

Report – City Remembrancer

Measures introduced into Parliament which may have an effect on the work and services provided by the City Corporation

To be presented on 7th September 2023

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

Bills

Date in force

National Security Act 2023

11th July 2023

The Act introduces new measures to modernise existing counter espionage laws to address modern threats. It aims to tackle state-backed sabotage and foreign interference by creating the Foreign Interest Registration Scheme (FIRS). This scheme requires specified individuals in the UK to register certain activities and communications they undertake with foreign governments. The Act creates a criminal offence for a person to carry out “political influence activity” where this arrangement is not registered, and the person knows that the arrangement is not registered. The list of specified individuals who must register certain activities includes the City of London Police Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners, applying the FIRS to the City of London Police in the same way that it applies to the Metropolitan Police. The FIRS does not apply to the Police Authority Board.

Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023

20th July 2023

The Act facilitates a revised approach to regulating social housing landlords on consumer issues such as safety, transparency and tenant engagement, with new enforcement powers. The Act aims to reform the regulatory regime to increase standards for tenants. It applies to the Corporation in its exercise of the functions and duties of a local authority and a local housing authority which is a provider of social housing.

Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023

20th July 2023

This short framework Act enables Ministers to make regulations setting out the minimum service required during strike action in six areas of the public sector: health services; fire and rescue services; education services; transport services; decommissioning of nuclear installations; and border security. Failure to comply with those regulations may result in the loss by trade unions of their legal

protection from liability for inducing workers to take part in the strike, and the loss by employees of their automatic protection from unfair dismissal. Minimum service levels are not defined in the Act but are left to the discretion of the Minister, who must set these out in regulations. The regulations must be approved by both Houses of Parliament and are yet to be drafted.

Statutory Instruments

The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023 No. 770

31st July 2023

These Regulations amend Regulations from 2017 to increase the upper limit of fixed penalty notices for littering, graffiti and fly-posting offences from £150 to £500. They also amend the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to increase the upper limit of fixed penalty notices for unauthorised deposit of controlled waste and household waste duty of care offences, from £400 to £1000 and £600 respectively.

The Business and Planning Act 2020 (Pavement Licences) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 No 900

10th August 2023

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Business and Planning Act 2020 made temporary provision for a fast-track process to allow businesses selling food or drink to obtain authorisation from their local authority for the placement of furniture such as tables and chairs on highway adjacent to their premises. The Act provided for such pavement licences to expire by 30th September 2022, and this was extended by Regulations to 30th September 2023. These Regulations further extend the expiry to 30th September 2024. This extension only applies to a pavement licence for which application is made on or after 10th August 2023. The previous date of 30th September 2023 will continue to apply in relation to any pavement licence applied for before 10th August 2023, although the holder of such a licence may be able to apply for a further licence.

The text of the measures and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office.