

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	8 January 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Parliamentary Team update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Paul Double, City Remembrancer	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Emma Wade, Parliamentary Engagement Officer	

### Summary

This report has been prepared to update Members on the main elements of the Parliamentary Team's activity in support of the City of London Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement. An oral update will be provided at the meeting to include the Government's Immigration White Paper and Bill.

This report spans the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 12 December. Parliament will be in recess from 21 December to 6 January (inclusive).

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- note the report.

### Main Report

1. At the time of writing, further debate and the so-called 'meaningful vote' on the Government's Brexit deal has been scheduled for the weeks commencing 7 and 14 January, respectively. Reports on the parliamentary proceedings will be distributed to PRED Members after each sitting of the debate on the withdrawal deal. In addition, Public Policy Bulletins will be issued, in conjunction with the Corporate Affairs Team, following significant statements from the Government to the House of Commons. An oral update will be provided on Brexit-related developments at the next meeting of the Committee.

### Legislation

2. The Government introduced its Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill, at the same time as the Home Secretary Sajid Javid published a 'future skills-based immigration system' White Paper setting out Ministers' plans to end free movement. At present, no date has been announced for the Bill's second reading in the Commons.
3. Environment Secretary Michael Gove published the draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill setting out how the Government intends to maintain environmental standards after Brexit. The draft Bill creates a new, statutory and independent environment body: the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP).

The OEP is intended to be able to scrutinise and advise on environmental legislation and the current 25-year environment plan, investigate complaints, and take enforcement action, including through legal proceedings if needed. The draft Bill commits the government to publishing a policy statement which will set out how ministers should interpret and apply environmental principles. It also commits Government to have a plan for environmental improvement. The draft clauses will now be the subject of pre-legislative scrutiny in Parliament.

4. The Financial Services (Implementation of Legislation) Bill had its second reading. Government Minister Lord Bates said that the powers under the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018, were only applicable to EU legislation, which was in force at the time of exit. Bates told Peers that “In many cases, the UK strongly supported these laws when they were being negotiated and played a leading role in shaping them over a number of years”. The Minister said that the Bill would allow the Government to “implement in the UK a specified list of the most necessary EU financial services legislative proposals in the pipeline through statutory instruments subject to the affirmative procedure.” Acknowledging the broad nature of the power, Bates said that in the event of no deal it will “be vital to ensure that any legislation implemented in the UK can be adjusted to work best for the UK markets outside the EU... The Bill is and can be only a stop-gap measure to minimise disruption in the event of no deal for a time-limited period.” The Bill will have its Committee stage on 8 January.

### **Debates and Briefings**

5. The Parliamentary Team, in liaison with Corporate Affairs and EDO, have continued to engage with MPs and Peers to highlight the necessary ‘no deal’ contingency planning needed for the sector. In particular, the Policy Chair held a phone call with former Minister for London Greg Hands MP (Con, Chelsea and Fulham).
6. An updated briefing note on the ‘cliff edge’ risks for the financial services sector will be circulated to all MPs and Peers on the Speaker’s List ahead of the meaningful vote and debate.
7. A briefing document was provided to Stephen Timms MP (Lab) for a debate on the impact of Brexit on orchestras, which outlined evidence collated from Guildhall School, the Barbican Centre and the City Corporation’s Culture, Heritage and Libraries team, setting out some of the potential impacts of Brexit on the arts and creative industries.

### **Select Committees**

8. Commander Karen Baxter of the City of London Police has been invited to give oral evidence to the Treasury Select Committee on 8 January, to discuss economic crime. This follows written evidence submitted to the inquiry last year.

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