



Assessing the King's Speech

2023



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Overview

“...my Government’s priority is to make the difficult but necessary long-term decisions to change this country for the better”

King Charles III

In an historic Gracious Address to the House of Lords, and his first as Monarch, King Charles III laid out the government’s priorities for the Parliamentary session ahead. The Address focused largely around three themes – growing the economy, strengthening society, and keeping people safe – which Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hopes will frame the next election and create dividing lines with the Labour Party.

Following his speech in October at Conservative Party Conference in which Rishi Sunak set out his stall as the “change candidate”, this King’s Speech was the opportunity to put the meat on the bone of the Prime Minister’s priorities. It was also Sunak’s best attempt at turning the tide on the polls and ensuring this wasn’t going to be his last.

In total, the government announced 21 bills, which the Prime Minister says will make the UK “more prosperous, more innovative, and more secure” – with his government taking the “difficult but necessary” decisions to change Britain for the better. Sunak wants to be seen on the side of the British public and trusted with bringing down consumer bills, making streets safer and preparing Britain for the future.

Responding to the Address in the House of Commons, however, Labour Leader Sir Keir Starmer roused his benches, suggesting recent by-election victories show that the UK is ready for real change – not “a plan for more of the same” under the Conservatives. Sir Keir specifically called out the Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, and her recent remarks on homelessness – suggesting the government is “devoid of real leadership”.

The most eye-catching legislation announced, and the one which most clearly illustrates the dividing lines between the Conservative and Labour Parties, was the commitment to create an annual system for awarding oil and gas licences through the Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill. This is a policy which Labour has opposed, but Sunak argues is “pragmatic” as we transition to net zero, helping shore up energy security and cutting the cost of energy for families.

The Labour Party has been clear it will oppose the legislation – which Starmer has said amounted to nothing more than a “political gimmick” – and several opposition MPs in the Chamber accused Sunak of misleading the public on the impact of new licenses. Sunak doubled down on his position, saying that it was his government who has been honest with the public about the real cost of net zero.



Overview continued

Whilst rail reform didn't make it into the Address, the government has announced draft legislation to change the structure and operation of rail in Britain, through Great British Railways. Appearing in draft form however, this is very unlikely to happen ahead of the next election. The government will be giving priority to flagship policies that force Labour to show how it will diverge on issues, such as on oil and gas, creating wedge issues ahead of the election.

Beyond those measures, the King's Speech also signalled reform to the leasehold property system, the introduction of tougher sentencing laws, and a generational ban on smoking and crack down on vapes. Sir Keir said the government has their support on public health measures, including anti-tobacco and vape measures.

Despite positioning himself as the candidate of change, seven of the 21 bills announced (one third) were carried over from the previous session. This points to the joint reality of there being little parliamentary time left before the next election, and the running out of ideas after 13 years in government. These carry-overs included legislation on renters' reform, digital markets, and data protection.

In addition to what was announced, there were a series of notable gaps, indicating issues that have fallen down the government's list of priorities. Whilst public services were mentioned, there was no new legislation announced on NHS reform, nor on Sunak's plans to replace A-levels and T-levels with a new single "advanced British standard" qualification – though this did make it into Sunak's closing remarks in the Chamber.

As intended by Sunak, dividing lines between both sides of the House were clearly forming as the debate progressed. Going into the next parliamentary session and as the substance of the Address is debated, we'll see how strong internal factions within the Parties remain.

All eyes will now be on the Autumn Statement and the government's next opportunity to set the tone for debate and add further detail to these commitments.





Designed to Divide

The current parliament is drawing to a close. The next election is moving nearer. At such a stage in the parliamentary cycle a government's final legislative programme needs to be treated with caution.

There is little time left for bills to become laws even if Rishi Sunak keeps going until next autumn and beyond. Soon there will be a long Christmas recess, a spring half term early next year, to be followed by the lengthy Easter break. By which time election speculation frenzy will have broken out. The government wants its MPs away from Westminster as much as possible in order to campaign in their constituencies even if a lot of them are stepping down. Therefore quite a few of the bills outlined in the King's Speech will not be implemented before the election.

Another cause for caution is the inevitable political nature of a programme when a government, well behind in the polls, is facing a looming election. Bills are included in an attempt to trap Labour rather than to significantly change the country. Indeed Number 10's muted briefings in advance of the King's Speech focused on the 'dividing lines' with Labour, rather than their 'change making' capacity, the theme of Sunak's party conference speech.

Sunak's plans to limit cigarette sales will sail through. They have Labour support, but will trigger a Tory rebellion. I am told he is keen to prioritise his proposals to reform A levels as a lasting legacy of his leadership (not that Sunak has given up hope of turning the polls around. Every prime minister dares to hope that something will turn up, which is why a May election is so improbable). The plan to introduce a new mechanism to grant North Sea oil and gas licences is also to be given early priority in the parliamentary timetable, but here is an example of pre-election game playing. When Labour opposes the bill, as it almost certainly will, Sunak and his colleagues will argue that Kier Starmer is anti growth and anti jobs, not least in Scotland. Yet the bill changes very little. The government has the right to grant licenses. Labour has pledged to accept all contracts signed before the election. The ultra cautious Starmer is confident he can expose the shallow nature of the bill, but the attempt by Sunak to focus on North Sea production is revealing. After the Conservatives' victory in the Uxbridge by-election he seeks to play the 'Net Zero pragmatist'.

As a result of the wider context the King's Speech is more of a guide as to how the main parties plan to fight the next election. But even in this respect there is limited material to analyse. A legislative programme is unavoidably a hotchpotch of bids from various departments in Whitehall, out of which Number 10 tries to extract a theme.

Increasingly anxious Conservative MPs hope that the Autumn Statement later this month will be of much greater significance. The chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, is under increasing pressure to announce tax cuts then rather than wait for the pre-election budget next year. The instincts of Hunt and Sunak have been publicly declared. They want to focus on cutting inflation now as a backdrop to tax cuts in the budget.

Sunak has pulled two of the levers available to him, his party conference address and the King's Speech. The dial has not moved. He desperately needs to pull a lever that has impact on the polls. Against his own much declared fiscal conservatism Sunak might feel the need to deliver headline grabbing tax cuts later this month.

After the King's Speech Number 10 briefed that the government intended to pass every bill, prompting some at Westminster to speculate that the election will be held in January 2025. This is a misreading. Sunak's advisers have no choice but to insist that the full legislative programme will be implemented, while knowing that will not be the case. The election will be held when Sunak calculates it is in the interests of his party to call one.

Steve Richards

WA Senior Adviser, Broadcaster and Journalist

In Conversation – with Sir Philip Rutnam, Harry Cole, and Sonia Sodha

WA's King's Speech analysis breakfast, hosted by **Marc Woolfson**, Partner and Head of Public Affairs, brought together **Sir Philip Rutnam**, former Permanent Secretary and Chair of WA's Advisory Board; **Sonia Sodha**, Chief Leader Writer at the Observer and former policy advisor to Ed Miliband; and **Harry Cole**, Political Editor at The Sun.

We were joined by some of the UK's biggest organisations, to explore the politics and process of the King's Speech announcement – considering the thinking behind the Government's plans and the Opposition's response; assessing the next steps for newly announced legislation; and examining media and public reaction.

The defining message of our panel's analysis, was the lack of a defining message from Rishi Sunak's first King's Speech – in an environment where Harry Cole noted that the Sun's readers are "bored of politics, they've had it rammed down their throats", there was "nothing for the punters".

"Rishi Sunak's running out of time, and running out of key moments – there's nothing to get excited about. [The election's] not going to be a no-fault eviction unless they move the dial."

Harry Cole, Political Editor, The Sun

But a lack of overarching narrative didn't mean there were no stand-out proposals – with the long-term ban on cigarette sales, first announced at last month's Conservative Party Conference, widely lauded. Attendees from the health sector "looked at the King's Speech, and thought: this is broadly positive for us", while Sonia Sodha highlighted the move as a big shift, and part of Rishi Sunak's legacy.

Attempts to create political dividing lines were questioned – proposals such as the annual licensing of offshore oil and gas fields may attract some votes, but as Sonia Sodha noted, the Labour Party's £28bn green investment plan also serves as an alternative route to securing the UK's energy security.

Minimum Service Guarantees in public services – undermining the impact of strikes – were regarded as a more effective political move, resonating with the public (who Harry Cole remarked, often "hate train companies, and hate the RMT"), and putting Labour in a tight spot on industrial relations. Plans to ensure minimum services during rail disputes were noted as a manifesto commitment, removing the threat of a Lords veto, although no such protection applies to new plans to secure minimum services in the health sector.

"What wasn't included was notable. For example, DfT has said that cancelling the northern leg of HS2 would in some sense require legislation – notably absent from this programme."

Sir Philip Rutnam, Former Permanent Secretary and Chair of WA's Advisory Board

In Conversation – continued

The electoral offer to young people, especially recent graduates, was explored in depth. Sonia Sodha regarded the Conservative Party as having “written-off the conversation with young people ... who are increasingly getting a hard deal”. In two key areas, the King’s Speech misses the mark for this demographic. Leasehold reform does nothing to address the issue of affordable housing, where the deposit question now applies just as much to those renting, with the down-payment on a London flatshare preventing many from moving to the capital, with predictable consequences for social mobility. And tackling ‘Mickey Mouse degree courses’ overlooks wider questions that universities may increasingly face from students about the overall value of their degrees and the specific skills they are acquiring for the significant fees paid.

When will voters of every age get their say? Autumn 2024 was regarded as the most likely date for the election. Sir Philip Rutnam felt that “January 2025 feels desperate ...”, while Harry Cole reminded us “110,000 people remortgage a month, so if you wait another month (into winter), it’s another hundred thousand who hate you”.

“You have to be realistic about the capability of public services — you can tinker at the edges, but there’s not the capacity to deliver reform without significant resources. The problem Labour have, is they don’t have the economic growth of 1997 to do so.”

Sonia Sodha, Chief Leader Writer, The Observer



Energy: Signalling net zero pragmatism over ideology

Will it address the biggest most substantial issues facing the energy sector or is it just about the politics? That's the big question the industry is asking following the King's Speech.

The headline measure – trailed in advance and much anticipated by the industry – is new legislation aiming to boost the oil and gas sector with a requirement for the regulator to undertake annual licensing rounds. The oil and gas sector will welcome the political support, but it's unclear to what extent it will drive investment.

This is fundamentally a political move – seeking to expose Labour's position on the future of oil and gas, and the tensions within the party. Trade unions and Scottish Labour spent the summer pushing behind the scenes – and in some cases more publicly – for a more nuanced position on future licensing. For now, Labour's position is that it would not issue new licenses but would honour existing licenses issues before the next General Election. It remains to be seen whether the dismissal of this as a 'stunt' and the discipline in the wider Labour movement will last throughout the passage of the Bill.

While many of the new Bills announced this week won't make it onto the statute book before the General Election, this will be top of the legislative agenda with the government pushing it forward.

The Speech hinted at the two most pressing issues facing the wider sector: tackling Britain's grid challenge which is holding back the deployment of new energy projects and arguably restricting economic growth, and attracting new investment in renewables.

For most companies – and investors – in the energy sector, policy action on these two issues will be more significant, explaining why many are looking to the Autumn Statement rather than the King's Speech as the more relevant political milestone this month.

Before the end of the year we're expecting the government to set out its ambition for the next renewables auction (following the perceived failure of this year's), set out a clear plan on grid connections with a response to Nick Winser's report, and use the Autumn Statement to provide the UK's response to Inflation Reduction Act in terms of attracting green investment. Clear ambition on these interventions will signal how serious the government is in supporting the sector.

Ultimately, the King's Speech is a continuation of the approach on energy that we've seen from this government over recent months: a focus on energy security and seeking to signal to voters that Sunak is taking a pragmatic rather than ideological approach to net zero.

For industry, the opportunity is to position themselves with government as aligned with these priorities; the question is whether this direction of travel and these specific policy measures unlock investment. That remains to be seen.

Angus Hill

Senior Director, Energy

angushill@wacomms.co.uk

Transport: Half-baked and late. An underwhelming transport package.

For transport, this King's Speech is framed as being about specific interventions that reinforce the Prime Minister's message on making the necessary long term decisions to deliver better outcomes that voters actually feel.

Across four Bills, the government has mapped out interventions that include reforming rail ticket pricing, tackling 'drip pricing' by airlines and regulating nuisance pedicabs in central London. These policies will be presented as voter friendly initiatives, shoring up support in the seats the Conservatives hope to hold on to.

For a sector with multiple areas overdue for reform, these interventions have been greeted with disappointment and frustration.

Lack of real progress on rail and bus reform, an absence of e-scooter regulation and no sign of any new active travel, aviation or maritime legislation, leaves businesses uncertain over the long-term plan and unclear where to invest their time and resources.

But the King's Speech also looks to the future. The Autonomous Vehicles Bill aligns with Rishi Sunak's desire to be seen to 'own' innovation and grasp new economic opportunities on the horizon. However, even here the government is adopting a cautious approach leaving many unanswered questions, for example over the plan and timescale for rolling out fully autonomous vehicles over the next decade.

On rail specifically, the inclusion of the Draft Rail Reform Bill will provide the stage for a long debate pitting the government's vision for a new public-private partnership against Labour's plans for public ownership.

With potentially months of pre-legislative posturing to look forward to, the industry could be caught between two opposing versions of the future, with Labour forced to harden its position on nationalisation in the pre-election period, creating fresh fiscal headaches for Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves. Meanwhile, the government will try to keep the focus on rail fares and simplification that voters will feel faster.

The reality is that wide reaching reform will not be delivered this side of an election. This next year will be a battle of opposing ideas, whilst industry is stuck in limbo, ahead of proposals reemerging in 2025.

This has disappointed industry and consumer groups, with the Urban Transport Group and Rail Partners frustrated that action has been "left in the sidings", whilst the consumer group Which? has criticised the lack of concrete action to protect consumers from additional airline fees during the booking process. Labour Shadow Transport Secretary, Louise Haigh, has called it a "missed opportunity to fix transport networks".

For industry, the King's Speech and the legislative programme it contains sets the stage for the long election campaign ahead and highlights the polarising and populist nature of the debate we can expect. We have moved from the 'boosterish' Johnson years of expansionist infrastructure policy to a debate characterised by a hard focus on delivering improvements in the here-and-now for consumer-voter-passengers.

Businesses must get ready for a long debate on their future, with the prospect of action under this government very slim. It means manifestos and the first 100 days of a new government must be the focus for most transport businesses, and using the run up to the election to create support for the action that is needed and has stalled on the hard shoulder for many years.

Marc Woolfson

Partner, Head of Public Affairs

marcwoolfson@wacomms.co.uk

Education & Skills: Whatever happened to education?

In 78 pages of text and background notes, education got a single paragraph in the King's Speech and no legislative commitment beyond a white paper next year on replacing A-Levels with a new Advanced British Standard, and the usual attack line on low value degrees. This means that the Prime Minister's personal intervention into the education policy debate has developed very little since his speech in Manchester to the Conservative Party Conference in early October.

For a Prime Minister who has said that a "world class education is the single most important thing we can do. It's the closest thing we have to a silver bullet... the best economy policy, the best social policy, the best moral policy", it is somewhat surprising to have a new legislative session with a bill on London pedicabs, but not a single bill being led by the Department for Education. It is hardly as if there aren't considerable challenges facing the country's education system.

It is less surprising though that it ultimately proved too difficult to work out how to legislate for the complete overhaul of a qualification system that has been in place since 1951 with less than a month's notice – hence little beyond the previous commitment to a consultation and £600m development funding. However, the Augar Review into the future of tertiary education was announced by then Prime Minister Theresa May in 2017, and published over four and a half years ago, and we are still awaiting the government's considered response to that report.

In a general election that will be framed entirely by the economy and cost of living, education was never going to be the number one issue, but that doesn't mean it won't be important.

Whether it is addressing the exorbitant cost of childcare, repairing crumbling schools, recruiting more teachers, filling the skills gap, or addressing the funding crisis facing some of our universities, the challenges facing the education sector cannot be ignored at election time.

Both main party leaders have started to articulate a vision of an education system fit for purpose in a fast-changing and quickly automating economy, but perhaps we will now have to wait for the manifestos to know what that will mean in practice.

Lee Findell

Partner, Head of Corporate Communications
leefindell@wacomms.co.uk



Health: One radical policy but nothing on the major challenges facing the NHS

Perhaps unexpectedly for a government that has shied away from health measures that could be portrayed as Nanny Statism (see reducing obesity), the King's Speech actually made good on the commitment to create the first smokefree generation.

This is a pretty radical public health commitment, that will mean children born on or after 1 January 2009 (turning 14 this year or younger) will never be able to be legally sold cigarettes. The government states this Bill could potentially avoid 115,000 cases of strokes, heart and lung diseases, save the NHS and social care up to £18 billion, and boost the economy by up to £85 billion over the next 50 years – what's not to like?

Alongside a clampdown on underage vaping, this is a relatively painless and quick win for Sunak on an issue that will make a genuine long-term difference to the health of the nation. Labour back it (while also being very clear that it was actually their policy first) and it has, of course, been resoundingly welcomed across the health sector.

It's great to see a set piece public health announcement sitting at the heart of the government's legislative programme. However, smoking ban aside, the speech was woefully lacking on health policy. No other specific legislation was included and instead we got only headline references to pushing forward with the NHS workforce plan, tackling waiting lists and backing science and innovation.

This isn't that surprising. Major NHS reforms have already happened in the last few years, and a government building up to a general election is unlikely to announce any NHS-focused measures that are so substantial they require primary legislation.

It's not wise to mess with the NHS too much pre-election, especially if you can't guarantee your plans would get through in time.

However, what is surprising is the failure to include a Bill to reform the Mental Health Act, despite the fact the Draft Bill has already been prepared ([and published](#)) and was a 2019 Conservative manifesto commitment.

Instead, there was just a reiteration of existing commitments to invest in mental health and the rollout of mental health support teams in schools. This decision has been widely criticised by charities and MPs from across the political spectrum, with Mind stating that government has "broken its promise to thousands of people, their loved ones and the nation as a whole". Not a great look at a time when mental health is an increasing priority for many voters.

Labour is likely to use this backtrack on mental health to their advantage, enabling them to further position themselves as the only real champion of the NHS. The Conservatives will have to demonstrate their delivery on key healthcare commitments pre-election if they're to convince a wavering electorate that they will deliver on what is going to be a big issue on the doorstep.

Dean Sowman

Partner, Head of Health

deansowman@wacomms.co.uk



Financial & Professional Services: A packed agenda, irrespective of King's Speech

Tumbleweed! The image that best sums up the key takeaway from the King's Speech for financial and professional services. Well, that is not exactly true and it's a little facetious. The insurance sector will be interested in the Automated Vehicle Bill and of course there will be general interest from the industry on the Trade Bill, plus continued scrutiny of two Bills carried over from the previous Parliamentary session, the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill and Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill.

The evolution of UK financial and professional services continues post-Brexit.

The Financial Services and Markets Bill (now Act) that received detailed Parliamentary scrutiny and debate in the last session created a UK regulatory framework for financial services, payment services and financial market infrastructure, which will now be taken forward through secondary legislation, and government and regulatory consultation processes. This is coupled with the ongoing Edinburgh Reforms and growing momentum around the Mansion House Reforms, focused on productive finance measures to unlock pension investment in British business and infrastructure projects.

From a regulatory perspective there are too many initiatives and consultations to reference.

These are outlined in the [FCA's Regulatory Initiatives Grid](#) – but the government and regulators have this week fired the gun on a multi-year process to regulate crypto assets, starting with fiat-backed stablecoins, while the Prime Minister has made the running to position the UK as a global leader in the policy development and the regulation of AI.

Throw in the Consumer Duty and the impact it is already having across financial services, and the odd reputational scandal (see Nigel Farage), and the reality is it will not be a quiet twelve months for the sector, ahead of the next General Election.

In fact, there will be a fair amount of relief that there is not any further substantive primary legislation to grapple with in today's King's Speech.

Notable by their absence, but well trailed, were the lack of legislation proposals to reform corporate governance and the audit profession. The Labour Party has already been vocal in its criticism of the government for 'dropping' long awaited legislation of these proposed reforms, and for not moving more quickly to enact secondary legislation through the FSMA to bring Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) within the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) regulatory scope, which will now be covered by the 2024 review of the Consumer Credit Act.

As highlighted, undoubtedly the political, regulatory, and reputational impacts across financial and professional services will continue to be multiple and ongoing.

However, today's King's Speech sheds no further light on what I continue to hear from industry leaders about a lack of an overall vision for the sector from either the Government or Opposition.

Fundamental questions remain unresolved, especially around the role of regulation versus competition, and supporting financial and professional services to innovate on behalf of consumers and compete globally.

Tom Frackowiak

Partner, Head of Financial & Professional Services
tomfrackowiak@wacomms.co.uk

Summary of Announced Bills

The table outlines the full range of Bills announced by the government in the 2023 King's Speech.

Of the 21 pieces of legislation announced yesterday, 14 were entirely new; 6 were 'carried over' from the previous Parliamentary session, and 1 Bill was introduced in draft form, pending further pre-legislative scrutiny by industry and experts.

Each announced bill has been categorised in likely, eventually, or unlikely status, rating our judgement on how likely each one is to pass in its original (or current) form.

- **Likely:** denotes a Bill that is likely to pass in its original form
- **Eventually:** denotes a Bill that is likely to eventually pass but not without amendment
- **Unlikely:** denotes a Bill that is unlikely to pass without significant amendment

New Bills announced

Bill name	Department responsible	Stated intention of the Bill	Likelihood of passage
Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill	Energy Security & Net Zero	Strengthens energy security by supporting the future licensing of new oil and gas fields.	Likely
Trade (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) Bill	Business & Trade	Promotes trade and investment with economies in the fastest growing region in the world through the CPTPP deal.	Likely
Automated Vehicles Bill	Transport	Supports the safe commercial development of emerging industries, including self-driving vehicles.	Likely
Media Bill	Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	Delivers on the manifesto commitment to reform the regulation of public service broadcasting, radio, and online streaming to support the creative industries and protect public interest journalism.	Likely
Arbitration Bill	Justice	Modernises the law on arbitration as recommended by the Law Commission of England and Wales, including strengthening the courts' supporting powers and facilitating quicker dispute resolution.	Likely
Tobacco and Vapes Bill	Health and Social Care	Aims to create a 'smokefree generation' by restricting the sale of tobacco so that children currently aged fourteen or younger can never be sold cigarettes, and to restrict the sale and marketing of e-cigarettes to children.	Likely
Football Governance Bill	Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	Safeguards the future of football clubs for the benefit of communities and fans by providing greater protections for club heritage, addressing breakaway competitions, and ensuring fans have a greater voice in their own clubs.	Likely

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New Bills announced continued

Bill name	Department responsible	Stated intention of the Bill	Likelihood of passage
Pedicabs (London) Bill	Transport	Gives Transport for London powers to regulate the pedicab industry and tackle unlicensed pedicabs.	Likely
Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill	Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Bans the export of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses for slaughter and fattening from Great Britain.	Likely
Sentencing Bill	Justice	Creates tougher sentences for the most serious offenders, including life sentences for those who commit serious sexual offences.	Likely
Criminal Justice Bill	Home Office, Justice	Empowers police forces and the criminal justice system to prevent new or complex crimes, such as digital-enabled crime and child sexual abuse, including grooming.	Likely
Terrorism (Protection of Premises Bill)	Home Office	Improves protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK by mandating, for the first time, those responsible for certain premises and events to consider the terrorist risk and how they would respond to an attack. Also known as 'Martyn's Law'.	Likely
Leasehold and Freehold Bill	Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	Delivers on the manifesto commitment to make it cheaper and easier for more leaseholders to extend their lease, buy their freehold, and take over management of their building.	Eventually
Investigatory Powers (Amendment) Bill	Home Office	Updates the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 to enhance the powers of the security and intelligence agencies needed to strengthen independent judicial oversight.	Unlikely

Summary of Announced Bills

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'Carry Over' Bills from previous Parliamentary session

Bill name	Department responsible	Stated intention of the Bill	Likelihood of passage
Data Protection and Digital Information Bill	Science, Innovation & Technology	Reforms data rights and the powers of the Information Commissioner's Office to encourage technological innovation.	Likely
Holocaust Memorial Bill	Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	Allows for the building of a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens.	Likely
Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill	Business & Trade Science, Innovation & Technology	Acts on the manifesto commitment to tackle consumer rip-offs and bad business practices by introducing new competition rules for digital markets.	Eventually
Renters Reform Bill	Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	Reforms the rental market for renters by abolishing 'no-fault' evictions and for landlords by helping with evicting anti-social tenants or those repeatedly in rent arrears.	Eventually
Victims and Prisoners Bill	Justice	Places the Victim's Code on a statutory footing, to state minimum levels of service for victims of crime.	Eventually
Economic Activities of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill	Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	Bans public bodies from imposing their own boycotts, divestment, or sanctions campaigns against foreign countries.	Unlikely

Draft Bills

Bill name	Department responsible	Stated intention of the Bill	Likelihood of passage
Rail Reform Bill	Transport	Establishes Great British Railways and aims to encourage punctual and reliable services with simpler tickets, the integration of technology and innovation, and more involvement from the private sector.	Unlikely

Who are WA

WA is a strategic communications consultancy helping organisations achieve policy and reputational outcomes.

We're integrated in approach, bringing together public affairs, corporate communications, digital, research and creative services. We're specialists in sectors where government action, media interest and public impact are often interlinked, including energy, education, financial services, healthcare and transport.

We bring about change for clients and communicate their impact in society – from strengthening involvement of patients in their treatment, to helping to secure free school meals funding, to promoting net-zero public transport.

contact@wacomms.co.uk

[@WA_Comms](https://www.instagram.com/WA_Comms)

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