

Appendix 1 - Excerpts from the Public Policy Bulletin issued alongside the King's Speech 2024 relating to Bills not yet brought forward.

## ***New Bills***

### **National Wealth Fund Bill [HM Treasury]**

The Bill will put the much-trailed National Wealth Fund, which will make investments nationwide with the aim of delivering growth and a greener economy, on a statutory footing. The UK Infrastructure Bank and the British Business Bank will be aligned under the National Wealth Fund in order to simplify the support landscape for business and investors.

### **Pension Schemes Bill [Department for Work and Pensions]**

The Bill aims to help those saving in private-sector pension schemes to get better outcomes from their pension assets and support the Government's mission to deliver growth. Its measures will facilitate the consolidation of Defined Contribution individual deferred small pension pots, establish a Value for Money framework for pension schemes, place duties on trustees of occupational pension schemes to offer a retirement income solution or range of solutions, including default investment options, to their members, consolidate the Defined Benefit market through commercial Superfunds, reaffirm the Pensions Ombudsman as a competent court so that pension schemes no longer need to apply to the courts to enforce its decisions in relation to the recovery of overpayments, and amend the Special Rules for End of Life (Pension Protection Fund and Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS)) extending the definition of 'terminal illness', allowing eligible members within the Pension Protection Fund and the Financial Assistance Scheme to receive a lump sum payment at an earlier stage.

### **Planning and Infrastructure Bill [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government]**

The Bill will reform the planning system to enable the delivery of more housing and infrastructure, by making changes to the planning system at a local level, modernising planning committees and increasing local planning authorities' capacity to deliver an improved service. Measures will include the simplification of the consenting process for major infrastructure projects, reforming compulsory purchase compensation rules, and using development to fund nature recovery.

### **English Devolution Bill [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government]**

The Bill is designed to establish a standardised framework for devolution in England, including powers over strategic planning, transport, skills and employment support. Local leaders will be empowered to produce Local Growth Plans and enabled to formally request additional powers, with the Government required to consider the request. A simpler process for creating new Combined and Combined County Authorities will be established, while local communities will be empowered with a 'right to buy' community assets, such as empty shops, pubs and community spaces.

### **Crime and Policing Bill [Home Office]**

The Bill focuses on community policing and delivering higher policing standards by expanding the powers of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services to intervene in failing police forces and introducing higher mandatory national

vetting standards. The Bill will ‘crackdown on anti-social behaviour’ thorough new Respect Orders, fast-tracked Public Spaces Protection Orders and new powers to tackle anti-social use of off-road bikes. It will create a new specific offence of assaulting a shopworker and tackle low level shoplifting. It will strengthen the law to tackle exploitation of children for criminal purposes and provide specialist responses to violence against women and girls.

### **Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill [Ministry of Justice]**

This Bill aims to deliver on the Government’s promise “to put the needs of victims first.” Its measures will seek to ensure that victims of crime and antisocial behaviour get the support they need, strengthen the powers of the Victims’ Commissioner, require offenders to attend their sentencing hearings, reduce delays in the courts system by allowing Associate Prosecutors to work on appropriate cases, and give the public increased protections from sex offenders.

### **Children’s Wellbeing Bill [Department for Education]**

The Children’s Wellbeing Bill aims to ‘remove barriers to opportunity for children and families’ by strengthening multi-agency child protection and safeguarding arrangements, requiring free breakfast clubs in every primary school and limiting the costs of school uniforms and kits. The Bill will bring in a number of new duties including on local authorities to have and maintain a Children Not in School register and a requirement for all schools to cooperate with the local authority on school admissions, SEND inclusion and place planning. Following a review of curriculum and assessment, all schools – including academies - will be required to teach the national curriculum and multi-academy trusts will be brought into the inspection system, as had also been proposed by the last government.

### **Hillsborough Law [Cabinet Office]**

The Bill will place a legal duty of candour on public servants and authorities and address the ‘unacceptable defensive culture’ in the public sector, by improving transparency and accountability, improve assistance for bereaved persons and core participants at inquests and public inquiries and provide legal aid for victims of disasters or state-related deaths.

### **Cyber Security and Resilience Bill [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology]**

The Bill will update the existing UK regulations regarding cyber security, which reflect laws inherited from the EU. The Bill will update the regulatory framework to better protect digital services by expanding the remit of the regulations, put regulators on a stronger footing to ensure cyber safety measures are being implemented, and mandating increased incident reporting to give government better data on cyber attacks.

### ***Draft Bills***

### **Draft Audit Reform and Corporate Governance Bill [Department for Business and Trade]**

The draft Audit Reform Bill will seek to strengthen audit and corporate governance by requiring greater transparency from large companies, enforced by a revamped regulator. The Bill aims to support long-term investment in UK companies, reduce the harm that financial reporting errors can do and help ensure quality audit for all

businesses that need it. The Bill will replace the Financial Reporting Council with the Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority, with a wider remit, relaxed rules for smaller Public Interest Entities, powers to investigate and sanction company directors in relation to financial reporting and audit responsibilities, and a regime to oversee the audit market.

**Draft Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Bill [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government]**

The draft Bill aims to enact the Law Commission recommendations to bolster leaseholders' fundamental rights to extend their lease and buy their freehold (enfranchisement) and take over the freeholders building management functions (Right to Manage). It will seek to modernise the legal framework for commonhold and restrict the sale of new leasehold flats. It will also seek to tackling ground rents for existing leaseholders, so they no longer face unregulated and unaffordable costs.

**Draft Equality (Race and Disability) Bill [Government Equalities Office]**

The draft Bill aims to deliver on the Government's manifesto commitment to enshrine in law the full right to equal pay for ethnic minority and disabled people, and to introduce mandatory ethnicity and disability pay reporting.