

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH 2022

The Queen's Speech, given on the 10 May, contained details of 38 Bills expected this Session, including a number carried over from last Session and a selection of draft legislation which will be the subject of pre-legislative scrutiny before being introduced into Parliament.

This note outlines those announcements of most interest to the City Corporation. The full text of Bills becomes available when they are introduced to either House. For Bills not yet introduced, information is sourced from documents published alongside the Queen's Speech, and any other departmental announcements.

Bills with direct relevance for the City Corporation will be flagged to officers in the relevant service department(s) and members of the relevant committee/subcommittee.

New Bills introduced

- **Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (DLUHC)**

Takes forward the Government's White Paper published earlier this year with the objective 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." Measures within the Bill with direct implications for the City Corporation include changes to collection and use of planning data and provisions for the making of local plans. The Bill would also make permanent some of the planning controls introduced during COVID-19 restrictions such as pavement licences.

- **Procurement Bill (Cabinet Office)**

Intended to make public procurement more accessible for new entrants, enabling them to compete for public contracts. The Bill retains the core of the EU procurement regime but provides for greater flexibility in relation to bids from charities, SMEs and social enterprises.

- **Public Order Bill (Home Office)**

Will introduce 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. The Bill will also introduce Serious Disruption Prevention Orders, a new preventative court order targeting protestors who are determined repeatedly to inflict disruption on the public. The Bill contains one element with direct impact on the City of London Police, to do with the delegation of functions to Commanders in the City Police and Metropolitan Police.

- **Schools Bill (DfE)**

Intended to strengthen the regulatory framework for academy trusts and supports more schools to become academies. Also reforms the funding formula and creates a duty for local authorities to provide support for home education families. The Bill is predominantly a framework through which the Secretary of State for Education can set standards by later regulation. Given its focus on academies, the Bill will have direct impact on the City of London Academies Trust.

- **UK Infrastructure Bank Bill (HMT)**
Will 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 Bill does not have any significant direct implications on the functioning of the bank, but places it on a statutory footing and, separately within the Bill, allows bank to lend to local authorities and Northern Ireland.
- **Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill (DIT)**
Will 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.

New Bills yet to be introduced

- **Bill of Rights (MoJ)**
Seeks to deliver on the Conservatives' 2019 manifesto commitment to update the Human Rights Act. The main provisions of the Bill will establish the primacy of UK case law and clarify that 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. The Bill will also propose that UK courts can no longer alter legislation contrary to its ordinary meaning.
- **Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill (DLUHC)**
The Bill will seek to stop public bodies from taking a different approach to the UK Government on sanctions and foreign relations.
- **Brexit Freedoms Bill (Cabinet Office)**
Will remove the supremacy of retained EU law as it still applies in the UK and create 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.
- **Data Reform Bill (DCMS)**
The Bill is intended to increase competitiveness and efficiency by reducing burdens placed on business in the use of data.
- **Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill (Home Office)**
The Bill will propose reforms to Companies House to improve the processes for registering new companies. Provisions will also create powers to more quickly and easily seize and recover crypto assets, which are the principal medium used for ransomware. Other measures are intended to enable businesses in the financial sector to share information more effectively to prevent and detect economic crime.
- **Electronic Trade Documents Bill (DCMS)**
Will put electronic trade documents on the same legal footing as paper documents, removing the need for "wasteful paperwork and needless bureaucracy". This is intended to enable businesses to move from paper-based to digital-based transactions when buying and selling internationally. This is intended to help business efficiency and support economic growth.

- **Energy Security Bill (BEIS)**
Intended 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.
- **Financial Services and Markets Bill (HMT)**
Intended 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” and “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.”
- **Higher Education Bill (DfE)**
Will set minimum qualification requirements for a person living in England to be eligible to get student finance support to enter higher education, and fulfil 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.
- **Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill (NIO)**
Will deliver a 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.
- **Media Bill (DCMS)**
Will allow for a change in ownership of Channel 4. Also delivers a new public service remit for TV.
- **Modern Slavery Bill (Home Office)**
Intended 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.
- **National Security Bill (Home Office)**
Will reform existing espionage laws (Official Secrets Acts 1911, 1920 and 1939) to provide effective legislation to tackle modern threats.
- **Non-Domestic Rating Bill (DLUHC)**
Intended 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.
- **Renters Reform Bill (DLUHC)**
Intended to fulfil the manifesto commitments to abolish so-called ‘no fault’ section 21 evictions and deliver 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.

- **Social Housing Regulation Bill (DLUHC)**
Will 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.
- **Transport Bill (DfT)**
Will propose reforms to the railways to improve reliability and enables the installation of more electric vehicle charging points. Provides for the regulation of pedicabs in London.

Draft Bills

- **Draft Audit Reform Bill (BEIS)**
Will establish 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.
- **Draft Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill (DCMS/BEIS)**
Intended to reform the UK's competition regime to strengthen remedies available to consumers.
- **Draft Protect Duty Bill (Home Office)**
Will introduce new security requirements for certain public locations and venues to ensure preparedness for and protection from terrorist attacks.
- **Draft Victims Bill (MoJ)**
Will seek 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.

Carryover Bills

- **Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill (DEFRA)**
- **Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill (DfE)**
- **Online Safety Bill (DCMS)**
- **High Speed Rail (Crewe-Manchester) Bill**
- **Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill**