide Prevention Plan which will build on current progress, assessing how local services can work together to prevent mental ill health to level up mental health across the country and put mental and physical health on an equal footing.

Key facts

- In 2020-21, there were around 53,000 detentions under the Act in England, an estimated 4.5 per cent increase from 2019-20. Rates of detention have nearly doubled since 1983, and between 2007-16 the number of detentions rose by over 40 per cent.
- In 2020-21, black people were four times more likely than white people to be detained under the Act, and over ten times more likely to be placed on a Community Treatment Order.
- A total of 1,520 restricted patients were admitted to hospital for treatment under the Act in 2020. Restricted patients are offenders subject to special controls in the justice system, for example after a court sentence or transfer from prison.
- Trends are particularly worrying for children and young people, with rates of probable mental health disorders in six to 16 year olds rising from 11.6 per cent in 2017 to 17.4 per cent in 2021. More people than ever are receiving support for a mental health crisis and, tragically, the numbers of those ending their life through suicide have broadly increased over the past decade.

Women's Health Strategy

- This Government has prioritised women's health, including by increasing choice for women by making progestogen-only contraceptive pills available from pharmacies without prescription; committing to cut the cost of hormone replacement therapy; making record investment in health and education; and banning both virginity testing and hymenoplasty, as part of our wider work to tackle violence against women and girls.
- But there is more to do. Over four in five women (85 per cent) feel, or are perceived to feel, comfortable talking to healthcare professionals about general physical health concerns. This falls to less than three in five women when discussing mental health conditions (59 per cent).
- Decades of sex-based health disparities will be addressed with England's first ever Women's Health Strategy, which we will publish this year. This will reset the dial on women's health, setting out an ambitious and positive new approach, ensuring the system offers equal access to effective care and support and prioritising care on the basis of clinical need.
- The Strategy will be underpinned by the analysis from almost 100,000 responses to the Call for Evidence we ran in 2021. This heard directly from women to understand their experiences of the health and care system, so we can make sure women's voices are at the centre of the Strategy.
- The Strategy will focus both on priority healthcare issues for women across the course of their lives:
 - priority healthcare issues: menstrual health and gynaecological conditions; fertility, pregnancy, pregnancy loss and post-natal support; the menopause; healthy ageing and long-term conditions; mental health; and the health impacts of violence against women and girls; and
 - thematic priorities: women's voices; healthcare policies and services; information and education; health in the workplace; and research evidence and data.
- *Our Vision for the Women's Health Strategy for England*, published in December 2021, set out the life course approach we will take, ensuring we understand the changing health and care needs of women and girls across their lives, rather than focussing on interventions for a single condition, often at a single life stage.
- The Vision also announced the first ever Women's Health Ambassador for England. The Ambassador will focus on raising the profile for women's health, increasing awareness of taboo topics, and bringing in a range of collaborative voices to implement the Women's Health Strategy.

Key facts

- The top five topics respondents want the Government to prioritise are: gynaecological conditions (63 per cent); fertility, pregnancy, pregnancy loss and post-natal support (55 per cent); the menopause (48 per cent); menstrual health (47 per cent); mental health (39 per cent).
- The Government and NHS are already implementing a programme of work to improve menopause care so that all women can access the support they need. This includes:
 - the establishment of the UK Menopause Taskforce to take a holistic approach to menopause care, from healthcare to workplace support and education. The Taskforce is working to join up and accelerate work across the UK;
 - a commitment to reduce the hormone replacement therapy prescription cost, which will improve access. We will implement a bespoke pre-payment certificate from April 2023, subject to consultation with all relevant representative bodies; and
 - establishing the NHS 'Menopause Pathway Improvement Programme', in January 2021, which is working to improve clinical menopause care in England and reduce disparities in access to treatment. The NHS is also working to develop an education and training package for healthcare professionals.
- The Government has taken swift action to implement many of the recommendations from Baroness Cumberlege's *Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review*, which examined how the healthcare system responded to concerns raised by patients, particularly women, about three medical interventions: sodium valproate, the hormone pregnancy test Primodos and pelvic mesh. In particular we have:
 - legislated to establish a Patient Safety Commissioner whose role will be to promote patient safety and the patient voice in the context of the use of medicines and medical devices. We expect the first Commissioner to be appointed later this year; and
 - established nine specialist centres across the UK for those adversely affected by pelvic mesh.
- The Health Secretary has committed to implement the three specific asks for him in the final Ockenden Report into maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, published on 30 March 2022. All maternity provider trusts have been asked to assess themselves against the 15 Immediate and Essential

Actions outlined in the report and NHS England and improvement will set out a delivery plan.

- NHS England and NHS improvement are investing £127 million into maternity services in the next year for NHS workforce and improving neonatal care. This is on top of the £95 million investment into the recruitment of 1,200 midwives and 100 maternity consultants.

PROVIDING THE LEADERSHIP NEEDED IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Foreign Affairs

- These are anxious times. We have seen a breakdown in the international order and a sovereign state being brutally invaded, causing humanitarian disaster and carnage across the global economy. We are taking a leading role defending freedom and democracy so that our values prevail.

Ukraine and the response to Russian aggression

- Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated and barbaric attack against a sovereign democratic state.
- The UK and our international partners stand united in condemning the Russian government's reprehensible actions, which are an egregious violation of international law and the UN Charter.
- It is clear the Russian government was never serious about engaging in diplomacy and was focussed only on deceit and furthering its territorial ambitions.
- As a free and democratic country Ukraine has the right to determine its own future. To ensure the security and defence of all our Allies, we will continue to work together to ensure that Russia cannot further undermine European stability.
- We hold the people of Ukraine in our hearts and minds at this terrible moment in their nation's history. The UK has done everything possible to help Ukraine.
- Since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the UK has committed over £450 million in lethal aid to Ukraine, with the Prime Minister recently announcing plans to provide an additional package of £300 million. This has been designed in consultation with the Armed Forces of Ukraine to support their most pressing military needs. We were the first European country to provide weapons and we continue to work closely with President Zelenskyy to provide the ongoing military support that he requires.
- The UK's total offer of humanitarian and economic support to Ukraine now totals around £400 million, including £220 million of humanitarian aid, making the UK a leading bilateral humanitarian donor to Ukraine. Over five million items of medical supplies have been given to Ukraine by the UK.
- The Government has launched two uncapped visa schemes for Ukrainians who wish to come to the UK and is providing support to help those displaced within Ukraine and in the region. More than 200,000 individuals and organisations have registered their interest under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, which is a testament to the generosity of the British public.

- We are moving as quickly as possible to ensure that those fleeing horrific persecution in Ukraine can find safety in the UK through the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine – with more than 95,500 visas now issued.
- Together with our allies we are making Russia pay the price, and are demonstrating the strength of opposition against Russian aggression.
- We have introduced the largest and most severe package of sanctions ever imposed on Russia or indeed any major economy. From banks to oil companies, football leagues to singing competitions, it has been clear that the Putin regime will bear the cost of its actions. We have now sanctioned over 1,000 individuals and over 100 entities since Putin’s invasion of Ukraine.
- We will continue to support the Ukrainian government in the face of this assault on their sovereignty and territorial integrity. The UK and the international community stand against this naked aggression and for freedom, democracy and the sovereignty of nations around the world.
- The Government has also made it a criminal offence for Russian aircraft to operate in UK airspace and have barred Russian ships from the UK.
- As set out in the recent *British Energy Security Strategy*, by the end of 2022 the UK will end all dependency on Russian coal and oil and will end imports of gas as soon as possible thereafter.
- Disinformation is part of Russia’s playbook, aimed at solidifying domestic support for the war and undermining international support for Ukraine. We have created a new Government Information Cell, made up of experts from across Government, to identify, assess and counter Kremlin disinformation.
- The UK has played a leading role in coordinating global action in support of Ukraine, and the international community has demonstrated unprecedented unity against Russia’s illegal invasion.

Defending democracies and freedoms

- As the world’s fifth largest economy, we are standing up for freedom and democracy, and building a network of liberty. This is even more important in a time of global instability.
- The Government is developing strong security links with like-minded allies around the world, so that we can be hard-headed in defending our interests.
- The UK is committed to being a force for good in the world, promoting human rights, open societies and democracy.

- We have used, and will continue to use 2022 as a year of action to protect and promote human rights, including through leading on UN Human Rights Council resolutions on the situations in Syria and South Sudan, and a joint statement on Xinjiang. We are also hosting international conferences on Freedom of Religion and Belief and Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict.
- Protecting British nationals around the world is a number one priority. We worked tirelessly to secure the release of dual nationals Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori from Iran, after years in detention. The Government has a presence in 168 countries, in 280 overseas embassies and high commissions to provide 24/7 support to British nationals abroad.
- We continue to push the Taliban in Afghanistan to improve human rights, including in relation to the rights of women and girls, reprisals against former members of the Afghan security forces, and the persecution of minorities and to support the work of aid agencies and civil society in Afghanistan.
- The Government will continue to stand up for the rights of the people in Hong Kong. The UK has made clear to Chinese authorities our strong opposition to the national security law, which is being used to curtail freedoms and punish dissent. That is why we can no longer endorse UK serving judges sitting on the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal.
- We will continue to do all we can to prevent sexual violence in conflict. In November, we will host an international conference to mark ten years since the launch of the UK's Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative, where further action to tackle these issues will be agreed.
- Since the launch of this Initiative in 2012, the UK has committed over £50 million and funded more than 85 projects across 29 countries to prevent and respond to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. We have trained over 17,000 police and military personnel and have deployed the UK Team of Experts over 90 times to build the capacity of governments, the UN, and Non-Governmental Organisations. Deployments have included Ethiopia, Mali, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Uganda.
- This summer, the Government will come together with partners from around the world for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda. This will mark the culmination of four years as chair-in-office, during which the UK has worked hard to build a fairer, more sustainable, more secure and more prosperous future for the 2.5 billion people of the Commonwealth.

Building security and defence partnerships

- In line with the objectives of the Integrated Review, the Government is building a network of security and defence partnerships to protect our people, our partners and our freedoms, including on the high seas.
- We are also forging cyber security partnerships with allies around the world, from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to India, Canada and more.
- The Government is also building our traditional security capabilities, including through the decisions taken at the 2020 Spending Review to provide the largest sustained increase in defence spending since the Cold War. We have devoted over two per cent of our GDP to defence, making us Europe's largest NATO contributor.
- The Government is steadfast in support of NATO, the Five Eyes intelligence partnership with the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and the Five Power Defence Arrangements, with Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore.
- By joining forces with the US and Australia on our AUKUS partnership, we are deepening our engagement in the Indo-Pacific and securing a world free from aggression where nations respect the sovereignty of others. Together we will champion fair play, security and the rule of law.
- As the Integrated Review sets out, Europe remains a critical area of focus for the UK's security. Russia is the most acute threat in the region, and its war with Ukraine underlines the importance of the UK maintaining strong ties with its allies, particularly those in the European neighbourhood.

International development and aid

- The Government is a world leading donor of aid and funding for development and will spend more than £10 billion this year to fight poverty, tackle climate change and improve global health.
- As one of the largest donors in the G7, we will ensure aid is spent even more effectively in 2022 to address global challenges while working in the UK's national interest.
- A revamped British International Investment will provide honest, responsible investment to create new markets and develop sustainable infrastructure in Africa, the Caribbean and the Indo-Pacific. This will support our aim to mobilise up to £8 billion of UK-backed financing a year by 2025, partnering with capital markets and sovereign wealth funds to co-invest in projects and increase the

offer further. British International Investment will also deliver for people here in the UK – investments abroad will generate export opportunities in the UK, creating jobs across the country.

- The Government will launch a new development strategy in the coming months. It will commit to stepping up the UK's response to humanitarian crises around the world and ensure our development policies support our belief in freedom and democracy.
- The UK is a world leader in championing girls' education. Between 2015-20 we supported over eight million girls to gain a decent education. As G7 President and hosts of the Global Education Summit and COP in 2021, we led the world in prioritising girls' education as part of the global COVID-19 recovery.
- With the G7, we agreed new targets to get 40 million more girls in school and 20 million more girls reading by 2026.
- Last year, the UK co-hosted the Global Education Summit which raised vital funds for the Global Partnership for Education and to give 175 million children the opportunity to learn.
- We condemn the attacks on schools in Ukraine and are working with partners to ensure that children continue to have safe access to education in affected countries.
- In Afghanistan, we continue to press the Taliban to reverse their decision and allow all girls to attend school.
- We are committed to supporting the people of Afghanistan and continue to do all we can to respond to the growing humanitarian crisis faced across the region.
- We will match our aid to Afghanistan from 2021-22 with a further £286 million in 2022-23. On 31 March, we co-hosted a UN pledging Conference to raise funds for the \$4.4 billion UN humanitarian appeal for Afghanistan. The summit raised \$2.4 billion by more than 40 donors to strengthen our global humanitarian response to Afghanistan and neighbouring countries.

Climate and Nature

- On climate, the UK continues to lead international climate action through our COP26 Presidency, and is working with Egypt as the incoming Presidency ahead of COP27 in November.
- At COP26 almost 200 countries agreed to the historic Glasgow Climate Pact which has put in place the mechanisms to reshape how the world responds to

and tackles climate change.

- Glasgow's legacy is focused on delivery. The UK COP Presidency will continue to ensure that commitments by countries are turned into action to keep the aim of limiting average global temperature rise to 1.5°C alive.
- We will continue to build momentum on mobilising the \$100 billion per year to support developing countries, including enhanced finance to help vulnerable countries cope with climate impacts.
- Through the Clean Green Initiative, launched at COP26, the UK will work to support the development of country partnership platforms to make it easier for vulnerable countries to get access to climate finance.

Key facts

- We are at the forefront of diplomatic, economic, humanitarian and defensive support to Ukraine. To date the Government has:
 - sanctioned over 1,000 individuals, including 82 oligarchs and their family members, whose global net worth is estimated at £170 billion;
 - issued more than 95,550 visas under the Ukrainian Visa Scheme (36,300 Ukraine Family Scheme and 59,100 Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme);
 - donated more than 500 mobile generators, providing vital energy support to essential services;
 - provided £450 million in materiel, including over 5,000 anti-tank weapons, five air defence systems with 50 missiles, 1,360 anti-structure munitions and 4.5 tonnes of explosive. We were the first European country to provide weapons;
 - provided training for Ukraine's armed forces;
 - held two international donor conferences (directly resulting in 2.5 million items of equipment, amounting to over £1.5 billion, being donated to date); and
 - established logistics hubs to lead the coordination of delivery.
- As one of the largest aid donors to Ukraine, the Government has:
 - pledged £394 million, of this £220 million is humanitarian aid and £174 million is economic and energy support;
 - donated around 20 NHS ambulances to help bring lifesaving care to Ukrainians;

- launched a £10 million civil society fund to support organisations including those helping survivors of conflict-related sexual violence;
 - committed \$500 million economic support in loan guarantees to support Multilateral Development Banks, such as the World Bank;
 - matched pound for pound the public's first £25 million for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal - now surpassing £200 million; and
 - provided more than five million items of medical supplies.
- Since October 2021, UK aid to Afghanistan has:
 - supported more than 60 hospitals;
 - provided health services for more than 300,000 people;
 - ensured 4.47 million people get emergency food assistance through the World Food Programme; and
 - provided 6.1 million people with emergency health, water, protection, shelter, food and education support through the UN Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund.
- We are helping those British people and eligible at risk Afghans still in Afghanistan to leave:
 - under Operation PITTING, we evacuated around 15,000 people to the UK, including 8,300 British Nationals and their families, and 5,000 Afghans under the Afghan Relocations & Assistance Policy (ARAP); and
 - since the end of Operation PITTING in August 2021, we have supported over 3,700 more people to leave Afghanistan, or to move from third countries to the UK.
- Under the immigration path for British Nationals (Overseas), over 103,900 people from Hong Kong have applied and there have been over 97,000 applications granted (as of 31 December 2021).
- With an aid budget over more than £10 billion, the UK is, proportionally, the third largest donor in the G7, spending 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income, despite the seismic impact of the pandemic on the UK and global economy.

- We are the biggest NATO defence spender in Europe and are further strengthening this by investing an extra £24 billion in defence over four years – the biggest investment in the UK’s armed forces since the end of the Cold War.
- At the Global Education Summit the UK pledged £430 million to the Global Partnership for Education to get the world’s most vulnerable children into school. This is the largest pledge the UK has ever made to the Partnership and the largest bilateral pledge so far.

Strengthening the Integrity of the United Kingdom

- This Government will continue to build on the success of our United Kingdom. We are committed to protecting and promoting its combined strengths and the values we share, and to ensuring the institutions of the United Kingdom benefit people in every part of our country, building on hundreds of years of partnership and shared history.
- When we work collaboratively as one United Kingdom we are safer, stronger and more prosperous and better able to tackle our shared challenges. Together, we are better able to draw on the skills of our great shared institutions like the NHS, the armed forces and civil service, to tackle the big issues – from defending our borders, to being a world leader in offering the COVID-19 vaccine to all our citizens and protecting 11.7 million jobs through our furlough schemes. Most recently it has been fantastic to see people and organisations from all over the UK come to record their interest in our Homes For Ukraine scheme.
- As the UK Government, we are committed to ensuring that opportunity is shared across every corner of the UK. The Spending Review 2021 set the largest annual block grants, in real terms, of any spending review settlement since devolution in 1998. We are investing across the UK through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Community Ownership Fund, and the Levelling Up Fund, worth £2.6 billion, £150 million and £4.8 billion respectively until 2025.
- The UK Government is committed to effective collaboration with devolved governments to deliver for people across the UK. This spirit of cooperation is at the foundation of the arrangements recently agreed in the review of intergovernmental relations, it is also shown in the way we work together including our collective response to COVID-19.
- We are also clear that we will only be able to level up and create prosperity across the UK if all levels of government pull together, and we are committed to working closely with the devolved governments, local leaders and wider partners across the UK. We have launched, with the Scottish Government, a competition to establish two Green Freeports in Scotland, which will bring new jobs and increased investment to left behind communities across Scotland. We are continuing to work towards establishing the Freeports programme in Wales and Northern Ireland as soon as possible.

Scotland

- People in Scotland have benefitted from our UK-wide £400 billion package of COVID-19-related support which has protected over 910,000 Scottish jobs. Over the Spending Review 2021 period, the UK Government is providing an additional £4.6 billion on average per year to the Scottish Government through the Barnett formula, on top of the Scottish Government's £36.7 billion baseline. The Scottish Government can spend this funding as it sees fit in devolved areas.
- At the Budget in October 2021, the UK Government announced the first allocations for many of our UK-wide growth funds, including over £171 million for eight projects to improve infrastructure in Scotland as part of the **Levelling Up Fund** and over £1 million to five projects through the **Community Ownership Fund** to save community assets at risk of being lost, including the town hall in New Galloway. In addition we announced 56 projects in Scotland would receive a share of over £18 million through the **Community Renewal Fund**. A new, £150 million British Business Bank fund in Scotland will support firms and the Scottish government is being provided with £1.9 billion for farmers and land managers and £42.2 million to support fisheries over the Spending Review.
- Scotland will also benefit from the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**, worth £2.6 billion across the UK over this Spending Review period, including £560 million to give people the opportunity to develop their numeracy skills through the 'Multiply' programme. This will give thousands of adults across the UK the opportunity to develop functional numeracy skills, and the new £1.4 billion **Global Britain Investment Fund** will spread economic opportunities more evenly across the UK by supporting investment in industries including life sciences, offshore wind and manufacturing. We are bringing two Green **Freeports to Scotland, with up to £52 million of UK Government seed investment**. These will also play a key role in supporting the regeneration of communities, bringing jobs and prosperity. They will also turbo-charge our commitments on net zero and support work to level up the whole of the UK.
- This is on top of the UK Government's investment of almost £1.5 billion in Scottish City and Growth Deals. Funding was accelerated in seven of these in Scotland to drive forward local economic priorities in Tay Cities, Borderlands, Moray and the Scottish Islands (announced in the 2020 Spending Review), and Ayrshire, Argyll & Bute, and Falkirk (announced in the March 2021 Budget).

Wales

- Over the Spending Review 2021 period, the UK Government is providing an additional £2.5 billion on average per year to the Welsh Government through the Barnett formula, on top of the Welsh Government's £15.9 billion baseline. The Welsh Government can spend this funding as it sees fit in devolved areas to

benefit people in Wales.

- At the Budget in October 2021, the UK Government made announcements on many of our UK-wide growth funds which will benefit Wales, including: the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**, worth £2.6 billion, which will invest in skills, people, businesses, and communities. The UK Government is also providing £900 million for farmers and land managers and £6.2 million to support fisheries, over the Spending Review.
- £121 million will be allocated to ten projects in Wales via round one of the **Levelling Up Fund**, including to revitalise the World Heritage Site around the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, an important dualling of the A4119 in South Wales, and to redevelop the Theatr Brycheiniog Arts Centre in Brecon. Over £464,000 will be allocated to three projects in Llandwrog, Pen-y-Waun, and Tredegar from the first round of the **Community Ownership Fund**. The UK Government has also announced over £46 million for 165 successful **Community Renewal Fund** Projects across Wales, which will help people into work, boost productivity and contribute towards delivery of net zero.
- The UK Government is investing £791 million into four city and growth deals that cover the whole of Wales. These deals are delivering results, from completed projects such as the new Swansea Digital Arena, to new jobs including as part of the Compound Semiconductor Cluster in Newport. At the Budget in October 2021 the UK Government also announced that it is accelerating funding for the **Cardiff City Region Deal**, bringing forward £105 million for the remaining nine years of the Deal from 2022-23 onwards.

Northern Ireland

- Over the Spending Review 2021 period, the UK Government is providing an additional £1.6 billion on average per year to the Northern Ireland Executive through the Barnett formula, on top of the Northern Ireland Executive's £13.4 billion baseline. The Northern Ireland Executive can spend this funding as it sees fit in devolved areas to benefit people in Northern Ireland.
- Other recent Spending Review measures announced for Northern Ireland include: £70 million in funding to help small and medium sized enterprises (SME); nearly £50 million to be invested in Northern Ireland to boost the post-pandemic recovery and enhance the Northern Ireland economy including £49 million from the **Levelling Up Fund** for 11 projects across Northern Ireland; and £1 billion in funding for farmers and £9.3 million for fisheries in Northern Ireland.
- Through the first round of the **Community Ownership Fund**, £300,000 was announced for the Glens Digital Hub in Cushendall based in the village's vacant police station as part of the Grow The Glens initiative. A further £12.3 million was allocated to Northern Ireland for 31 projects under the **UK Community Renewal**

Fund, providing funding for projects such as the Mid South West Region Business Innovation Programme and the Mourne Mountains Community Renewal Through Nature project.

- The UK Government is providing substantial investment into Northern Ireland with over £3.5 billion being provided through the **New Deal for Northern Ireland** (£400 million), **City Deals** (£617 million), **PEACE PLUS** (circa £730 million including match funding contributions from the Northern Ireland Executive) and the **New Decade, New Approach** financial package (£2 billion). In addition, we have launched a number of different funding schemes to drive forward the economy and offer new opportunities for further investment in people, communities and infrastructure.
- The UK Government's priority is to see a strong functioning Northern Ireland Executive delivering a better, more prosperous, shared future for all the people of Northern Ireland. As we have seen following the elections in Northern Ireland, the problems caused by the Protocol continue to stand in the way of an Executive being formed. In the interests of all communities of Northern Ireland, the Protocol needs to change. We urge our partners in the EU to work with us, with new imagination and flexibility, to deliver that. We will continue to talk with the EU but we will not let that stand in the way of protecting peace and stability in Northern Ireland. As any responsible government would, we will take the steps necessary to protect all dimensions of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and meet our obligations under the *New Decade New Approach Deal* to protect Northern Ireland's place in the UK internal market.
- The UK Government has also announced its intention to make further regulations to ensure that women and girls have access to safe, high-quality abortion care in Northern Ireland. We will also introduce legislation in this session to address the legacy of the past and provide better outcomes for victims, survivors and their families and giving veterans the protections they deserve and legislation to deliver the package of identity and language measures as negotiated by the Northern Ireland parties under the *New Decade, New Approach Deal*. More details on these two bills can be found later in this document.

Bill of Rights

“My Government will ensure the constitution is defended. My Ministers will restore the balance of power between the legislature and the courts by introducing a Bill of Rights.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Introduce a Bill of Rights which will ensure our human rights framework meets the needs of the society it serves and commands public confidence.
- End the abuse of the human rights framework and restore some common sense to our justice system.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Defending freedom of speech by promoting greater confidence in society to express views freely, thereby enhancing public debate.
- Curbing the incremental expansion of a rights culture without proper democratic oversight, which has displaced due focus on personal responsibility and the public interest.
- Reducing unnecessary litigation and avoiding undue risk aversion for bodies delivering public services.
- Tackling the issue of foreign criminals evading deportation, because their human rights are given greater weight than the safety and security of the public.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Establishing the primacy of UK case law, clarifying there is no requirement to follow the Strasbourg case law and that UK Courts cannot interpret rights in a more expansive manner than the Strasbourg Court.
- Ensuring that UK courts can no longer alter legislation contrary to its ordinary meaning and constraining the ability of the UK courts to impose ‘positive obligations’ on our public services without proper democratic oversight by restricting the scope for judicial legislation.
- Guaranteeing spurious cases do not undermine public confidence in human rights so that courts focus on genuine and credible human rights claims. The responsibility to demonstrate a significant disadvantage before a human rights claim can be heard in court will be placed on the claimant.

- Recognising that responsibilities exist alongside rights by changing the way that damages can be awarded in human rights claims, for example by ensuring that the courts consider the behaviour of the claimant when considering making an award.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- An estimated 70 per cent of foreign national offenders who had their deportation overturned in the last five years on human rights grounds in the First Tier Tribunal did so due to Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (Right to Family Life).
- Between 2005 and 2011, the Prison Service in England and Wales faced successful legal challenges from over 600 prisoners on human rights grounds. This has cost the taxpayer around £7 million, including compensation paid out and legal costs.

Securing Our Borders and Tackling Illegal Immigration

- The UK has a proud history of supporting those in need of protection and our resettlement programmes have provided safe and legal routes for hundreds of thousands of people across the globe.
- Our response to the war in Ukraine, the conflict in Afghanistan, and the situation in Hong Kong have shown the world-leading role we play in protecting the most vulnerable.
- However we are facing a global migration crisis on an unprecedented scale; there are currently 80 million displaced people in the world, and people are dying attempting to cross the Channel in unseaworthy boats. Urgent change is needed to prevent evil people smugglers putting people's lives at risk and to fix the broken global asylum system.
- The demands on the system, costs to the taxpayer and flagrant abuses are increasing every day. This cannot continue which is why we have brought forward the *New Plan for Immigration* to begin the biggest overhaul of our asylum system in decades.
- Encompassing the Nationality and Borders Act, and new agreements with partners globally (including the world-leading Migration Partnership with Rwanda), this Plan will secure our borders and tackle illegal migration.

The Nationality and Borders Act 2022

- The Nationality and Borders Act – the legislative framework for the New Plan for Immigration – became law at the end of April.
- It will deter illegal entry into the UK, break the business model of people-smuggling networks, and speed up the removal of those with no right to be in the UK.
- It will ensure that those who arrive illegally in the UK – who could have claimed asylum in another safe country – can be considered as 'inadmissible' to the UK's asylum system.
- These key reforms will operate alongside a range of other new measures, to secure our borders and tackle illegal migration, including:
 - tougher penalties for people smugglers with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment;
 - increasing the maximum penalty for illegally entering the UK or overstaying a visa to four years' imprisonment;

- new measures to end the merry-go-round of legal challenges which can be used to frustrate removal of those with no right to be in the UK;
- cracking down on adults pretending to be children by introducing scientific methods for age assessment; and
- new US-style Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme to slam the door on criminals before they even get here.

Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda

- The Home Secretary recently signed the Migration and Economic Development partnership with Rwanda as part of bold new plans to tackle illegal migration.
- This will see migrants who make dangerous and illegal journeys, such as by small boat or hidden in lorries, have their asylum claim processed in Rwanda.
- Those whose claims are accepted will then be supported to build a new and prosperous life in one of the fastest-growing economies, recognised globally for its record on welcoming and integrating migrants.
- Under this Partnership the UK is investing an initial £120 million into the economic development and growth of Rwanda.

Key Facts

- The asylum system is costing the taxpayer £1.5 billion per annum, the highest amount in over two decades.
- About 37,000 people are being housed in hotels – at a total cost to the taxpayer, when including those on resettlement schemes, of £4.7 million a day.
- The Home Office currently accommodates 85,000 asylum seekers, 55,000 in dispersed accommodation with 30,000 awaiting a move into dispersed accommodation.
- Fewer than half of local authorities currently participate in the asylum dispersal system, limiting the amount of suitable accommodation available.
- Since 2015 we have offered a place to over 185,000 men, women and children seeking refuge – more than any other similar resettlement schemes in Europe.

Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill

“My Government will prioritise support for the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and its institutions, including through legislation to address the legacy of the past.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Fulfil the manifesto commitment to address the legacy of Northern Ireland’s past by providing better outcomes for victims, survivors and their families, giving veterans the protections they deserve and focusing on information recovery and reconciliation.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Helping individuals and communities look to the future rather than the past, by recovering and providing as much information as possible to people about Troubles-related deaths and serious injuries.
- Reforming the current system for dealing with the legacy of the Troubles, moving away from a focus on criminal justice outcomes and ending the cycle of investigations that has failed both victims and veterans.
- Aiding wider social reconciliation to further mutual understanding in both the short and long term, including by establishing a major oral history initiative that provides an opportunity for people from all backgrounds to share their experiences and perspectives related to the Troubles.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Establishing a new Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery to enable individuals and family members to seek and receive information about Troubles-related deaths and serious injuries, and to produce an historical record of what is known in relation to every death that occurred during the Troubles.
- Providing for how individuals can secure immunity from prosecution. In July 2021 the Government set out proposals to provide immunity from any prosecution for future Troubles-related offences. The Government has listened carefully to a range of views on the original proposal and it is clear that a model where immunity is only provided to individuals who cooperate with the new Commission provides the best route to give victims and their families the answers they have sought for years as well as giving our veterans the certainty they deserve. This still leaves open the route of prosecution if individuals are not deemed to have earned their immunity.

- Providing for the delivery of an oral history and the memorialisation of the Troubles. This will involve securing the long-term preservation of existing oral history collections, with new physical and digital resources to maximise public engagement with different narratives and Troubles-related stories.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply in the main across the UK, with some provisions extending and applying to Northern Ireland only.

Key facts

- More than 3,500 people were killed during the Troubles, including over 1,000 members of the security forces. It is estimated by Malcolm Sutton that 58 per cent of deaths were the responsibility of republican paramilitaries, 30 per cent of loyalist paramilitaries, and ten per cent of the security forces.
- More than two thirds of deaths from the Troubles occurred over 40 years ago. The passage of time means that ultimately, for those cases that get as far as a trial, there is a high likelihood of ‘not guilty’ verdicts or trials collapsing.
- The Police Service of Northern Ireland currently has a caseload of over 900 Troubles-related cases involving nearly 1,200 deaths.
- In 2020, the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland told the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee that to go through the current Legacy Investigation Branch caseload, “which is not all the 3,500 deaths, would take over 20 years from a standing start now on the current resource base”.
- Using limited resources to pursue a small number of cases to prosecution standards currently means that a tiny number of families may see someone prosecuted, and an even smaller number may see an eventual conviction. This is likely to be at the expense of failing to deliver positive outcomes to the vast majority of families, who will miss out on the opportunities to successfully recover information.

Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver a carefully balanced package of identity and language measures as negotiated by the Northern Ireland parties under the *New Decade, New Approach Deal*. This will recognise and celebrate Northern Ireland's national and cultural identities and accommodate cultural differences.
- Enhance and develop the Ulster Scots/Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland and recognise and protect the Irish language.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Upholding a key element of the *New Decade, New Approach Deal* by legislating to deliver a new cultural framework to encourage reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue between those with different national and cultural identities.
- Ensuring appropriate support for the respective needs of the Ulster Scots/Ulster British tradition and of the Irish language in Northern Ireland.
- Providing a basis on which Northern Ireland can move forwards on matters of national and cultural identity.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Creating a new Office of Identity and Cultural Expression that will provide guidance for public authorities on a series of national and cultural identity principles set out in the *New Decade, New Approach Deal*.
- Creating two new Commissioners who will be appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister acting jointly:
 - a new Commissioner who will enhance and develop the language, arts and literature of the Ulster Scots and Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland. They will do this by providing guidance and advice to public authorities, and distributing publicity material; and
 - a new Irish Language Commissioner to protect and enhance the use of the Irish language and develop a set of best practice standards for public authorities in Northern Ireland.
- Providing official recognition in law to the Irish Language in Northern Ireland and repealing the Administration of Justice (Ireland) Act 1737.

- Placing a duty on the Northern Ireland Department of Education to encourage and facilitate the use and understanding of Ulster Scots in the education system.
- Safeguarding the delivery of these commitments by giving the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland step-in powers to ensure that they are implemented by the Northern Ireland Executive.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply to Northern Ireland.

Key facts

- The Northern Ireland Executive was restored on 12 January 2020 after a period of three years without Ministers, during which the Assembly did not sit. Matters of national and cultural identity were one area of contention during this period and in the negotiations to restore the Executive.
- Political talks took place in 2017, 2018 and 2019 with the aim of restoring the Northern Ireland Executive. The talks involved the Northern Ireland Parties and the UK and Irish governments in accordance with the three stranded approach set out in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. Political talks concluded in January 2020 with the publication of the *New Decade, New Approach Deal* by the UK and Irish governments. On that basis, Ministers were appointed and the Executive restored.
- The UK Government has already made significant progress on our commitments relating to culture and identity within the *New Decade, New Approach Deal*. We have announced £2 million in funding to Northern Ireland Screen's Irish Language and Ulster Scots Broadcast Funds and continued preparations to recognise Ulster Scots as a National Minority under the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.
- In view of the Executive's inaction in bringing forward legislation to deliver on the identity and language commitments, the UK Government has committed to do so.

Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver manifesto commitments to strengthen animal welfare, including banning live exports, tackling puppy smuggling and banning the keeping of primates as pets without a licence.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Taking opportunities presented by Brexit to go further in improving our animal welfare standards and taking forward key parts of the *Action Plan for Animal Welfare*.
- Improving the lives of farm animals, pets and kept wild animals by ending unnecessary journeys for slaughter and fattening and addressing the serious issue of dog attacks on livestock, which cause distress to both livestock and farmers.
- Improving the lives of pets in this country and protecting pet owners by cracking down on the cruel practice of puppy smuggling and creating a specific new offence for pet abduction.
- Ensuring that kept wild animals receive the specialist care they need, whether that be animals in zoos or primates that are kept privately.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Banning the exports of livestock for fattening and slaughter.
- Strengthening powers for police to deal with incidents of livestock worrying.
- Tackling puppy smuggling by reducing the number of pets that can travel under the pet travel rules and powers to take further action, including raising the minimum age that pets can travel into Great Britain and banning imports of dogs with cropped ears and docked tails.
- Introducing a new pet abduction offence to reflect the value we place on our pets.
- Creating a rigorous licensing scheme for those keeping primates requiring them to meet high welfare standards and ensuring higher protections for all primates that are not kept in zoos.
- Updating the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 to improve enforcement and strengthen conservation requirements for zoos.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply in the main to Great Britain, with one provision extending and applying across the UK.

Key facts

- The Government has an ambitious agenda to revolutionise the welfare and treatment of animals at home and abroad, as set out in the *Action Plan for Animal Welfare* published last year.
- Already in this Parliament, the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act, the Animals (Penalty Notices) Act, Glue Traps (Offences) Act, and the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act have all received Royal Assent, demonstrating the Government's ongoing commitment to upholding world-leading animal welfare standards.
- We are also committed to legislation to ban the import of hunting trophies from thousands of species. This will be one of the toughest bans in the world, and goes beyond our manifesto commitment, meaning we will be leading the way in protecting endangered animals and helping to strengthen and support long-term conservation.
- The shortest direct to slaughter export journey from the UK to continental Europe in 2018 was a journey time of 18 hours.
- In 2020, around 6,300 sheep were exported for slaughter from Great Britain to the EU and around 38,000 sheep were exported for fattening; no cattle or pigs were exported for slaughter or fattening in 2020 from Great Britain to the EU.
- Puppy smuggling is often associated with serious welfare issues. In 2020, 975 dogs that were found to be non-compliant with existing animal health and welfare legislation were imported. This was an increase from 196 dogs in 2019.
- There are up to an estimated 5,000 unlicensed primates being kept in England. In response to Defra's consultation on Primates as Pets, only 19 respondents out of 4,516 (0.4 per cent) were opposed to licence holders having an exemption from the ban on keeping primates.
- The cost of dog attacks on livestock in 2021 was £1.52 million. This is up from £1.3 million in 2020.
- In May 2021 the Government launched the Pet Theft Taskforce to investigate the apparent rise in pet theft since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Taskforce found that around 2,000 dog theft crimes were reported to police in 2020, causing considerable distress to owners.

Conversion Therapy Bill

“Legislation will also be introduced to ban conversion therapy.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Ban conversion therapy practices intended to change sexual orientation.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Stopping abhorrent practices which do not work and cause extensive harm.
- To protect people’s personal liberty to love who they want to love.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Strengthening existing criminal law by ensuring that violent conversion therapy is recognised as a potential aggravating factor upon sentencing.
- Introducing a criminal offence banning non-physical conversion therapies to complement existing legislation which protects people from acts which inflict physical harm. The offence will protect under-18s, regardless of circumstance, and over-18s who do not consent and who are coerced or forced to undergo conversion therapy practices.
- Ensuring those found guilty of conversion therapy offences have any profit they obtained from those crimes removed and strengthening the case for such individuals to be disqualified from holding a senior role in a charity.
- Introducing Conversion Therapy Protection Orders. These would set out certain conditions to protect a person from undergoing the practice, including removing a passport for those at risk of being taken abroad, or any requirement the court considers necessary to protect that person.
- Protecting freedom of speech, ensuring parents, clinicians and teachers can continue to have conversations with people seeking support.
- Respecting clinicians’ independence. Our legislation will not impact the existing professional frameworks that guide clinicians’ ability to support people. Robust, exploratory and challenging conversations which are part of regulated care do not fall within the scope of the ban.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply to England and Wales.

Key facts

- Studies relating to conversion therapy for sexual orientation show that:
 - there is no robust evidence that conversion therapy can change sexual orientation;
 - there is self-reported evidence that conversion therapy causes harm; and
 - people's motivations for seeking conversion therapy tended to be associated with conflict about sexual orientation.
- Approximately 16 countries have placed some sort of nation-wide ban on conversion therapy practices, including Canada, France, Germany and New Zealand.
- Recognising the complexity of issues and need for further careful thought, we will carry out separate work to consider the issue of Transgender Conversion Therapy further.

Independent Football Regulator

“Proposals will be published to establish an independent regulator of English football.”

- Football is a defining part of our identity and central to British life, but its governance has not kept pace with development and reform is needed. That is why the Government is committed to reforming football governance to enable a long-term, sustainable future for the game.
- We are backing fans and supporting the game by committing to:
 - establishing a new independent regulator of professional football in England to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the game for the benefit of fans and local communities;
 - allowing the regulator to oversee a new licensing regime for professional football in England, to include governance at football clubs and financial regulation of the game;
 - ensuring owners and stewards are “fit and proper” people to manage football clubs prudently and sustainably; and
 - engaging fans when football clubs make important changes to a club’s heritage such as the name of the team, club logo or team strip.
- Our reforms will support the long-term future of the game, ensuring football clubs are run in a more financially sustainable way through new independent regulation, meaning fewer clubs in distress.
- We will publish a White Paper in the summer, which will set out further details.

Key facts

- The manifesto committed to review football governance to prevent another collapse like Bury FC in 2019. This review was taken forward by Tracey Crouch MP, who reported in November 2021. The Government’s response was published on 25 April 2022 and endorsed the ten strategic recommendations.
- Championship clubs are spending on average 120 per cent of turnover on wages and 14 out of 20 Premier League clubs are above UEFA’s recommended limit of 70 per cent. Over the last ten years Championship clubs have lost over £2.5 billion.
- The pandemic has caused English football clubs to lose over £2 billion and overall debt in the game is now over £5.3 billion.

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Fulfil the Government's manifesto commitment to strengthen academic freedom and free speech in universities in England.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring that universities in England are places where freedom of speech can thrive for all staff, students and visiting speakers, contributing to a culture of open and robust intellectual debate.
- Ensuring that, for the first time, students' unions will have to take steps to secure lawful freedom of speech for their members and others, including visiting speakers.
- Ensuring that academic staff feel safe to question and test received wisdom and put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions without risking their careers.
- Creating routes for staff, students and visiting speakers to seek redress if they suffer a loss as a result of specified duties being breached.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Ensuring that freedom of speech and academic freedom in higher education is supported to the fullest extent. This legislation builds on existing freedom of speech duties on higher education providers and addresses gaps in current provision. For the first time duties will be imposed directly on student unions, as well as constituent colleges.
- Provisions include a new complaints scheme run by the regulator, the Office for Students, free to access for students, staff and visiting speakers who believe their speech has been unlawfully restricted, overseen by a dedicated Director of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom.
- Introducing new freedom of speech and academic duties on higher education providers, their constituent colleges and students' unions. The Office for Students, will have the power to impose penalties for breaches.
- Creating a new role for the Director for Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom at the Office for Students. The holder of this office will champion freedom of speech and academic freedom on campus, and have responsibility for investigations of infringements of freedom of speech duties in higher education which may result in sanctions and individual redress.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will, in the main, extend to England and Wales and apply to England only.

Key facts

- There is growing concern about a 'chilling effect' on university campuses that means that not all students and staff feel able to express themselves without fear of repercussions. A number of studies, surveys and reports highlight instances where freedom of speech and academic freedom is being curtailed in the higher education sector. The most notable are studies by Policy Exchange and the Joint Committee on Human Rights.
- Policy Exchange polling shows that a significant number of current and retired academics choose to self-censor. The survey shows that 32 per cent of those who identify as 'fairly right' or 'right' have refrained from airing views in teaching and research, with 15 per cent of those identifying as 'centre' or 'left' also self-censoring.
- There are a small number of high profile reported incidents, both international and domestic, where staff or students have been threatened with negative consequences, including loss of privileges or dismissal, confirming that the fear of repercussions is not always unfounded. Some of these reports relate to those who do not currently have routes of redress, for example, visiting speakers.

Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill

“Legislation will prevent public bodies engaging in boycotts that undermine community cohesion.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver the manifesto commitment to stop public bodies from adopting their own approach to international relations.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring the UK’s foreign policy determines how our country interacts with other nations, which includes imposing sanctions where necessary.
- Stopping public bodies pursuing their own foreign policy agenda with public money.
- Preventing divisive behaviour that undermines community cohesion across the country by stopping public bodies from imposing their own boycott, divestment or sanctions campaigns. There are concerns that such boycotts may legitimise and drive antisemitism as these types of campaigns overwhelmingly target Israel. Such campaigns result in undue politicisation of public institutions.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Empowering Government to ban public bodies that are already subject to public procurement rules from conducting their own boycott campaigns against foreign countries or territories. This would be applicable where these are inconsistent with official UK foreign policy as set by Her Majesty’s Government.
- Stopping public bodies from taking a different approach to the UK Government on sanctions and foreign relations. This includes preventing public institutions carrying out independent boycotts, divestments and sanctions against:
 - foreign countries and/or territories, or those linked to them;
 - the sale of goods and services from foreign countries or territories; and
 - UK firms which trade with such countries or territories, where such an approach is not in line with UK Government sanctions.
- Ensuring that public bodies conduct procurement and investment activities in line with official government measures on both policy and sanctions.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply across the UK.

Key facts

- It is a long-standing principle that there may be restrictions on taxpayer-funded public bodies that do not apply to private bodies; for example, public bodies cannot engage in party political campaigning.
- It is not acceptable that public bodies carry out campaigns where attempts are made to declare policies for boycotts, divestment or sanctions at variance with Government policy. We have seen motions passed by Lancaster City Council in support of such campaigns in June 2021 and Leicester City Council to boycott goods from Israeli settlements in 2014.
- The Government has zero tolerance for discrimination. Such campaigns are not in line with government policy and pit communities against each other, undermining community cohesion. Jewish groups have repeatedly challenged public bodies, including in the courts, that have called for or attempted boycotts, divestment and sanctions campaigns.
- Unofficial boycotts have gone beyond those directed at a particular state and contribute to the horrific rise in antisemitism in the UK – including Kosher food being removed from supermarket shelves, Jewish films being banned from a film festival and a student union holding a vote on blocking the formation of a Jewish student society.
- Sanctions policy should be determined by the UK Government. The UK already has a legal framework in the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 to impose, update and lift sanctions autonomously.

CONTACT DETAILS

Brief	Lead Department	Contact Details
Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	0330 041 6560
Audit Reform (draft)	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Bill of Rights	Ministry of Justice	020 3334 3536
Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	0303 444 1209
Brexit Freedoms Bill	Cabinet Office	07623 515490
Conversion Therapy Bill	Government Equalities Office	07623 515490
Cost of Living, Economic Growth and Public Finances	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
Cutting Crime	Home Office	0300 123 3535
Data Reform Bill	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7211 2210

Brief	Lead Department	Contact Details
Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill (draft)	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7215 1000 020 7211 2210
Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill	Home Office	0300 123 3535
Electronic Trade Documents Bill	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7211 2210
Energy Security Bill	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Financial Services and Markets Bill	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
Foreign Affairs	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	020 7008 3100
Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	0300 777 7878
Harbours (Seafarers' Remuneration) Bill	Department for Transport	0300 777 7878
Health and Social Care Funding and Recovery briefs	Department of Health & Social Care	020 7972 3272

Brief	Lead Department	Contact Details
High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill	Department for Transport	020 7783 8300
Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill	Department for Education	020 7783 8300
Higher Education Bill	Department for Education	0303 444 1209
Housing Reform	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	020 7783 8300
Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill	Northern Ireland Office	0303 444 1209
Independent Football Regulator	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	07870 363400
Levelling Up	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	020 7211 2210
Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	020 7211 2210
Media Bill	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	0303 444 1209
Mental Health Act Reform Bill (draft)	Department of Health & Social Care	020 7211 2210

Brief	Lead Department	Contact Details
Modern Slavery Bill	Home Office	020 7972 3272
National Security Bill	Home Office	0300 123 3535
Non-Domestic Rating Bill	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	0303 444 1209
Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill	Northern Ireland Office	07870 363400
Online Safety Bill	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7211 2210
Procurement Bill	Cabinet Office	07623 515490
Products Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7211 2210
Protect Duty Bill (draft)	Home Office	0300 123 3535
Public Order Bill	Home Office	0300 123 3535
Renters Reform Bill	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	0303 444 1209

Brief	Lead Department	Contact Details
Schools Bill	Department for Education	020 7783 8300
Social Housing Regulation Bill	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	0303 444 1209
Social Security (Special Rules for End of Life) Bill	Department for Work & Pensions	0115 965 8781
Strengthening the Integrity of the UK	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	0303 444 1209
Tackling Illegal Migration	Home Office	0300 123 3535
Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill	Department for International Trade	020 7215 2000
Transport Bill	Department for Transport	0300 777 7878
UK Infrastructure Bank Bill	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
Victims Bill (draft)	Ministry of Justice	020 3334 3536

Brief	Lead Department	Contact Details
Women's Health Strategy	Department of Health & Social Care	020 7972 3272