

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH 2021

**Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA**

11 May 2021

CONTENTS

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER	5
HER MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT	8
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	11
BEATING COVID AND BACKING THE NHS	16
Vaccines Programme	16
NHS Catch-up and Recovery Plan	18
Health and Care Bill	20
Social Care Reform	22
Prevention	24
Mental Health Act Reform	28
BUILDING BACK BETTER: JOBS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY	30
Levelling Up	30
Support for Living Standards and Plan for Jobs	34
Support for Businesses	40
Public Finances	46
Benefitting from Brexit	48
Skills and Post-16 Education Bill	50
Developing the Life Sciences Sector	53
Research and Development	55
Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill	57
National Infrastructure Plan	59
Planning Bill	61
Rail and Bus Reform	63
High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill	65
Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill	66
Draft Downstream Oil Resilience Bill	68
National Insurance Contributions Bill	70
Subsidy Control Bill	72
Procurement Bill	74
Professional Qualifications Bill	77
Turing Scheme	79
BUILDING BACK SAFER: PROTECTING THE UK AND INDIVIDUALS	81
Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill	81
Criminal Justice Catch-up and Recovery Plan	84
Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy	87
Draft Victims Bill	89

New Plan for Immigration Legislation	91
Draft Online Safety Bill	94
Counter-State Threats Bill	96
Telecommunications (Security) Bill	97
Defence Spending	99
Armed Forces Bill	101
BUILDING BACK FAIRER: IMPROVING AND INCREASING OPPORTUNITY	104
Education Recovery Plan	104
Early Years Healthy Development Review	106
Building Safety Bill	109
Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill	111
Renters' Reforms	113
Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities	115
Conversion Therapy	117
Dormant Assets Bill	119
Charities Bill	121
Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill	123
BUILDING BACK GREENER: BUILDING A CLEANER AND GREENER UK	125
Climate Change, Net Zero and COP26	125
Environment Bill	128
Animal Welfare Plan and Legislation	131
BUILDING BACK STRONGER: STRENGTHENING THE UNION AND THE CONSTITUTION	134
The Union	134
Electoral Integrity Bill	141
Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill	143
Judicial Review Bill	145
Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill	147
Northern Ireland (Ministers, Elections and Petitions of Concern) Bill	149
Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions	151
Integrated Review	153
Foreign Affairs	155

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Our nation is emerging from the biggest crisis since the Second World War. People have lived through experiences unlike any other, and though COVID-19 has presented enormous challenges, the crisis has in no way diminished the government's ambition or appetite for change.

Even before COVID-19, there were millions across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who wanted a new approach. They wanted better funded public services, a chance to own their own home, jobs and apprenticeships in their towns, investment in better transport links and local infrastructure. A brighter future for their families, neighbours, high streets and communities.

So as our vaccination programme helps release us from lockdown, we cannot simply return to the way things were. Now as pubs, shops and restaurants are reopening, and we are seeing our friends and family – our mission must be to build back better than before.

We must harness the ingenuity and resolve that has been revealed in the struggle against COVID-19, and use it to create a stronger, healthier and more prosperous nation. We have been given an historic opportunity to change things for the better, level up opportunities across the whole of the United Kingdom and address the problems that have constrained us far too often before.

Beating COVID-19 remains our number one priority. Cautiously and irreversibly we will follow the steps of the Roadmap, recognising that the global pandemic is not over, and there is a real risk of dangerous new variants of the virus. We will press on with our vaccination programme and our plans for a booster campaign in the autumn.

We will back the amazing work of our NHS in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which has been under huge pressure throughout this crisis, providing additional funding. The new Health and Care Bill will place a greater emphasis on integrated care and prevention, including tackling obesity. Later in the year we will bring forward proposals to reform adult social care so that every person receives the dignity and security they deserve.

As the United Kingdom gets back on its feet, we will turbo-charge our economic recovery in every part of our country, increasing and spreading opportunity. We will publish a Levelling up White Paper setting out bold new interventions to improve livelihoods and opportunities throughout the UK. Alongside our continued support for businesses, we will invest in infrastructure, supporting growth and creating high-quality jobs.

We will deliver a new Lifetime Skills Guarantee, giving everyone the chance to acquire new expertise, at any stage of their lives, so that they have the skills employers need.

We will make the most of our new found Brexit freedoms, launching at least eight Freeports, including in Teesside, modernising the planning system, reforming procurement rules and regulations and designing a new subsidy system to accelerate our recovery.

We will turn Britain into a science superpower, building on the extraordinary work of our life sciences sector during the pandemic, which has led the world in everything from vaccine development to genomic sequencing. We will invest record sums in Research and Development and create an Advanced Research and Invention Agency to help ensure that the breakthroughs of the future happen in the UK.

We will improve connectivity and opportunities around the country with better transport and technology, taking forward the transformation of rail and bus services, including through the Union Connectivity Review, and accelerating the rollout of 5G mobile and gigabit broadband.

We will build back stronger, bringing the Union together, strengthening democracy and free speech. We will introduce legislation to address the legacy of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, ensuring that our proposals deliver better outcomes for victims, survivors and veterans, while ending the cycle of investigations.

One of the gravest consequences of this pandemic was the necessity to close schools, with the inevitable impact on the prospects of our children across the whole UK. No child should be left behind, so we are putting in place new measures to address lost learning, focusing our support where it is needed most.

We will build back fairer, giving everyone the chance to realise their potential regardless of where they are from, or their background. Central to this is giving more people the chance to own their own home, making renting fairer and effectively abolishing ground rent on new long residential leases. As part of our goal to level up the country, we will bring forward proposals that address racial disparities, support disabled people and help eradicate barriers facing different groups.

We will build back greener, protecting the natural world and supporting the creation of thousands of skilled jobs in clean energy and new industries. As the first major economy to legislate for net zero by 2050, we will use our presidency of COP26 to galvanise ambitious global action on climate change. And we will deliver the highest standards of animal welfare.

We will build back safer, toughening sentences for serious and violent offenders, and doing more to prevent violence against women and girls. Legislation will be introduced to reform the asylum system, and help crack down on the criminal gangs that facilitate illegal entry into the UK. We will implement the biggest programme of investment in defence since the Cold War, and further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant in law so those who protect us are given the respect and support they deserve.

And as we build back better at home, we will play a stronger and more effective role as Global Britain overseas, working with our allies, deepening our trade ties, and using our presidency of the G7 to galvanise global action on climate change, girls' education, fighting COVID-19 and improving our defences against future health security risks.

COVID-19 has taken a fearful toll on our country. Many have lost loved ones and are coping with the tragedy of bereavement. Everyone has endured the privations of putting their lives on hold. I am only too aware of the sacrifice that has been asked of the British people, and believe me, instructing people to stay at home, and closing schools and businesses, is not something any Prime Minister would ever want to do – but it was absolutely necessary to save lives and protect the NHS.

And the response of millions of people in every corner of our country has been extraordinary. Kitchen tables became classrooms. Living rooms and bedrooms were transformed into offices. People checked on their neighbours and rallied round to help the vulnerable. NHS staff gave their all caring for the sick. Volunteers delivered everything from medicines to jobs. Our British military helped move patients to hospital and assisted with the vaccine rollout throughout the UK. Key workers kept the trains and buses running, the shops open – and the whole country moving.

It has shown – if there was any doubt – that deep wells of talent, kindness, ingenuity and resourcefulness exist in every village, town and city of the United Kingdom.

The Government's task is to mobilise that extraordinary spirit, matching talent with opportunity and unleashing our nation's full potential.

This Queen's Speech is our programme for the task. This is a Queen's Speech to fulfil our pledge to unite and level up, and build back a better Britain.

HER MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 11 MAY

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government's priority is to deliver a national recovery from the pandemic that makes the United Kingdom stronger, healthier and more prosperous than before.

To achieve this, my Government will level up opportunities across all parts of the United Kingdom, supporting jobs, businesses and economic growth and addressing the impact of the pandemic on public services.

My Government will protect the health of the nation, continuing the vaccination programme and providing additional funding to support the NHS. My Ministers will bring forward legislation to empower the NHS to innovate and embrace technology. Patients will receive more tailored and preventative care, closer to home [**Health and Care Bill**]. Measures will be brought forward to support the health and wellbeing of the nation, including to tackle obesity and improve mental health. Proposals on social care reform will be brought forward.

My Government will build on the success of the vaccination programme to lead the world in life sciences, pioneering new treatments against diseases like cancer and securing jobs and investment across the country.

My Ministers will oversee the fastest ever increase in public funding for research and development and pass legislation to establish an advanced research agency [**Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill**].

Following the unprecedented support provided to businesses during the pandemic, proposals will be brought forward to create and support jobs and improve regulation.

My Government will strengthen the economic ties across the union, investing in and improving national infrastructure. Proposals will be taken forward to transform connectivity by rail and bus [**High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill**] and to extend 5G mobile coverage and gigabit capable broadband [**Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill**].

Legislation will support a lifetime skills guarantee to enable flexible access to high quality education and training throughout people's lives [**Skills and Post-16 Education Bill**].

Measures will be introduced to ensure that support for businesses reflects the United Kingdom's strategic interests and drives economic growth [**Subsidy Control Bill**].

Laws will simplify procurement in the public sector [**Procurement Bill**]. Eight new Freeports will create hubs for trade and help regenerate communities [**National Insurance Contributions Bill**].

My Government will ensure that the public finances are returned to a sustainable path once the economic recovery is secure.

Measures will be brought forward to ensure that children have the best start in life, prioritising their early years. My Ministers will address lost learning during the pandemic and ensure every child has a high quality education and is able to fulfil their potential.

My Government will help more people to own their own home whilst enhancing the rights of those who rent. Laws to modernise the planning system, so that more homes can be built, will be brought forward, along with measures to end the practice of ground rents for new leasehold properties [**Planning Bill, Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill**]. My Ministers will establish in law a new Building Safety Regulator to ensure that the tragedies of the past are never repeated [**Building Safety Bill**].

Measures will be brought forward to address racial and ethnic disparities and ban conversion therapy.

Legislation will support the voluntary sector by reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and releasing additional funds for good causes [**Dormant Assets Bill, Charities Bill**].

My Government will invest in new green industries to create jobs, while protecting the environment. The United Kingdom is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and will continue to lead the way internationally by hosting the COP26 Summit in Glasgow. Legislation will set binding environmental targets [**Environment Bill**]. Legislation will also be brought forward to ensure the United Kingdom has, and promotes, the highest standards of animal welfare [**Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill, Kept Animals Bill, Animals Abroad Bill**].

My Government will strengthen and renew democracy and the constitution. Legislation will be introduced to ensure the integrity of elections, protect freedom of speech and restore the balance of power between the executive, legislature and the courts [**Electoral Integrity Bill, Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill, Judicial Review Bill, Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill**]. My Ministers will promote the strength and integrity of the union. Measures will be brought forward to strengthen devolved Government in Northern Ireland and address the legacy of the past [**Northern Ireland (Ministers, Elections and Petitions of Concerns) Bill, Legacy Legislation**].

My Government will introduce measures to increase the safety and security of its citizens.

Legislation will increase sentences for the most serious and violent offenders and ensure the timely administration of justice [**Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill**]. Proposals will be brought forward to address violence, including against women and girls, and to support victims [**Draft Victims Bill**]. Measures will be brought forward to establish a fairer immigration system that strengthens the United Kingdom's borders and deters criminals who facilitate dangerous and illegal journeys [**New Plan for Immigration Legislation**].

My Government will lead the way in ensuring internet safety for all, especially for children [**Draft Online Safety Bill**] whilst harnessing the benefits of a free, open and secure internet.

My Ministers will provide our gallant Armed Services with the biggest spending increase in thirty years, taking forward their programme of modernisation and reinforcing the United Kingdom's commitment to NATO. My Ministers will honour and strengthen the Armed Forces Covenant, placing it in law [**Armed Forces Bill**]. Measures will be introduced to provide National Insurance contribution relief for employers of veterans [**National Insurance Contributions Bill**].

Legislation will be introduced to counter hostile activity by foreign states [**Counter-State Threats Bill, Telecommunications (Security) Bill**]. My Ministers will implement the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy.

The United Kingdom will host the G7 Summit and lead the global effort to secure a robust economic recovery from the pandemic. My Ministers will deepen trade ties in the Gulf, Africa and the Indo-Pacific.

My Government will continue to provide aid where it has the greatest impact on reducing poverty and alleviating human suffering. My Government will uphold human rights and democracy across the world. It will take forward a global effort to get 40 million girls across the world into school.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Estimates for the public services will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Other measures will be laid before you.

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Queen's Speech will deliver a pandemic recovery that makes the UK stronger, healthier and more prosperous.

The Speech sets out how we will **beat COVID-19 and back the NHS**:

- We will continue our lifesaving Vaccine Programme - the biggest in NHS history - and plan for a potential booster campaign.
- We will prioritise recovery in NHS services to bring down waiting times and deliver the care that people need. On top of record investment, we have increased funding for frontline health services through the pandemic, already committing an additional £63 billion last year (£18 billion for the NHS) and £29 billion (£9.6 billion for the NHS) this year, ahead of any Spending Review settlement later this year.
- The Health and Care Bill will lay the foundations for a more integrated and efficient health and care system, enabling staff to focus on delivering the best possible treatment and care for their patients and giving the NHS and local authorities the tools to level up health and care across England so people can live healthier, longer and more independent lives.
- We will bring forward proposals for social care reform in 2021 to ensure that every person receives care that provides the dignity and security they deserve.
- We will continue work to improve the health and wellbeing of the nation, including tackling obesity, making healthier choices easier and more affordable for everyone and giving treatment support through GPs to those who need it. We will address the significant and wide-ranging harms caused by the misuse of drugs and increase investment in treatment and recovery support.
- We will address the impact of the pandemic on mental health and wellbeing and will continue work to reform the Mental Health Act, giving people greater control over their treatment and ensuring dignity and respect.

The Government will **build back better**, with a variety of measures for **jobs and economic recovery**:

- To unleash the full potential of people and places across the country, we will level up across the UK, boosting jobs, driving growth and innovation, increasing opportunity for everyone, and ensuring everyone has access to excellent public services, regardless of where they live. A landmark Levelling Up White Paper will set out bold new policy interventions to improve livelihoods and opportunity in all parts of the UK as we recover from the pandemic, grasping the opportunities of

Brexit.

- We have acted on an unprecedented scale to protect jobs, livelihoods, businesses and public services throughout the pandemic. We will build on this with our flagship Plan for Jobs that will increase job opportunities in all parts of the UK and our Plan for Growth that will lay the foundations for a recovery driven by the private sector, spreading investments and opportunity throughout the UK. We will bring public service debt under control through a fair and progressive package that achieves fiscal sustainability, delivers first-class frontline public services and builds the future economy.
- A Skills and Post-16 Education Bill will transform access to skills across the country to ensure that people can train and retrain at any stage in their lives, supporting them to move into higher quality, higher skilled jobs and equipping the workforce with the skills employers need.
- We will make the UK a global science superpower by developing our Life Sciences sector so it attracts the best people and business from across the world, increasing public expenditure on research and development to £22 billion; and creating the Advanced Research and Invention Agency focused on funding high-risk, high-reward research and development.
- We will transform UK infrastructure, providing jobs in the short term, and creating the conditions for long-term sustainable growth.
- The Planning Bill will create a simpler, faster and more modern planning system, ensuring homes and infrastructure can be delivered more quickly across England.
- We will reform our rail and bus networks to deliver a better, greener and more reliable service for passengers, including simpler fares. High Speed 2 is already creating thousands of jobs and boosting productivity and will provide low-carbon transport. The High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill will bring our biggest cities closer together, a key component to levelling up.
- The National Insurance Contributions Bill will provide a relief for employers of veterans, for employers in Freeports, and for the self-employed who receive NHS Test and Trace Payments.
- Following our departure from the EU, we will introduce a number of significant regulatory reforms that allow us to support British business and deliver the UK's needs, including:
 - A Subsidy Control Bill that will implement a domestic UK subsidy control regime that reflects our strategic interests and national circumstances;

- A Procurement Bill that will consolidate and streamline the 350+ EU-derived regulations and make our procurement regime quicker, simpler and easier to use, allowing more freedom for suppliers and the public sector to innovate and work in partnership with the private sector; and
 - A Professional Qualifications Bill that will create a new bespoke framework for the UK to recognise professional qualifications from across the world to ensure employers can access professionals where there are UK shortages.
- The Turing Scheme will give young people across the UK, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds, the opportunity to work and study globally.

To **protect the United Kingdom and its citizens**, the Speech sets out how the Government will **build back safer**:

- The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill will ensure we can cut crime, support our police and build confidence in our criminal justice system by reforming bail, and modernising court processes.
- We will address the effect of COVID-19 on the criminal justice system, speeding up cases and renewing efforts to tackle issues that pre-date the pandemic.
- We will refresh our Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy to better protect women and improve outcomes for rape cases.
- A draft Victims Bill will place the simplified and stronger set of rights for victims, set out in the new Victims' Code, on a statutory footing.
- The New Plan for Immigration Legislation will better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum, deter illegal entry into the UK, break the business model of criminal trafficking networks and protect the lives of those they endanger, and enable us to remove more easily from the UK those with no right to be here.
- A draft Online Safety Bill will make the UK the safest place in the world to be online, improving protections for users, especially children, whilst protecting freedom of expression, making companies responsible for their users' safety online, and supporting a thriving and fast growing digital sector.
- The Counter-State Threats Bill will provide the security services and law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to tackle the evolving threat from hostile activity by foreign states and foreign actors.
- The Telecommunications (Security) Bill will ensure the long-term security and resilience of the UK's telecoms networks and infrastructure and minimise the

threat of high risk vendors.

- We will continue an unprecedented programme of funding and modernisation of our Armed Forces, making them fit for the threats of a more competitive age and the opportunities of a Global Britain. We will deliver our manifesto commitment to further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law through the Armed Forces Bill.

The Queen's Speech contains a variety of measures to **build back fairer and improve and increase opportunity**:

- On top of the multibillion pound school investment and COVID-19 catch up support already put in place, the Education Recovery Plan will contain a package of ambitious and long-term measures to make sure pupils have the chance to make up their learning over the course of this Parliament.
- The Building Safety Bill will strengthen the regulatory system for building safety, changing the industry culture and introducing rigorous safety standards for construction products and a clearer path to redress for homeowners.
- The Leasehold Reform (Ground Rents) Bill will ensure leaseholders of new, long residential leases cannot be charged a financial ground rent for no tangible service.
- We will bring forward reforms to deliver a fairer and more effective private rental market in England.
- We will continue our efforts to level up and unite the whole country, responding in detail to the findings and recommendations of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities.
- We will ban conversion therapy, ensuring abhorrent and coercive practices are prohibited.
- The Dormant Assets Bill will unlock around an additional £880 million for social and environmental initiatives across the UK.

The Speech reaffirms our commitment to **building a cleaner and greener UK**:

- We will continue to lead the way globally in acting on climate change, hosting the vital COP26 climate negotiations in November. Our sector strategies and comprehensive Net Zero Strategy will transition the UK to a net zero economy by 2050.
- The Environment Bill will set legally binding targets, restore nature and

biodiversity, tackle air pollution, establish an independent Office for Environmental Protection, cut plastic use and revolutionise how we recycle.

- Taking the opportunities presented by having left the EU, we will demonstrate our world-leading commitment to the highest standards of animal welfare by delivering important animal welfare and conservation improvements, while promoting our values to our trading partners.

Finally, the Queen's Speech sets out how we will **strengthen the Union and the constitution** and continue to **promote Global Britain**:

- We will protect and promote the strengths of the United Kingdom, building on hundreds of years of partnership as the most successful political and economic union in history.
- The Electoral Integrity Bill will place the participation of British citizens at the heart of our democracy and maintain confidence in the electoral process.
- The Higher Education (Free Speech) Bill will strengthen freedom of speech and academic freedom in higher education in England.
- A Judicial Review Bill will protect the judiciary from being drawn into political questions and preserve the integrity of Judicial Review for its intended purpose.
- The Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill will repeal the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011, reinstating the constitutional principle that the Government of the day has the confidence of Parliament and is able to seek a fresh democratic mandate when it is needed.
- The Northern Ireland (Ministers, Elections and Petitions of Concern) Bill will strengthen Northern Ireland's institutions, making them more sustainable and resilient.
- We will introduce legislation to address the legacy of the Troubles in Northern Ireland that delivers better outcomes for victims and survivors, focuses on information recovery and reconciliation, and ends the cycle of investigations - in line with our commitment to veterans.
- To ensure a coherent approach to foreign relations, we will stop public bodies from imposing their own approach or views via boycott, divestment or sanctions campaigns.
- We will implement the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, taking action at home and with other countries to ensure that we are stronger, safer and more prosperous in a more competitive age.

BEATING COVID AND BACKING THE NHS

Vaccines Programme

“My Government will protect the health of the nation, continuing the vaccination programme.”

- Vaccines are the way out of the COVID-19 pandemic. An effective vaccination is the best way to protect individuals from coronavirus and will save thousands of lives. We are already seeing the impact of the programme in our falling cases, admissions, deaths and transmission rates.
- We were the first country in the Western world to authorise a vaccine against COVID-19. This was a landmark moment in the pandemic, not just for the UK, but across the world. We were able to achieve this because the Government made vaccines an early priority, allowing scientists, our regulator, the NHS and our vaccine taskforce to work with speed to research, procure, test and evaluate all the promising vaccine candidates.
- As of 8 May 2021, over 35 million people across the UK have now received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, including 29.6 million in England, 2.9 million in Scotland, 1.9 million in Wales and 1.0 million in Northern Ireland. Over 17.7 million have received their second dose, including 14.9 million in England, 1.5 million in Scotland, 0.8 million in Wales and 0.5 million in Northern Ireland.
- We offered a vaccine to everyone in the first four priority groups recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, a day before our 15 February 2021 target date.
- We met our target to offer vaccines to all over 50s by 15 April 2021, completing Phase 1 of the Programme, and are on track to meet the target of offering vaccines to all adults by the end of July 2021 to complete Phase 2.
- For Phase 2, we are following JCVI advice to continue to offer the vaccination based on age, starting with the oldest remaining cohort (40-49 years old) first. This is because age is assessed to be the strongest factor linked to mortality, morbidity and hospitalisations, and because the speed of delivery is crucial as we provide more people with protection from COVID-19.
- We currently have three fully authorised vaccines for COVID-19 in deployment, and a further four vaccines are undergoing approvals.
- More than £23 million has been allocated through the Community Champions scheme to 60 councils and voluntary groups across England to support those most at risk from COVID-19, which includes driving vaccine uptake. This is part of

over £7.9 billion of Government funding provided to councils to help them support their communities during the pandemic.

- As set out in the Roadmap, the Government is starting to plan for a potential booster campaign later this year. We are working with vaccine suppliers to work out which vaccines could be effective as a booster shot of a COVID-19 vaccine, and to design new vaccines specifically targeted at variants of concern. Over the longer term, regular boosters are likely to become a regular part of managing COVID-19.

Key facts

- The COVID-19 vaccination programme is the biggest vaccination programme in NHS history.
- The UK Government secured early access to 457 million vaccine doses through agreements with eight separate vaccine developers. So far, across the UK, we have been using the AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.
- NHS staff are delivering lifesaving COVID-19 vaccinations at a network of over 1,700 vaccination sites in England – with over 98 per cent of the population within 10 miles of a vaccination centre.
- Vaccines are saving lives. Public Health England analysis from 4 April 2021 found that the COVID-19 vaccination programme had prevented 10,700 deaths in those aged 60 and above in England.
- This analysis takes into account the direct effects of vaccines, there is now increasing evidence that vaccines help to reduce transmission, therefore it is likely that an even higher number of deaths will have been prevented by the vaccination programme.

NHS Catch-up and Recovery Plan

“...my Government will level up opportunities across all parts of the United Kingdom...addressing the impact of the pandemic on public services.

My Government will protect the health of the nation, continuing the vaccination programme and providing additional funding to support the National Health Service.”

- As a society we have stayed at home to save lives and protect the NHS to make sure it was not overwhelmed. As a Government we have backed the NHS at every point in the pandemic, safeguarding urgent treatment such as cancer and emergency care.
- We now face an unprecedented challenge as a result of the pandemic with 4.7 million people in England now waiting for care and over 380,000 waiting more than a year for treatment. We must also account for the returning demand of those people who have not come forward for care during the pandemic. A key part of recovering this backlog is persuading these ‘missing referrals’ to come forward to see their GP and be referred, if necessary, to find undiagnosed conditions, like cancer.
- We must also consider the ongoing effect of COVID-19, with the need to remain vigilant, maintain appropriate infection prevention and control, and be mindful of the risk from potential future waves. Now more than ever the Government will back the NHS.
- We continue to work closely with the NHS to accelerate service recovery, to tackle the backlog and deliver the care that people need. On 18 March 2021, we announced an additional £7 billion of funding for healthcare services, including the £1 billion to address the backlogs that have built up in elective services. This brings the total package of additional funding given to our healthcare system for COVID-19 to £92 billion, with £63 billion this year and £29 billion for next year.
- As part of our commitment to recovery of non-urgent services and to address elective backlogs, we are providing £325 million for new investment in diagnostics equipment to improve clinical outcomes.
- For urgent and emergency care, we have already invested £450 million to upgrade our Accident and Emergency facilities in over 120 Trusts, and extended NHS 111 to become a single point of access for urgent care with a £24 million investment.
- We plan to transform Urgent and Emergency care to prevent inappropriate attendance at emergency departments, improve timely admission to hospitals for patients in emergency departments and reduce length of stay.

- We are proactively encouraging people to come forward in areas where late diagnosis worsens outcomes. We have launched the 'Help Us, Help You' advertising campaign and, for example, clinicians applying targeted case finding for some types of cancer. The success of these targeted messages can already be seen from the strong return of urgent and cancer demand (through primary care).

Key facts

- As of February 2021, the waiting list for referral to treatment in England was 4,698,348 and the number of people waiting over 52 weeks was 387,885.
- In January and February 2021 NHS staff completed almost 2 million operations and other elective care while also providing treatment to 140,000 COVID-19 patients in England.
- 174,000 people were referred for cancer checks in England in February this year - twice as many as during the peak of the first wave in April 2020.
- 22,000 people began their treatment for cancer in England in February this year.
- Over 520,000 people were treated for cancer in England between March 2020 and February 2021.

Health and Care Bill

“My Ministers will bring forward legislation to empower the NHS to innovate and embrace technology. Patients will receive more tailored and preventative care, closer to home.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Lay the foundations for a more integrated, efficient and accountable health and care system - one which allows staff to get on with their jobs and provide the best possible treatment and care for their patients.
- Give the NHS and local authorities the tools they need to level up health and care outcomes across the country, enabling healthier, longer and more independent lives.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Delivering on the proposals put forward by the NHS in its own Long Term Plan, while building on the lessons learned from the successful vaccine rollout.
- Making it easier for different parts of the health and care system, including doctors and nurses, carers, local government officials and the voluntary sector to work together to provide joined-up services.
- Removing bureaucratic and transactional processes that do not add value, thus freeing up the NHS to focus on what really matters to patients.
- Enabling the system to most effectively prevent illness, support our ageing population, tackle health inequalities, tailor support to the needs of local populations, and enhance patient safety and quality in the provision of healthcare services.
- Ensuring the NHS and the wider system can respond swiftly to emerging issues while being fully accountable to the public.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Driving integration of health and care through the delivery of an Integrated Care System in every part of the country.
- Ensuring NHS England, in a new combined form, is accountable to Government, Parliament and taxpayers while maintaining the NHS's clinical and day-to-day operational independence.

- Banning junk food adverts pre-9pm watershed on TV and a total ban online.
- Putting the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch on a statutory footing to deliver a fully independent national body to investigate healthcare incidents, with the right powers to investigate the most serious patient safety risks to support system learning.

Territorial extent and application:

- The Bill will extend and apply UK wide, with its substantive provisions applying in the main to England.

Key facts

- More and more people face morbidity and multiple diseases. Around 20 per cent of our lives are spent in poor health, which has been increasing in recent years and is likely to continue in future. The proportion of people aged 65+ with four or more diseases is set to almost double by 2035, with around a third of these people having a mental health problem.
- Life expectancy at birth in the UK is above the OECD average at 81.4. Death rates from cardiovascular disease have fallen by 60 per cent since 1990 in England, compared to around 50 per cent in the OECD. The UK has the 4th lowest adult diabetes prevalence rate amongst OECD countries.
- As of 2020, around 94 per cent of GP practices rated good or outstanding by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), around 82 per cent for NHS mental health core services and 85 per cent of adult social care providers.
- The UK is recognised internationally as a world-leader in driving the patient safety agenda in healthcare.
- As of 8 May 2021, over 35 million people across the UK have now received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. In the early stages of the response, the NHS COVID-19 Data Store was established, which safely brought together accurate, real-time information necessary to inform decisions in response to the current pandemic in England.
- In October 2020 the Government announced the creation of 40 hospitals and a further competition for 8 new schemes for competition by 2030. The Government has invested record sums in our NHS, both before and during this pandemic. We are delivering on our historic long-term settlement for the NHS, which will see NHS funding increase by £33.9 billion by 2023-24. We have enshrined this in law.

Social Care Reform

“Proposals on social care reform will be brought forward.”

- The Adult Social Care sector has never been under as much pressure as in the last year. Throughout the pandemic we have been working to ensure all recipients of care receive the support they need. We know there is more work to do so that everyone receives high-quality, joined-up care.
- The Government is committed to improving the adult social care system and will bring forward proposals in 2021.
- The Health and Care Bill included in the Queen’s Speech will include provisions to improve the oversight of how social care is commissioned and delivered, and facilitate greater integration between health and care services by placing Integrated Care Systems on a statutory footing across the UK, putting more power and autonomy in the hands of local systems.
- The Bill will include provisions to allow us to get much better data and evidence about the care that is delivered locally.
- Our adult social care workforce underpins improvement of the social care system, and it is critical to support their development. We will listen and engage with staff groups about how to best support them.
- More widely, we will continue to work with local and national partners to ensure our approach to reform is informed by diverse perspectives, including those with lived experience of the care sector.

Key facts

- Demand for social care is rapidly growing. In 2019-20, there were 1.9 million requests for adult social care support from new clients, an increase of 6 per cent since 2015-16.
- The UK has a growing and ageing population. Over the next 20 years the population in England is expected to grow by almost 10 per cent. The number of people aged 75+ is expected to grow by almost 60 per cent - an additional 2.7 million people.
- The number of people aged below 65 who have care needs is also growing. In 2018-19 over half of the public spending on adult social care was on those who are under 65.

- Care costs are unpredictable and can be very high, which can make it difficult for people to prepare. There is normally no way to predict a person's future care costs and not all the risk is shared across society.
- Evidence suggests that areas with more integration between social care services and the NHS leads to increased patient satisfaction and access to care.
- There are around 1.5 million people working in adult social care.

Prevention

“Measures will be brought forward to support the health and wellbeing of the nation, including to tackle obesity...”

- Our health is our most important asset. COVID-19 has highlighted the immense costs of ill-health, particularly to the most vulnerable in our society. People who are overweight or living with obesity are more at risk from severe illness and death from COVID-19.
- We are living longer but spending a fifth of our lives in poor health. We must do better. Looking towards the future we cannot hope to achieve better outcomes by doing more of the same.
- Our health is shaped by many factors including the conditions in which we live; the choices we make; and the services we receive. We need a robust public health system that can respond to the complex, twenty-first century challenges to health such as obesity, poor air quality, substance misuse, smoking, mental illness and inactivity.
- Individually and collectively, we can act in ways that will help us to live longer in good physical and mental health.
- The majority of health outcomes (around 80 per cent) are not related to the healthcare people receive but due wider factors, such as their diet and exercise levels. The policy levers to empower people to make healthy choices sit across many different Government departments.
- The new Office for Health Promotion will work across the Government to improve health. It will help the whole health system focus on delivering greater action on prevention, and will drive and support the Government to go further in improving health.

Obesity

- Helping people to achieve and maintain a healthy weight is one of the most important things we can do to improve our nation's health. Making healthier choices easier and fairer for everyone, and ensuring the right support is there for those who need it is critical in tackling obesity.
- We published a new Healthy Weight Strategy in July 2020 and are providing £100 million extra funding for healthy weight programmes to support children, adults and families to achieve and maintain a healthier weight.
- The Government will restrict the promotions on high fat, salt and sugar food and

drinks in retailers from April 2022. The Health and Care Bill will include measures to ban junk food adverts pre-9pm watershed on TV and for a total ban online.

- The Government will introduce secondary legislation to require large out-of-home sector businesses with 250 or more employees to calorie label the food they sell.
- We are funding a health incentives and reward approach ('Fit Miles') to support people to eat better and exercise more. The work will draw on the very best innovation in the public and private sector to test the role that rewards and incentives can play in encouraging healthier behaviours. We are also offering greater support through GPs, so that anyone with obesity can get support from their GP and referrals to weight management services.

Air Quality

- Air pollution affects people throughout their life. The Government supports approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to air pollutants, address inequalities, and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise).
- The Government is delivering a £3.8 billion plan to clean up transport and tackle NO2 pollution and going further in protecting communities from air pollution, particularly PM2.5 which is especially harmful to human health.
- Through the Government's landmark Environment Bill, we are also setting ambitious new air quality targets, with a focus on reducing public health impacts.

Smoking

- The reduction in smoking rates - currently at 14 per cent of adults in England, the lowest level on record - is a great public health success story. However, we must not be complacent. We have set a bold ambition to be smokefree in England by 2030, and we will publish a new Tobacco Control Plan later this year with a focus on levelling up health outcomes. Smoking rates remain stubbornly high in certain areas of the country and for certain groups. We must focus on driving down smoking rates right across the country and ensure no community is left behind.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has motivated many smokers to consider quitting. This is why we made additional funding available to bolster the Quit for Covid campaign to enable the stop smoking message to reach as many smokers as possible.

Drugs

- The Government is looking forward to the imminent publication of Part Two of Dame Carol Black's Independent Review of Drugs and the recommendations it

will make on how to reduce the demand for illegal drugs.

- Through targeted enforcement we are dismantling the criminal supply chains for illicit drugs. We have already rolled up around 700 county lines, and plan to go further to disrupt the activities of suppliers and importers of illegal drugs.
- This year the Government announced the largest investment in treatment in 15 years with Project ADDER: a new, targeted approach which will ramp up local enforcement, while at the same time diverting more people into treatment and recovery.
- The Government is committed to developing a long-term approach setting out how to tackle the supply and demand of illicit drugs and testing approaches to reducing harmful recreational drug use.

Key Facts

Obesity

- Today, over 6 in 10 adults, and more than 1 in 3 children aged 10 to 11, are overweight or living with obesity.
- Obesity is associated with reduced life expectancy. It is a risk factor for a range of chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, at least 12 kinds of cancer, liver and respiratory disease, and mental health.
- The number of children admitted to hospital for obesity and related conditions has quadrupled in the last decade. Individuals who are obese in their early years are more likely to become obese adults.
- The Government is investing up to £35 million into the Breakfast Club Programme, to kick-start or improve clubs in up to 2,450 schools in disadvantaged areas. We provide healthy free school meals to around 1.4 million disadvantaged children, as well as free meals to all infant children, and we are working with Public Health England to update the school food standards to reduce sugar.
- We have doubled the PE and Sport Premium for primary schools to £320 million a year, already benefitting more than 1,800 schools; and we established a new £100 million healthy pupils capital fund in 2018-19, to increase access to facilities for physical activity and healthy eating.
- This year's expanded Holiday Activities and Food programme will be available to children in every Local Authority in England, building on previous programmes since 2018 – including last year's summer programme, which supported around

50,000 children across 17 Local Authorities.

- Between 2015-19 the average sugar content of soft drinks was reduced by 44 per cent. The Government has also been successful in bringing about a 13 per cent reduction of sugar in breakfast cereals, yogurts and fromage frais.
- Primary care has a vital role in helping treat people with obesity and we will be offering greater support to GPs and patients to offer referrals to weight management services to anyone with obesity.

Drugs

- 4,393 deaths related to drug poisoning were registered in 2019 in England and Wales. There has been a 52 per cent increase in drug-related deaths in the past 10 years. In 2019, there were 1,406 drug-related deaths in Scotland, which is the largest number ever recorded and almost double the number recorded a decade ago.
- On 20 January 2021 a £148 million package to tackle drug misuse was announced. It will provide extra resources to the police and National Crime Agency to dismantle organised criminal gangs, tackle the supply of drugs and deliver the biggest uplift in drug treatment in 15 years. We would expect roughly 5,000 additional people to receive treatment as a result.

Mental Health Act Reform

“Measures will be brought forward to support the health and wellbeing of the nation, including to...improve mental health.”

- On 13 January 2021 the Government published the White Paper on reforming the Mental Health Act, setting out proposals to make the Act work better for people.
- These are once-in-a-generation reforms to bring the Mental Health Act into the 21st century and give people greater control over their treatment and receive the dignity and respect they deserve.
- The Government will reform the process for detention, improve care and treatment whilst someone is detained, and give them better support to challenge detention if they wish, shifting the balance to give the patient more say.
- The Government committed to change the law around how people with a learning disability or autistic people are treated under the Act to prevent prolonged detentions. As set out in the Code of Practice, compulsory treatment in a hospital setting is rarely likely to be helpful for an autistic person, who may be very distressed by even minor changes in routine and is likely to find detention in hospital anxiety provoking. We will therefore move to limit the Act for people with these conditions.
- The Government will also make key improvements to how we manage offenders with acute mental disorders, including commitments to support these offenders to access the care they need as quickly and early as possible.
- These reforms also seek to address the disproportionate number of people from black and minority ethnic groups detained under the Act.
- The consultation on our proposals closed last month and we are considering responses we received. The Government will respond to the consultation later this year, which will pave the way for future legislation.
- As well as reforming legislation, the Government remains committed to our ambitions in the NHS Long Term Plan to expand and transform mental health services in England and to invest an additional £2.3 billion a year in mental health services by 2023-24, so that two million more people will be able to access mental health support.
- The pandemic has had an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of many people. The Government has set out its Mental Health Recovery Action Plan as part of the commitment to build back better. This plan is backed by a one-off targeted investment of £500 million, to ensure that the right support is in place

over the coming year for everyone who needs it.

Key facts

- The Mental Health Act 1983 sets out the legal framework in England and Wales for the treatment and detention of people with mental ill health, including when such action may be compulsory. The Act has not been fully updated for nearly 40 years, although the Mental Health Act 2007 made changes.
- There were 51,000 new detentions under the Act (and 4,650 new Community Treatment Orders) in 2019-20. Numbers of detentions have been rising over recent years – by an estimated 1 per cent last year.
- The Government is already making significant headway on delivering the reform agenda, with £400 million announced in 2020 to eradicate dormitories in mental health wards. This is critical to improving patients' experiences and ensuring that they are treated with dignity and respect.
- At least 380,000 more adults a year will have access to psychological therapies and an additional 345,000 children and young people access to mental health support by 2023-24.
- In addition, we are introducing new models of care which will give 370,000 adults with serious mental illness greater choice and control over their care and support them to live well in their communities by 2023-24.
- The Mental Health Recovery Action Plan includes £79 million to significantly expand children's mental health services, which will allow around 22,500 more children and young people to access community health services, 2,000 more children and young people to access eating disorder services and a faster increase in the coverage of mental health support teams in schools and colleges over the 2021-22 financial year.

BUILDING BACK BETTER: JOBS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Levelling Up

“My Government’s priority is to deliver a national recovery from the pandemic that makes the United Kingdom stronger, healthier and more prosperous than before.

To achieve this, my Government will level up opportunities across all parts of the United Kingdom, supporting jobs, businesses and economic growth and addressing the impact of the pandemic on public services.”

- Levelling up is at the heart of the Government’s agenda to build back better after the pandemic and was at the centre of the Manifesto on which we promised to deliver for the people of the UK.
- It is about improving living standards and growing the private sector, particularly where it is weak. It is about increasing and spreading opportunity, because while talent is evenly distributed, opportunity is not. It is about improving health, education and policing, particularly where they are not good enough. It is also about strengthening community and local leadership, restoring pride in place, and improving quality of life in ways that are not just about the economy.
- The Government will publish a landmark Levelling Up White Paper later this year, setting out bold new policy interventions to improve livelihoods and opportunity in all parts of the UK. It will grasp the opportunities of Brexit and set out the next steps in our plan to enable more people to get on in life, without feeling they have to leave their local area.
- Levelling up means creating new good jobs, boosting training and growing productivity in places that have seen economic decline and the loss of industry – not through a one-size-fits-all approach, but nurturing different types of economic growth and building on the different strengths that different places have.
- The White Paper will build on actions the Government is already taking to level up across the UK.

Local regeneration and town centre improvement

- The new £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund will invest in infrastructure to improve everyday local life and boost growth and jobs. We will launch the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022 and have already supported places with £220 million through the UK Community Renewal Fund. The £830 million Future High Streets Fund is supporting regeneration in 72 areas across England.

- Through the Towns Fund we are investing £3.6 billion in 101 towns in England towards their own local priorities such as upgrades to high streets and transport, while we are investing £2.9 billion in City and Growth Deals to drive forward local economic priorities in cities across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Enterprise and jobs

- We are boosting jobs, investment and communities post-Brexit by establishing eight Freeports in England and working to establish more in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- As part of our drive to net zero, we are backing industries of the future through the Prime Minister’s Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution, mobilising billions in private and public investment to turn the country into the world’s number one centre for green technology and finance, creating 250,000 highly skilled green jobs across the UK.
- We are protecting, supporting and creating jobs across the UK through our Plan for Jobs, which will particularly help areas at risk of unemployment.
- We are backing innovation to create good new jobs across the country with the £400 million “Strength In Places” Fund, which has made investments in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff, Bristol, Liverpool and Kent.
- We are moving more of government out of Whitehall. The new Government economic campus at Darlington (“Treasury North”) will relocate substantial parts of HM Treasury while the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will create a second headquarters in Wolverhampton. The new UK Infrastructure Bank will be based in Leeds.

Levelling up public services

- We are investing £3.7 billion to build 40 hospitals and recruiting 50,000 new nurses in England, which will ensure that people have access to the best public services, wherever they live.
- We are recruiting 20,000 new police officers to keep our streets and communities safe across England and Wales.

Skills and education

- We are helping to close the opportunity gap in England by increasing primary school funding to a minimum of £4,000 per pupil and secondaries to a minimum of £5,000 per pupil and boosting investment in schools by £14 billion through to 2023-23 – an extra £840 per pupil.

- We have introduced the Lifetime Skills Guarantee as part of the £2.5 billion National Skills Fund. Starting this year, 11 million adults are able to gain an A level-equivalent qualification for free. The devolved administrations will receive £500 million through Barnett consequential as skills is devolved.
- We are rolling out T levels, which means we will be investing £500 million a year in new prestigious technical qualifications featuring more workplace experience.

Major infrastructure and connectivity

- To improve infrastructure and better connect people to jobs, we are making the largest ever investment in motorways and A-roads worth over £27 billion. We are also connecting the country with High Speed 2 and setting out our massive programme of rail investment across the North and the Midlands through the Integrated Rail Plan, building on our £4.2 billion investment.
- We are rolling out fibre across the UK, investing £5 billion in Project Gigabit to target getting to a minimum of 85 per cent gigabit-capable coverage by 2025 and to get us as close to 100 per cent as possible.
- We are investing £5 billion in buses and cycle routes across England. Our National Bus Strategy will ensure every area has a bus service as good as the capital's.

Key facts

- The UK has significant regional disparities, both economic and social:
 - The UK's highest productivity region (London) is nearly 60 per cent more productive than its lowest (Wales).
 - 50 per cent of the population in London have graduate-level qualifications, compared to 33 per cent of the population in the North East of England.
 - Healthy life expectancy in Glasgow, Dundee, Blackpool and Middlesbrough is ten years shorter than affluent local authorities in the South East.
 - People in the most deprived fifth of neighbourhoods in England are about 50 per cent more likely to experience crime and antisocial behaviour than those in the richest fifth.
- Certain types of spending, transport, R&D, housing, culture, are vital to boost productivity. Yet in Britain we have historically spent more on these things in

places where productivity is already high:

- Between 2007-08 and 2018-19 capital spending on transport in London was around £6,600 per head, more than twice the average in the rest of England (£2,400).
- Close to half of core research funding in England was spent in just three UK regions and sub-regions containing Oxford, Cambridge, and London.

Support for Living Standards and Plan for Jobs

“My Government’s priority is to deliver a national recovery from the pandemic that makes the United Kingdom stronger, healthier and more prosperous than before...Following the unprecedented support provided to businesses during the pandemic, proposals will be brought forward to create and support jobs...”

- The Government is committed to supporting household living standards during this difficult time. That is why the Government announced an unprecedented package of support – including boosts to Universal Credit, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme – helping to protect incomes, jobs, and to support those most in need.
- These interventions have supported the poorest working households the most (as a proportion of income).

Work and Plan for Jobs

- This Government champions the principle of work as the best route out of poverty and towards financial independence. This approach is based on clear evidence about the importance of employment, particularly where it is full-time, in substantially reducing the risks of poverty and in improving long-term outcomes for families and children.
- We have protected jobs throughout COVID-19. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – which runs until September 2021 – has helped to pay the wages of 11.5 million people across the country, with more than £61.3 billion paid out in grants across the UK. The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme has paid out almost £20 billion in grants to 2.7 million self-employed individuals whose businesses were adversely affected by COVID-19, one of the most generous self-employment COVID-19 income support schemes in the world.
- As part of our flagship Plan for Jobs, the Government invested £30 billion in measures to create, support and protect jobs, including increasing the number of Work Coaches by 13,500 in our Jobcentre offices. This year, the Government is providing £3.6 billion additional funding to continue to support people who unfortunately lose their jobs, helping them search for work or to retrain.
- We have targeted support for young people: the Kickstart Scheme will create hundreds of thousands of new, fully subsidised jobs for 16-24 year olds on Universal Credit at risk of long-term unemployment. With £2 billion of funding, Kickstart has the potential to support over 250,000 young people.
- For those on Universal Credit, who have been searching for work for over a year, the Spending Review introduced the new £2.9 billion Restart programme. This

new three-year programme will provide intensive and tailored support to over 1 million people and help them find work.

- Around two million of the UK's lowest-paid workers will benefit from the increases in the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wages. On 1 April 2021, the National Living Wage increased by 2.2 per cent to £8.91 an hour, an increase in annual earnings of over £345 extra for someone working full-time.

Key facts

- As of 14 April 2021, there have been 11.5 million jobs supported by the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme since its inception. A total of 1.3 million employers have made a claim through the scheme since it started in March 2020, totalling £61.3 billion in claims.
- The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme has supported 2.7 million people. The fourth and fifth SEISS grants are an estimated £13.5 billion of additional support, taking total support for the self-employed to over £33 billion since the start of the pandemic.
- So far, over 195,000 Kickstart jobs have been created.
- Restart will provide intensive, tailored support to over 1 million unemployed people
- The Government has successfully recruited 13,500 additional work coaches since March 2020.
- Distributional analysis published for the 2021 Budget showed that in 2021-22 (even when excluding spending in response to COVID-19) tax, welfare and spending decisions made since Spending Round 2019 have benefitted all households, with the poorest gaining the most as a percentage of net income. Our modelling also shows that:
 - The poorest 60 per cent of households receive more in public spending than they contribute in tax.
 - Households in the lowest income decile will receive more than £4 in public spending for every £1 they pay in tax on average.
- Between November 2020 and January 2021, the unemployment rate for 18-24 year olds was 13.2 per cent compared to 5 per cent for the overall population of people aged 16+.
- The Office for Budget Responsibility estimated that without the short-term fiscal

easing announced in the Budget, and in particular the extension to the Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme, the forecasted unemployment figure of 2.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2021, would have been higher by 300,000.

- For the first time, 23 and 24 year olds are now eligible for the National Living Wage, meaning a 23 year old who was previously working on the National Minimum Wage saw a 8.7 per cent increase in their hourly pay.

Support for individuals

- This Government is committed to supporting people on lower incomes; even before the pandemic, in 2020-21 estimated spend on welfare support for people of working age and children was over £105 billion, with an additional £7.4 billion of COVID-19 related welfare policy measures, this increased to over £112 billion.
- In March 2020, the Government announced a temporary £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit which was extended by six months at the 2021 Budget. The Government also provided similar support for eligible Working Tax Credit claimants through a one-off £500 payment in April 2021.
- In September 2020, the Government announced the Test and Trace Support Payment, a one-off £500 payment to help people on low-incomes to self-isolate when they either test positive for COVID-19 or are identified as having been in contact with someone who has tested positive. To date, the Government has provided £176 million to Local Authorities to administer the scheme and make payments – including £75 million for discretionary payments according to Local Authorities' own criteria.
- The Government set up the £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme, which has enabled Local Authorities in England to provide targeted support with food and bills to families and the most vulnerable. The Government has recently extended this scheme beyond Winter until 20 June 2021, and renamed it the COVID Local Support Grant. This brings the scheme in line with the Prime Minister's roadmap out of lockdown.
- The Government has also established a £220 million Holiday Activities and Food Programme to provide enriching activities and a healthy meal for disadvantaged children in the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.
- The Government has spent around £3.6 billion in early educational entitlements to support families with their childcare costs in 2020-21. Since 2010, all three and four year olds have been able to access 15 hours of early education a week. In 2013, we also introduced 15 hours of free early education a week for disadvantaged two year olds. In 2017, we doubled the free childcare available for eligible working parents of three and four year olds to 30 hours a week.

- The Government will bring forward a Health and Disability Green Paper on continuously improving the support offered to disabled people whilst laying the foundation for sustainable reform. The National Strategy for Disabled People will set out practical changes for disabled people that remove barriers and increase opportunity.
- In March 2020 we raised the Local Housing Allowance rates to the 30th percentile of local rents, and have maintained these rates at the same cash level this financial year. This is an extra investment of almost £1 billion in 2020-21 and 2021-22 into the welfare system providing more support for renters.

Key facts

- In the first two months of the COVID Winter Support Grant, covering December 2020 and January 2021, Local Authorities spent over £86 million, with 94 per cent awarded to support families with children and 96 per cent used on the provision of food and to support utility bills. In the same period, nearly 2.4 million awards were made to vulnerable households through the scheme.
- This year's expanded Holiday Activities and Food programme will be available to children in every Local Authority in England, building on previous programmes since 2018 – including last year's summer programme, which supported around 50,000 children across 17 Local Authorities.
- In 2019-20, there were over a million fewer people in absolute poverty, after housing costs compared with 2010; and around 700,000 fewer people in poverty, before housing costs than in 2010.
- The changes in Local Housing Allowance have benefitted over 1.5 million households who have gained just over £600 per year on average in additional support, while for people renting in the highest demand areas the gain will be even higher, for example, around 500,000 people had an increase of more than £100 per month.
- In April 2021, a payment to employers in England for each new apprentice hired was increased to £3,000 regardless of the apprentice's age. The payment can be claimed until 30 September 2021.

Cost of Living

- This year, we have increased the National Living Wage to £8.91 - an annual pay rise of almost £350 for someone working full time on the National Living Wage. For the first time since it came into effect in 2016 more younger people will be eligible as the age threshold will be lowered from 25 to 23 years old.

- We know transport is a major cost for families and businesses – so for the eleventh year running we have kept fuel duty frozen for 2021-22, saving the average car user a cumulative total of £1,600 compared to the pre-2010-escalator.
- We know transport is a major cost for families and businesses – so for the eleventh year running we have kept fuel duty frozen for 2021-22, saving the average car user a cumulative total of £1,600 compared to the pre-2010-escalator.
- We have introduced tax-free childcare worth up to £2,000 per child per year.
- The Government is taking a range of measures to help people get onto the housing ladder and to help families move home:
 - The Stamp Duty Land Tax Holiday increased the threshold for Stamp Duty from £125,000 to £500,000 until 30 June 2021 in England and Northern Ireland. After that, the threshold will drop to £250,000 from 1 July before returning to the standard rate of £125,000 from 1 October 2021.
 - The Affordable Homes Programme, announced at Budget last year, will deliver the largest cash investment in affordable housing for a decade, providing up to 180,000 new homes across the country, and delivering more social housing than the Programme's predecessor.
 - At Spending Review 2020 the Government announced a National Home Building Fund, with initial funding of £7.1 billion over the next four years to unlock up to 860,000 homes.
- Alcohol Duties will be frozen across the board for the second year running, saving drinkers £1.7 billion.

Key facts

- We have increased the National Minimum Wage and Living Wage every year since they were introduced, supporting the lowest paid. Successive rises mean someone working full time on the National Living Wage from April 2021 will be earning £5,400 more annually than they were in 2010.
- Across the UK, the 2021-22 fuel duty freeze saves the average car driver a cumulative total of £1,600 compared to the pre-2010 escalator. We are proud the Government has legislated to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and future fuel duty rates will be considered in that context.

- We are investing £11.5 billion in the new Affordable Homes Programme, bringing total funding for affordable homes to £12.2 billion from 2021-22. This is the largest cash investment in affordable housing for a decade.

Support for Businesses

“My Government’s priority is to deliver a national recovery from the pandemic that makes the United Kingdom stronger, healthier and more prosperous than before...Following the unprecedented support provided to businesses during the pandemic, proposals will be brought forward to create and support jobs...”

- Throughout the pandemic, the Government has protected jobs, livelihoods, businesses and public services across the UK through a £352 billion package of support; including cash grants, Government guaranteed loans, tax reliefs and employment support.
- Our Plan for Growth will ensure that we build back better after the pandemic. It will take a transformational approach, tackling long-term problems to deliver growth that creates high-quality jobs across the UK and makes the most of the strengths of the Union. We must retain our guiding focus on achieving the people’s priorities: levelling up the whole of the UK, supporting our transition to net zero, and supporting our vision for Global Britain.

COVID-19 Business Support

Business Loans

- Following the success of the emergency COVID-19 Government-guaranteed loan schemes, which closed in March 2021, the Government has introduced the Recovery Loan Scheme. This new 80 per cent guaranteed loan scheme is open to all businesses, including those who have already received support under the emergency schemes and it will support them, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, as they recover and grow following the disruption of the pandemic and the end of the Transition Period. The scheme is open to all businesses, including those who have already received support under the emergency schemes.

Restart Grants

- Over the course of the pandemic, the Government has provided up to £25 billion in cash grants to protect businesses, and the jobs they support.
- The Government is providing businesses with new Restart Grants, to give them the cash certainty they need to plan and safely relaunch trading over the coming months. Hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym business premises in England are eligible for grants up to £18,000. Non-essential retail business premises in England are eligible to receive grants worth up to £6,000.

- The Government has also made over £2 billion of discretionary grant funding available for local authorities in England through the Additional Restrictions Grant to support businesses in their local area.

Value Added Tax (VAT) Reduced Rate for Hospitality and Tourism

- In July 2020 the Government cut the rate of VAT applied to goods and services in the hospitality, accommodation and attractions sector from 20 per cent to 5 per cent.
- To continue supporting the cash flow and viability of around 150,000 businesses, and the 2.4 million people they employ, the Government is extending the 5 per cent reduced rate of VAT affecting these sectors until 30 September 2021. To help those businesses manage the transition back to the standard rate, a new 12.5 per cent rate will apply from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

VAT Deferral New Payment Scheme (NPS)

- The Government announced the VAT deferral 'New Payment Scheme' in the Winter Economy Plan (published 24 September 2020), which is available to any business that took advantage of the original VAT deferral.
- Instead of paying the full deferred VAT outstanding by 31 March 2021, businesses can spread what they owe over up to 11 smaller monthly payments. Businesses can join the service online without needing to contact HMRC. The service opened on 23 February 2021 and will close on 21 June 2021.

Business Rates Measures

- Eligible businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will benefit from business rates relief worth over £6 billion in 2021-22. This includes a three-month extension of the current 100 per cent business rates holiday from 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021. This will be followed by 66 per cent relief for the period 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022 for eligible properties, with a cap of £2 million for businesses that were required to close on 5 January 2020, and up to £105,000 relief for businesses that were permitted to open.
- The Government has also announced a new £1.5 billion relief fund to be awarded to non-retail, hospitality and leisure properties most affected by COVID-19. The relief, which will be awarded by Local Authorities on a discretionary basis, will ensure support is available to those not within scope of the £16 billion of support already announced for eligible properties in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.
- To further support businesses, the Government has also decided to freeze the

business rates multiplier in 2021-22, saving businesses in England an estimated £575 million over the next five years.

COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF)

- The COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) has provided £38 billion of support since 23 March 2020, directly supporting our largest firms responsible for 2.5 million UK jobs.
- The scheme closed for new issuance on 22 March 2021. The approved value refers to the total credit line for all 304 eligible firms, which peaked at c. £104 billion. The total issued into the scheme by 107 firms was around £38 billion.

Culture Recovery Fund

- Key national and local cultural organisations will continue to benefit from the Culture Recovery Fund. £300 million additional funding will be made available in 2021-22 to support cultural organisations in England as audiences begin to return, on top of the £1.57 billion provided in 2020-21. In addition, the Government-sponsored National Museums and cultural bodies will receive a further £90 million of support in 2021-22.

Commercial rents

- Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent because of COVID-19 are currently protected from eviction until 30 June 2021. This means no business will be forced out of their premises for not paying rent.
- The Government has also extended restrictions on statutory demands and winding-up petitions until 30 June 2021, which will protect companies from creditor enforcement action due to debts related to COVID-19.

Plan For Growth – Investment-led Recovery

- As well as addressing the immediate challenges of the pandemic, the Government is acting now to lay the foundations for a recovery driven by the private sector that spreads investment and opportunity throughout the UK, by helping businesses to grow, and improving access to skills, capital and ideas.

Plant and Machinery Super-Deduction

- The super-deduction is the biggest two-year business tax cut in modern British history - supporting British enterprise in leading us to the post-pandemic economic recovery.

- From April 2021 until the end of March 2023, companies can claim 130 per cent capital allowances on qualifying plant and machinery investments. Under the super-deduction, for every pound a company invests, their taxes are cut by up to 25p.

Help to Grow Scheme

- The Government's new 'Help to Grow' scheme will help small businesses across the UK learn new skills, reach new customers and boost profits. Eligible small businesses could get:
 - An Executive Development programme to help them improve business performance and growth potential.
 - Free online advice and money off software to help them save time and cut costs.

Future Fund: Breakthrough

- The £375 million, UK-wide 'Future Fund: Breakthrough' scheme will target innovative, R&D-intensive firms and provide them with the capital they need to grow and succeed.
- To be eligible, companies will need to seek a minimum of £20 million of investment and meet a set of criteria that demonstrate their R&D intensity.

Innovation Strategy

- The Innovation Strategy, led by BEIS, will outline how the UK Government looks to achieve our ambitions in innovation and where we want to focus our efforts in the coming years, creating the confidence for business investment.
- To forge the UK's future as a global scientific superpower, the Government is now investing £14.9 billion in research and development in 2021-22 (increased from £14.6 billion announced at Spending Review 2020), meaning UK Government R&D spending is now at its highest level in real terms for four decades.
- This investment reinforces the Government's commitment to putting research and development at the heart of plans to build back better from the pandemic, and includes funding for association to Horizon Europe, investing at least £490 million in Innovate UK in 2021-22 and providing £800 million by 2024-25 for a new Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA).

High-Skilled Migration

- The Government is modernising the immigration system to help the UK attract and retain the most highly skilled, globally mobile talent. This will ensure UK firms, particularly in science, research and technology, can continue to attract leading and high potential talent from around the world to support the post-pandemic economic recovery and stimulate the UK's long-term growth.

Skills – COVID-19 Recovery and the Skills for Jobs White Paper

- Creating opportunities to improve skills is critical to ensuring a strong recovery from the impacts of the pandemic, particularly for young people who have lost out on precious learning and employment opportunities.
- The Government is expanding traineeships and sector-based work academy programmes to provide high quality training with proven employment outcomes; incentivising new apprenticeship hires; giving employers a central role in identifying and planning local skills needs; boosting the National Careers Service's capacity; and providing free courses to school and college leavers.

Freeports

- At the Budget, the Chancellor announced the eight Freeports in England, which will drive regeneration by bringing investment, trade and jobs. Freeports will be at East Midlands Airport, Felixstowe and Harwich, Humber, Liverpool City Region, Plymouth and South Devon, Solent, Teesside, and Thames.
- Businesses within Freeport areas will benefit from more generous tax reliefs, simplified customs procedures and wider Government support.
- Discussions continue between the UK Government and the devolved administrations to ensure the delivery of further Freeports in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as soon as possible.

Levelling Up Fund

- The £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund will invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centre and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets.

UK Community Renewal Fund/ UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

- The £220 million UK-wide Community Renewal Fund will provide funding for local areas across the UK in 2021-22 to help them prepare for the introduction of the

UK Shared Prosperity Fund, in addition to the continued high level of funding from EU structural funds.

Towns Fund

- Through the Towns Fund the Government has confirmed a £1 billion investment in 45 Town Deals across England, which will help local areas to grow their economies, create and sustain local jobs whilst encouraging opportunities to reshape the look and feel of their area.

Green Growth

- Supporting business to modernise and adapt will be key to meeting our climate change targets. The Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution sets out how we will build back better whilst supporting green jobs and accelerating our path to net zero. Mobilising £12 billion of public money, and potentially three times as much from the private sector, the plan can help create and support up to 250,000 green jobs compatible with our net zero future. Innovations across industry, buildings, energy and transport will spur business to adapt to this future.

Regulatory Reform

- Now that we have left the EU, the UK can now design its regulations in ways it has not been able to for years. The Government will take full advantage of this opportunity, ensuring that regulation does not pose an unnecessary barrier towards businesses innovation and growth.
- The Prime Minister has established a Better Regulation Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Chancellor, to ensure the Government is driving an ambitious programme of regulatory reform that enables and supports growth and innovation across the economy.
- The Government has already started a wide-ranging reform programme. We are overhauling procurement rules, introducing landmark planning reforms, consulting on gene editing, reforming financial services, amongst many others.

London Inter-bank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

- Responses to the Treasury's recent consultation supporting the wind-down of critical benchmarks, such as LIBOR, supported further legislation to protect users and preserve market integrity. The Government affirmed its commitment to bring forward legislation on the gov.uk website and in its published letter to the Working Group on Sterling Risk-Free Reference Rates.

Public Finances

“My Government will ensure that the public finances are returned to a sustainable path once the economic recovery is secure.”

- The Government has acted on a scale unmatched in recent history to protect people’s jobs and livelihoods and to support businesses and public services across the UK. As the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) and the International Monetary Fund have noted, the cost of inaction would have been far higher.
- Without corrective action borrowing would continue at unsustainable levels, leaving underlying debt rising indefinitely. While borrowing costs are affordable now, interest rates and inflation may not stay low forever.
- Strong public finances are a fundamental part of a strong economy and a strong Union. The certainty that comes from ensuring the public finances are on a sustainable path will support economic stability across the UK. This is also necessary given the risks posed by high debt and will build fiscal resilience, allowing the Government to provide support to households and the economy when it is needed most.
- Measures announced in the 2021 Budget will bring debt under control, through a fair and progressive package. This approach asks the largest, most profitable businesses to contribute, and for people to contribute a little more too, in order to continue to fund excellent public services and investment.
- With sound fiscal management and careful prioritisation, fiscal sustainability can be achieved while continuing to deliver first-class frontline public services and building the future economy.

Key facts

- Taking into account the significant support confirmed at Spending Review 2020 and Budget 2021, total support for the economy in response to COVID-19 is £352 billion in 2020-21 and 2021-22. Taking into account the measures announced at Budget 2020, which included significant capital investment, total support for the economy amounts to £407 billion in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- According to the latest outturn data from the Office for National Statistics and the Treasury, the first provisional estimate of public sector net borrowing for 2020-21 is £303.1 billion, the highest peacetime level of borrowing on record.
- The OBR March 2021 forecast projected that underlying debt (public sector net debt excluding Bank of England’s contributions) will fall marginally in the final

years of the forecast period, as a result of policy decisions, albeit remaining significantly above pre-crisis levels.

- The OBR March 2021 forecast projected that the current budget deficit will fall over the forecast period and almost reach balance in the final year of the forecast in 2025-26 (at £0.9 billion).
- As the OBR has highlighted, a sustained 1 percentage point increase in inflation and interest rates would increase debt interest spending by over £25 billion in 2025-26.

Benefitting from Brexit

- The Government will take full advantage of the opportunities of exiting the EU.
- The programme of reform enabled by our exit from the EU will provide new opportunities for growth, expand our horizons, reduce burdens on business and save taxpayers money while upholding workers rights and welfare standards.
- The Prime Minister has established a **Better Regulation Cabinet Committee**, chaired by the Chancellor, to ensure the Government is driving an ambitious programme of regulatory reform that enables and supports growth and innovation across the economy.
- The UK can now design its regulations in ways it has not been able to for years. The Government will ensure that regulation does not pose an unnecessary barrier towards businesses innovation and growth.
- Free from the EU State Aid regime, the Government will introduce a **Subsidy Control Bill** that implements a domestic UK subsidy control regime to reflect our strategic interests and particular national circumstances, providing a legal framework within which public authorities make subsidy decisions.
- The Government will introduce a **Procurement Bill** that consolidates the 350+ EU derived regulations and creates a single, uniform framework, including defence procurement, to allow more freedom for suppliers and the public sector to innovate and work in partnership with the private sector.
- The **National Insurance Contributions Bill** will deliver on our commitment to establish a number of **Freeports** in England that will drive regeneration by bringing investment, trade and jobs. Discussions are ongoing with the devolved administrations to ensure these benefits are felt UK-wide.
- The **Professional Qualifications Bill** will create a new bespoke framework for the UK to recognise professional qualifications from across the world to ensure employers can access professionals where there are UK shortages.
- The **Planning Bill** will simplify and enhance the EU derived framework of environmental assessments for developments.
- The Government has introduced the **Turing Scheme**, a new international educational exchange scheme that has a global reach unlike Erasmus+, which is EU-focused.
- Now we have left the EU, we are going further in **protecting our animals**, whether on the farm, at home or in the wild by introducing important legislation

this session that addresses the challenges presented to the welfare of animals in both the domestic and international spheres.

Key facts

- We are already delivering on some of the key opportunities for the UK. This includes:
 - Our new Points Based Immigration System that has already gone live.
 - The Agriculture Act, which replaces the EU's bureaucratic Common Agricultural Policy and transforms how we support farmers.
 - The Fisheries Act that enables us to control who fishes in our waters.
 - The launch of our new independent Global Human Rights sanctions regime.
 - The UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- There will be many more opportunities to come. The Government has already set out an ambitious programme that includes the development of Freeports that will empower regions across the UK to become hubs for international trade and investment. We are engaging in further trade negotiations with the US, Australia and New Zealand.
- The Better Regulation Cabinet Committee has met regularly to discuss an ambitious programme of regulatory reform.
- The Rt Hon Lord Frost CMG was appointed Minister of State at the Cabinet Office from 1 March 2021 with the responsibility of oversight of cross-Government work on maximizing the economic and political opportunities flowing from EU exit.
- The Government has also convened a Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform to scope out and propose options for how the UK can take advantage of our newfound regulatory freedoms
- The Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform membership consists of The Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP (Chair), The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, and George Freeman MP.

Skills and Post-16 Education Bill

“Legislation will support a lifetime skills guarantee to enable flexible access to high quality education and training throughout people’s lives.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Legislate for landmark reforms that will transform post-16 education and training, make skills more readily available and get more people into work as set out in the Government’s Skills for Jobs White Paper.
- Enable people to access flexible funding for Higher or Further Education, bringing Universities and Further Education colleges closer together, and removing the bias against technical education.
- Deliver the Prime Minister’s new Lifetime Skills Guarantee, as part of our blueprint for a post-16 education system that will ensure everyone, no matter where they live or their background, can gain the skills they need to progress in work at any stage of their lives.
- Increase productivity, support growth industries and give individuals opportunities to progress in their careers.
- Strengthen the powers of the Office for Students to take action to address low quality higher education provision.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Offering adults across the country the opportunity to retrain in later life through the Lifetime Skills Guarantee, helping them to gain in-demand skills and open up further job opportunities.
- Realigning the system around the needs of employers so that people are trained for the skills gaps that exist now and in the future, in sectors the economy needs including construction, digital, clean energy and manufacturing.
- Improving the quality of training available by making sure that providers are better run, qualifications are better regulated, and that providers’ performance can be effectively assessed.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Putting employers at the heart of the post-16 skills system through the Skills Accelerator, by enabling employers and providers to collaborate to develop skills plans aimed at ensuring local skills provision meets local needs.

- Introducing the Lifelong Loan Entitlement, which will give individuals access to the equivalent of up to four years' worth of student loans for level 4-6 qualifications that they can use flexibly across their lifetime, at colleges as well as universities.
- Strengthening the system of accountability by extending existing powers for the Secretary of State for Education to intervene where colleges have failed to meet local needs, to direct structural change where required to secure improvement, and by amending the regulation of post-16 education and training providers to ensure quality.
- Strengthening the ability of the Office for Students to assess and regulate Higher Education provision in England, ensuring that they can regulate in line with minimum expectations of quality.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in this Bill will extend UK wide. Most provisions apply to England, however some also apply to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Key facts

- Only 10 per cent of adults aged 20-45 hold a higher technical (level 4-5) qualification as their highest qualification, compared to 20 per cent in Germany and 34 per cent in Canada.
- Only four per cent of young people achieve a qualification at higher technical level by the age of 25, compared to the 33 per cent who get a degree or above.
- New findings have shown that more people would now prefer their child to gain a vocational qualification ahead of a university degree.
- A third (34 per cent) of working age graduates are not in high skilled employment.
- In 2019 employers were unable to fill a quarter of all vacant positions (214,000 vacancies) because they could not find people with the right skills.
- Skills shortages account for 36 per cent of all construction vacancies, and 48 per cent of all Manufacturing and the Skilled Trades vacancies.
- Men with a higher technical (level 4) qualification earn on average £5,100 more at age 30 than those with a degree (level 6).
- 80 per cent of the 2030 workforce are already in the workforce today – so

reskilling the existing workforce is a key opportunity.

- The Government is investing significant amounts into further education - £1.5 billion to improve our college estate; £2.5 billion (£3 billion when including Barnett funding for devolved administrations) in the National Skills Fund; and £650 million extra into 16-19 further education.
- The Skills Bill forms the legislative underpinning for the reforms set out in the White Paper, 'Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Skills for Opportunity and Growth' which was published on 21 January 2021.

Developing the Life Sciences Sector

“My Government will build on the success of the vaccination programme to lead the world in life sciences, pioneering new treatments against diseases like cancer and securing jobs and investment across the country.”

- The UK is already one of the best places in the world for Life Sciences companies to do business, but we are committed to making the UK a global science superpower that attracts the best people and businesses from across the world.
- The unprecedented COVID-19 challenge has demonstrated the strength of UK Life Sciences capability including:
 - The UK has been home to the development of the successful Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.
 - The first global regulatory approval of any COVID-19 vaccine by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.
 - A genomic sequencing capacity that carries out over half of all the sequencing of COVID-19 variants that take place in the world.
 - The rapid building of new diagnostics and vaccines manufacturing capabilities to enable one of the world’s biggest COVID-19 testing programmes and fastest vaccines roll out per head of the population.
- The UK has one of the world’s best research and sciences bases, including top class universities and globally renowned clinical research.
- We will build on these strengths to:
 - Discover the treatments for other diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's and heart disease.
 - Deliver improved outcomes for patients across the UK and tackle health inequality.
 - Contribute to levelling up economic opportunity and the creating better paid jobs for people across the UK.
 - Bolster our health resilience to ensure the UK is best prepared for any future healthcare challenges.
 - Partner with industry, the NHS and academia to ensure the UK continues

to lead the world in scientific innovation, especially in cutting edge industries including genomics, early-stage diagnosis, advanced manufacturing and digital health.

- Our Plan for Growth, published on 3 March 2021, committed to build on the UK's performance and leadership to date to create the most advanced genomic healthcare system in the world and we will bring forward a new Life Sciences strategy this summer.

Key facts

- The UK Life Sciences sector employs over quarter of a million people in high quality jobs and delivers an annual turnover of over £80 billion.
- The Life Science industry employs 224,000 people in England, 15,000 in Scotland, 12,000 in Wales and 6,000 in Northern Ireland. Employment in Life Sciences has increased by 10 per cent since 2010.
- Life Science jobs are spread the length and breadth of the UK, making the Life Sciences industry an important driver for levelling up economic opportunity right across the country. Around 66 per cent of UK Life Science jobs are outside of London and the South East; the East of England and the North West are the second and third strongest areas for Life Sciences employment.
- The Life Sciences sector was responsible for £17 billion of value add in 2018, 9 per cent of the total value-add from manufacturing in the UK.
- The Government has committed funding to vaccines manufacturing bases, including £127 million to the construction of a new state-of-the-art Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult Manufacturing Innovation Centre in Stevenage, to support the mass production of a successful COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and £140 million to the Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre in Oxford, which will have the capacity to produce enough vaccine doses to serve the entire UK population at scale.
- The new £20 million Medicines and Diagnostics Manufacturing Transformation Fund will support pharmaceutical, diagnostic and MedTech companies to land investments here in the UK, building our domestic manufacturing capability.

Research and Development

“My Ministers will oversee the fastest ever increase in public funding for research...”

- We are committed to making the UK a global superpower, with a world leading research and development environment. Innovation is a key pillar of our approach to tackling the effects of the pandemic and levelling up the UK.
- R&D will continue to be critical to the economic and social recovery from the impact of COVID-19, enabling us to build back better for a greener, healthier and more resilient UK. Our goal is to further strengthen science, research and innovation across the UK, making them central to tackling the major challenges of today and in the future.
- On average, each public pound invested in R&D across our portfolio ultimately leverages around £2 of additional private sector investment and creates £7 of net benefits.
- The Government is investing £14.9 billion in R&D in 2021-22. This investment means Government R&D spending is now at its highest level in four decades. We are committed to increasing public expenditure on R&D to £22 billion, helping to deliver on our target to increase total UK R&D investment to 2.4 per cent of GDP by 2027.
- In the R&D Roadmap, we set out our priorities for boosting innovation in the economy. We want to make the UK a world-leading place to innovate and bring new products and services to market.
- BEIS will publish an Innovation Strategy this summer to inspire, facilitate and unleash innovation across the UK; supporting and harnessing the tremendous capability of UK innovators to boost future prosperity locally and nationwide.
- We have already introduced the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA) Bill, to unleash the potential of the UK’s world-class research and science base.
- Our Review of Research Bureaucracy will advise on practical solutions to substantially reducing unnecessary research bureaucracy, freeing up researchers to devote more time to their academic roles and pursuing world-class research.

Key facts

- The UK is in the top four countries in the Global Innovation Index 2021. It is home to four of the top 10 universities in the world.

- The UK has a world-leading research base. With less than one per cent of the world's population, the UK accounts for 4 per cent of researchers, 7 per cent of the world's publications and 14 per cent of the world's most highly-cited academic publications.
- UK businesses performed almost £26 billion of R&D in 2019, an increase of £822 million (3.3 per cent) compared to 2018, part of a long-term trend of positive annual growth.
- In 2018, spending on R&D was 1.71 per cent of GDP, an increase on the previous year's figure of 1.67 per cent.
- The private sector invested £27 billion in R&D in the UK in 2018, an annual increase of £1.7 billion (6.6 per cent) and part of a long-term trend.
- According to the Office for National Statistics, in 2019 total UK business employment in R&D grew by 11,000 to 263,000 full-time equivalents, an increase of 4.4 per cent since 2018.

Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill

“My Ministers will...introduce legislation to establish an advanced research agency.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Create the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA) as a new statutory corporation to fund high-risk, high-reward R&D.
- Give ARIA broad powers to take an innovative approach to research funding, and a mandate for higher tolerance for failure when pursuing high-risk research.
- Define ARIA’s relationship with the Government, giving it autonomy and freedoms to manage its day-to-day affairs.
- Support this agile operating model by freeing ARIA from some standard public sector obligations.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Creating a new agency to fund high-risk, high-reward research, to enhance the UK’s R&D offer and help cement the UK’s position as a global science superpower.
- Supporting the creation of ground-breaking technology, with the potential to produce transformational benefits to our economy and society, new technologies and new industries. For example, the US Advanced Research Projects Agency took a similar approach to funding and supported the breakthrough research that underpins the internet and the Global Positioning System (GPS).
- Diversifying the R&D funding system and providing innovative and flexible tools to push the boundaries of science at speed, reaching an even wider range of the research community.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Creating ARIA as a statutory corporation.
- Providing broad functions for ARIA to conduct, support or commission research-related activities, with regard to the desirability of doing so for the benefit of the UK.
- Explicitly tolerating failure in pursuing ambitious research, development, and exploitation.

- Establishing an arm's length relationship to Government, set out in ARIA's procedure, membership and appointments processes, with limited information and direction rights for the Secretary of State.
- Providing powers for the Secretary of State to dissolve ARIA that can only be exercised after 10 years.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in this Bill will apply and extend to the whole of the UK. Although research and innovation is a reserved matter, the Bill will amend the reserved schedules of the Scotland Act 1998, Government of Wales Act 2006, and Northern Ireland Act 1998 to list the ARIA as a reserved body.

Key facts

- The creation of ARIA will complement the work of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) while building on the Government's ambitious R&D Roadmap published in July 2020.
- The Government has announced its plans to invest £14.9 billion in R&D in 2021-22, building towards the Government's target of 2.4 per cent of gross domestic product being spent on R&D across the UK economy by 2027, the current Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development average.
- There is substantial evidence that investment in R&D increases productivity with significant spillover benefits from public and private investment. This will drive long-term economic growth, support the UK's position as a global force in science and innovation, and create wider benefits for society.
- The March 2020 Budget confirmed the Government's commitment to an £800 million investment in the creation of ARIA up to 2024-25.
- Since the 1950s, US agencies have also focussed solely on transformative science and technological research programmes, with a lean structure and a high-risk tolerance. This approach has yielded remarkable results. The Advanced Research Projects Agency (now DARPA) played a vital role in research forming the basis for the Internet. It also funded a precursor to GPS, and the world's first Weather Satellite: TIROS 1. More recently, it has been behind inventions like voice recognition technology, as used in Apple's SIRI.
- Other countries have also created bodies inspired by DARPA, including Japan's 'Moonshot R&D', Germany's SPRIN-D and, in the UK, Wellcome LEAP.

National Infrastructure Plan

“My Government will strengthen the economic ties across the union, investing in and improving national infrastructure.”

- Infrastructure is vital to jobs, economic growth and quality of life for people across the UK.
- The Government is committed to transforming UK infrastructure in order to rebuild the economy, level up the country, strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- Spending Review 2020 committed £100 billion of capital investment in 2021-22, a £30 billion cash increase compared to 2019-20. Our investment plans over the next five years mean that public sector net investment as a proportion of GDP will be at its highest sustained levels since the late 1970s.
- Infrastructure investment will have a key role to play in the recovery, both maintaining jobs in the short term, and creating the conditions for long-term sustainable growth.
- Alongside Spending Review 2020, the Government published the National Infrastructure Strategy, setting out a vision to transform the UK’s infrastructure.

UK Infrastructure Bank

- The UK Infrastructure Bank (UKIB), which will launch later in the spring, is central to delivering these ambitions. It will provide financing support to private sector and local authority infrastructure projects across the UK. This support will help accelerate our progress to net zero and level up all parts of the UK.
- It will be able to deploy £12 billion of equity and debt capital and £10 billion of guarantees and is expected to support more than £40 billion of infrastructure investment overall.
- The bank will be headquartered in Leeds, putting the bank in the North of England; the home to the first infrastructure revolution. The location has been chosen to bring UKIB closer to the heart of the Government’s levelling up agenda.
- This is one of many actions that the Government is taking to tackle climate change as part of the Prime Minister’s Ten Point Plan for the Green Revolution. It will help create and support up to 250,000 highly-skilled green jobs in the UK and spur over three times as much private investment by 2030.

Project Speed

- The Government is revolutionising the delivery of infrastructure projects through Project Speed, which ensures the Government is building the right things faster, greener and better.
- Project Speed is accelerating and improving delivery by looking at reform of environmental regulations to secure better outcomes for the environment; landmark reform of the planning system to allow infrastructure such as schools and hospitals to be expanded more quickly; transformation of the construction sector to make it more productive, sustainable and internationally competitive; and bringing about a step change in capability and leadership to ensure local areas and economies benefit from the infrastructure they need to prosper.
- Project Speed identified ways to save up to 50 per cent of time in the planned construction process of the A66, cutting this down from 10 to 5 years through innovative solutions such as standardised, modular and offsite design and construction, alongside more intensive and concurrent delivery. In aggregate, these interventions could accelerate delivery by around one third.

Key facts

- Investing in infrastructure drives long term productivity improvements, and in the short term stimulates economic activity. A 10 per cent increase in the public capital stock has been linked to a 1-2 per cent increase in GDP, partly through productivity improvements.
- The UK has historically underinvested in infrastructure and this Government is committed to addressing that. Spending Review 2020 committed £100 billion of capital investment in 2021-22, a £30 billion cash increase compared to 2019-20.
- Driving private sector investment is crucial to upgrading the UK's infrastructure. The Infrastructure and Projects Authority estimate that more than 50 per cent of the £600 billion UK infrastructure pipeline will come from the private sector.
- We expect the UK Infrastructure Bank to crowd in £2.5 million of external capital for every £1 million invested in private projects over the course of its life.

Planning Bill

“Laws to modernise the planning system, so that more homes can be built, will be brought forward...”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Create a simpler, faster and more modern planning system to replace the current one that dates back to 1947, and ensuring we no longer remain tied to procedures designed for the last century.
- Ensure homes and infrastructure – like schools and hospitals – can be delivered more quickly across England.
- Transform our planning system from a slow document-based one to a more efficient and easier to use digital and map-based service, allowing more active public engagement in the development of their local area.
- Help deliver vital infrastructure whilst helping to protect and enhance the environment by introducing quicker, simpler frameworks for funding infrastructure and assessing environmental impacts and opportunities.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Providing more certainty for communities and developers, particularly smaller developers, about what is permitted where, through clear land allocations in local plans and stronger rules on design.
- Simpler, faster procedures for producing local development plans, approving major schemes, assessing environmental impacts and negotiating affordable housing and infrastructure contributions from development.
- Establishing a framework which focuses on positive outcomes, such as environmental opportunities and better designed places.
- Digitising a system to make it more visual and easier for local people to meaningfully engage with.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Changing local plans so that they provide more certainty over the type, scale and design of development permitted on different categories of land.
- Significantly decrease the time it takes for developments to go through the planning system.

- Replacing the existing systems for funding affordable housing and infrastructure from development with a new more predictable and more transparent levy.
- Using post-Brexit freedoms to simplify and enhance the framework for environmental assessments for developments.
- Reforming the framework for locally led development corporations to ensure local areas have access to appropriate delivery vehicles to support growth and regeneration.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend to the whole of the UK, however the majority of provisions will apply to England.

Key facts

- There is very little meaningful public engagement in the current planning system. At present only around 3 per cent of local people engage with planning applications, and for local plan consultations engagement can fall to less than 1 per cent.
- As of February 2021, only around 41 per cent of Local Authorities have an up-to-date local plan in place.
- Updating a local plan currently takes an average of 7 years.
- Thirty years ago smaller builders were responsible for around 40 per cent of new homes built, but currently this figure is only 12 per cent.
- The current system does not lead to enough homes being built, especially in those places where the need for new homes is the highest. Adopted Local Plans, where they are in place, provide for 192,725 homes per year across England (as of March 2021) – significantly below our ambition for 300,000 new homes annually. As a result of this long-term and persistent undersupply, housing is becoming increasingly expensive.

Rail and Bus Reform

“Proposals will be taken forward to transform connectivity by rail and bus...”

- We will reform our rail and bus networks to deliver services which are better, greener, more reliable and easier to use.

Rail Reform

- Our railways will be the backbone of a modern, affordable and green transport network across the country and will play a central role in our recovery from COVID-19 as we build back better and level up communities across the country.
- We will publish a White Paper containing proposals that will transform the railways and deliver for passengers. We will ensure that decisions are taken in the interest of passengers, using new contracts that will get trains running on time, introduce modern ways to pay, make rail more accessible and inclusive, and work more closely with local communities.
- We will end the complicated franchising model and create a simpler, more effective system.

Bus Reform

- Through our National Bus Strategy for England, we will deliver better bus services for passengers across England outside London, through ambitious and far-reaching reform of how services are planned and delivered.
- The National Bus Strategy outlined how we will spend the £3 billion announced by the Prime Minister to transform buses outside London. In order to access that transformational funding, local authorities and operators will be required to work together to improve services.
- These reforms will be one of our major acts of levelling up by ensuring there are more frequent, cheaper and more reliable bus services across the country which are easier to understand and use with integrated services and ticketing.
- £120 million will be spent in the 2021-22 Financial Year on supporting the Government’s commitment to introduce 4,000 zero-emission buses, building on the recent award of £50 million to Coventry from the All-Electric Bus Towns and Cities competition.

Key facts

- In the last decade, the number of rail passenger journeys grew by more than 35 per cent. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on rail demand, between April and June last year passenger numbers decreased by over 90 per cent. The railway faces a structural challenge in all its main markets – commuter, shopper, and business travel – and must change if it is to continue to prosper.
- The current model for passenger services had become unsustainable even before COVID-19, with multiple failing franchises, numerous delayed competitions and dwindling market confidence. East Coast Main Line and Northern Rail had already failed and the Government had to step in.
- Buses can help drive better employment outcomes; in cities outside London, 77 per cent of jobseekers do not have regular access to a car, van or motorbike.

High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill

The purpose of the bill is to:

- Provide the powers to build and operate the next stage of the High Speed Two (HS2) network from Crewe to Manchester

The main benefits of the bill would be:

- Creating thousands of jobs and providing certainty at a time when people need it the most. HS2 is at the heart of our plans to build back better from COVID-19.
- Bringing our biggest cities closer together which is key to levelling up, will boost productivity and provide a low-carbon mode of transport and alternative to planes.

The main elements of the bill are:

- Powers to compulsorily acquire the land needed for the railway, to construct and to operate it.
- Deemed planning permission to deliver the scheme. The details of planning will be developed on a site-by-site basis in coordination with the local planning authority.
- Setting out the way railway regulation will apply to HS2.
- Modifying, or disapplying, of existing legislation that would apply to construction of the scheme, reflecting the fact that the scheme will have been approved by Parliament.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply Great Britain wide, with its substantive provisions applying in the main to England.

Key Facts

- More than 15,000 people are employed as a result of the HS2 programme, including over 500 apprentices. Over 2,000 businesses across the UK have contracts.
- Journey times between London and Manchester will be cut by almost an hour from 2 hours 7 minutes to 1 hour 12 minutes, while the journey from Birmingham to Manchester will be reduced to only 40 minutes – saving 48 minutes.

Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill

“Proposals will be taken forward...to extend 5G mobile coverage and gigabit capable broadband...”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Ensure that smart consumer products, including smartphones and televisions, are more secure against cyber attacks, protecting individual privacy and security.
- Accelerate and improve the deployment and use of digital communications networks. This will support the installation, maintenance, upgrading and sharing of apparatus that enables better telecommunications coverage and connectivity.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Protecting consumers from cyber attacks by preventing the sale of insecure devices with default passwords which are easy to hack, and ensuring they are made aware at point of sale about how long devices like smart televisions, phones and speakers, will receive security updates.
- Keeping product security standards up to date, protecting the UK from emerging threats. It will also enable the UK to lead the international adoption of more secure technologies. Improving security will increase consumer confidence to adopt emerging technologies as they come to market.
- Supporting faster and more efficient deployment of telecommunications networks, to keep pace with the growing demand for fast, reliable, resilient connectivity from homes and businesses across the UK.
- Reducing the number of new sites and installations needed by ensuring the use of existing apparatus and equipment is optimised.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Requiring manufacturers, importers and distributors to ensure that consumer connected products that are available to UK consumers meet minimum security standards. It would also create powers to investigate cases of non-compliance and to take steps to ensure compliance.
- Providing a robust regulatory framework that can adapt and remain effective in the face of rapid technological advancement, the evolving techniques employed by malicious actors and the broader international regulatory landscape.
- Reforms to the Electronic Communications Code to support faster and more

collaborative negotiations for the use of private and public land for telecommunications deployment, and to put the right framework in place for the use of installed apparatus. The Government is carefully analysing responses to the recent consultation to ensure this package of reforms delivers the necessary results.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- The average UK household is estimated to have had over nine smart devices in 2020, and since the COVID-19 pandemic, six in ten consumers in the UK report an increase in their household use of smart devices.
- Research suggests that cyber-attacks targeting Internet of Things (IoT) devices could cost the UK's economy £1 billion annually. Personal data has been lost and compromised devices have been used to launch botnet attacks on businesses, governments and critical infrastructure.
- In 2020, only 18.9 per cent of global manufacturers surveyed reported having a policy in place for vulnerabilities to be disclosed to and resolved by the manufacturer.
- Across the UK, 4G geographic coverage from each mobile network currently ranges between 79-85 per cent of premises. The Government aims to ensure that 95 per cent of the UK's geographic landmass has 4G coverage from at least one mobile network operator by 2025.
- The Government is committed to ensuring that the majority of the UK population has 5G coverage by 2027. The number of mobile base stations providing 5G services has risen ten-fold in the past year, to around 3,000 across the UK. Currently, over 40 per cent of premises in the UK have access to gigabit-capable broadband. We are also working with industry to target a minimum of 85 per cent gigabit-capable coverage by 2025 and to get as close to 100 per cent as possible.

Draft Downstream Oil Resilience Bill

The purpose of the draft Bill is to:

- Address threats to security of fuel supply by providing the Government with tools to build resilience in the downstream oil sector, including companies involved in the refining, importing, distribution and marketing of oil products.
- Help protect fuel supply resilience when required and prevent supply disruptions from occurring in the first place.

The main benefits of the draft Bill would be:

- Identifying risks of disruption to the UK fuel supply market and ensuring that Government and industry can implement effective and proportionate contingency plans as early as possible.
- Ensuring that if a key asset is sold, the new owners are financially and operationally capable of keeping fuel supplies flowing.
- Helping to ensure a consistent resilience standard across critical national infrastructure sectors; delivering commitments set out in 'Global Britain in a competitive age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy'.

The main elements of the draft Bill are:

- Enabling the Government to direct companies to take necessary action to ensure resilience and security of fuel supply, if necessary.
- Allowing the Government to collect information from the sector to understand the impact of potential or active disruptive events.
- Ensuring that new owners of critical fuel infrastructure are both financially sound and operationally capable.
- Enabling the Government to provide financial assistance to build resilience and ensure security of supply if necessary.
- Creating a number of new civil and criminal penalties under which a company and its officers may be liable for failing to comply with a direction, making false statements and failing to provide required information.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in the Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- In 2019, 44 per cent of the UK's energy consumption was from crude oil or oil products, and petroleum-based fuels provided 96 per cent of the energy for the transport sector, with very limited opportunity for substitution. The importance of oil products makes it paramount to achieve an optimal level of supply security. Despite the reduction in demand for oil products during the COVID-19 pandemic, they remain essential to UK economic activity.
- The downstream oil sector comprises over 200 companies involved in the refining, importing, distribution and marketing of oil products (particularly transport fuels), with many more involved in retail.
- There is a risk of disruption to the UK fuel supply market from the sudden loss of any critical supply infrastructure site. In recent years there have been operational and financial events leading to sudden closures or disruptions at UK oil refineries, terminals, and pipelines.
- In 2020, the sector was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic putting operational and economic strain on all downstream oil operators who contribute, either directly or indirectly, to the supply of crude oil-based fuels to consumers or businesses in the UK. Market failures in the sector prevent consumers from fully insuring themselves against fuel supply disruptions and limit the incentives on suppliers to mitigate these risks.
- Oil-based fuels will continue to be important to the UK economy and quality of life for many years to come, especially for hard to decarbonise sectors such as aviation, road freight and marine. However, looking to the long term, the UK's net zero targets will ultimately increase the pressure on the sector as it adjusts to the impact of low and zero carbon vehicles on fuel demand. However, it is estimated that, by 2035, demand for oil-based road transport fuel will still be over 50 per cent of the current volume.

National Insurance Contributions Bill

“Eight new Freeports will create hubs for trade and help regenerate communities.

Measures will be introduced to provide National Insurance contribution relief for employers of veterans.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Provide National Insurance contributions relief for employers of veterans, for employers in Freeports, and for the self-employed who receive NHS Test and Trace Payments.
- Strengthen powers to tackle attempts to avoid tax and National Insurance contributions.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Promoting regeneration and job creation through Freeports across the UK, delivering the manifesto commitment.
- Supporting our veterans to secure stable and fulfilling employment as they transition to civilian life and encouraging businesses to use the valuable skillset veterans have to offer.
- Ensuring self-employed people who must, or have had to, self-isolate due to COVID-19 have parity with employed people and do not pay National Insurance contributions on their self-isolation support payments.
- Strengthening HMRC’s ability to clamp down on the tax avoidance market through introducing changes to Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Providing employers with a relief from National Insurance contributions for eligible new employees in Freeports for three years, up to earnings of £25,000 per annum. Freeport employers will be able to claim this relief on all new hires from April 2022.
- Providing employers with National Insurance contributions relief for veterans for the first 12 months, up to earnings of £50,000 per annum. This relief will be available to employers on earnings from April 2021.
- Ensuring that self-employed people who must, or have had to, self-isolate due to COVID-19 do not pay National Insurance contributions on their self-isolation

support payments. This measure is intended to have retrospective effect from 6 April 2020, in respect of the English, Welsh and Scottish schemes which were implemented in autumn 2020. This exemption mirrors legislation already in place for National Insurance contributions for the employed.

- Ensuring that HMRC can act decisively where promoters fail to provide information on their avoidance schemes and make taxpayers aware at an earlier stage where it suspects an avoidance scheme is being sold. These provisions mirror provisions included in Finance Bill 2021 for other taxes and will be effective when the Bill receives Royal Assent.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill's provisions will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- There were around 12,500 veterans who left the regular Armed Forces in 2020 whose employers could qualify for the National Insurance contributions relief on their employment. Employers could benefit from a potential saving of £5,500 per veteran.
- Eight Freeports have been announced in England and the Government has committed to establishing at least one in each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- To date, the Government has provided more than £176 million of funding to local authorities to meet the costs of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This will allow local authorities to continue supporting those on low incomes to stay at home and self-isolate when required to do so.

Subsidy Control Bill

“Measures will be introduced to ensure that support for businesses reflects the United Kingdom’s strategic interests and drives economic growth.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Implement a domestic UK subsidy control regime that reflects our strategic interests and particular national circumstances, providing a legal framework within which public authorities make subsidy decisions.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Creating our own subsidy control system now that we are no longer bound by the EU’s burdensome State Aid rules.
- Enabling public authorities to deliver subsidies that are tailored and bespoke for local needs to support the UK’s economic recovery and deliver Government priorities, such as increasing UK R&D investment and achieving net zero.
- Empowering local authorities, public bodies, and central and devolved governments to design subsidies that deliver strong benefits for the UK taxpayer and local communities.
- Providing certainty and confidence to businesses investing in the UK, by protecting against subsidies that risk causing distortive or harmful economic impacts, including to the UK’s internal market.
- Enabling the UK to meet its international commitments on subsidy control, including its international commitments at the World Trade Organisation and in Free Trade Agreements.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Creating a consistent set of UK-wide principles that public authorities must follow when granting subsidies.
- Exempting categories of subsidies from certain obligations of the regime or leaving out of scope entirely.
- Prohibiting and placing conditions on certain types of subsidies which are at a particularly high risk of distorting markets.
- Obligating public authorities to upload information on subsidies to a new UK-wide, publicly accessible transparency database.

- Establishing an independent subsidy control body to oversee the UK's bespoke, modern subsidy control system.
- Providing for judicial oversight and enforcement of the granting of subsidies.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill's provisions will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- In 2018, the UK spent 0.34 per cent of GDP on subsidies. 93 per cent of this was spent in four main policy areas: 42 per cent on 'Environmental protection including energy savings', 23 per cent for 'Research and Development including innovation', 15 per cent for 'SMEs including risk capital' and 13 per cent for 'Culture'.
- The UK has historically given a low level of subsidies compared to other large European countries. The UK's 0.34 per cent of GDP spent on subsidies in 2018 was less than the EU average of 0.76 per cent of GDP. France spent 0.79 per cent of GDP and Germany spent 1.45 per cent per cent of GDP on subsidies in 2018.
- 94 per cent of the total value of subsidies granted in the UK was by the UK Government, 5 per cent by devolved administrations and 1 per cent by Local Authorities.

Procurement Bill

“Laws will simplify procurement in the public sector.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Reform the UK’s public procurement regime, making it quicker, simpler and better able to meet the country’s needs while remaining compliant with our international obligations. This will replace the current regime which was largely transposed from EU procurement directives.
- Make public procurement more accessible for new entrants such as small businesses and voluntary, charitable and social enterprises to compete for and win public contracts.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Harnessing the billions that the Government spends every year on public procurement to support Government priorities to level up and spread opportunity across the country.
- Embedding transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle from planning to procurement, contract award, and performance evaluation. Procurement data will be published in a standard, open format, so that it is more accessible to anyone.
- Making UK procurement rules more modern, flexible, innovative and diverse, by allowing the Government to consider wider social value when picking suppliers so that taxpayers’ money goes further and has more of a wider benefit for society including the creation of new jobs and skills to drive economic growth.
- Consolidating the 350+ regulations governing public procurement and creating a single, uniform framework, including for defence procurement, to allow more freedom for the public and private sectors to innovate and work in partnership in public service delivery.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Enshrining in law the principles of public procurement such as: value for money, public benefit, transparency, integrity, fair treatment of suppliers and non-discrimination.
- Overhauling the complex and inflexible procurement procedures and replacing them with three simple, modern procedures. This will allow the public sector more scope to negotiate with potential suppliers to deliver innovative new solutions.

- Requiring buyers to have regard to the Government's strategic priorities for public procurement as set out in a new National Procurement Policy Statement.
- Introducing procurement processes that allow contracting authorities to buy at pace, for serious situations that are declared a crisis, with strengthened safeguards for transparency.
- Establishing a single data platform for supplier registration that ensures suppliers only have to submit their data once to qualify for any public sector procurement.
- Tackling unacceptable behaviour such as supplier fraud through new exclusion rules and giving buyers the tools to properly take account of a bidder's past performance.
- Reforming the process for challenging procurement decisions to speed up the review system and make it more accessible and capping the level of damages available to bidders in order to reduce the attractiveness of speculative claims.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in the Bill will extend to the whole of the UK. The provisions will apply to all contracting authorities in England and to contracting authorities carrying out reserved functions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The UK Government is in discussion with the devolved Welsh and Scottish Governments and Northern Ireland Executive about the application of some provisions.

Key facts

- The UK's exit from the EU presents an opportunity to shape the UK's future landscape for public procurement. Independent of the EU's complex system of procurement laws, the UK is free to modernise and develop its own scheme, in line with our international commitments under free trade agreements on public procurement.
- In December 2020 the Government confirmed that below-threshold contracts can be reserved for UK suppliers and/or small suppliers. This applies to supplies and services contracts valued below £122,976 and works contracts below £4,733,252.
- There are currently over 350 different procurement regulations spread over a number of different regimes for different types of procurement including defence and security. This Bill will consolidate these into a single uniform regime.
- At the end of the transition period, the UK acceded to the World Trade Organization's Government Procurement Agreement in its own right,

guaranteeing access for UK firms to a global public procurement market worth £1.3 trillion.

- The Government will also soon publish the first National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS). The NPPS will set out strategic national priorities for public procurement and help ensure that the power of public procurement is leveraged to support these priorities.

Professional Qualifications Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Create a new framework to recognise professional qualifications from across the world to ensure the UK can access professionals in areas of a workforce shortage. This will replace the interim system that gives preference to professional qualifications from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
- Enable the Government to provide UK regulators with a consistent set of powers to enter into agreements with regulators overseas to recognise professional qualifications.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring there is a clearly identified set of priority professions where there is demand for skills from overseas, such as nurses and teachers and enabling qualifications from around the world to be recognised.
- Supporting our key regulated professions to attract the brightest and best talent from around the world by creating a new framework for recognising qualifications from overseas.
- Allowing regulators to continue to set and maintain high professional standards.
- Strengthening the UK's global trading status, supporting the UK and regulators in realising opportunities for UK professionals to deliver services in markets overseas.
- Improving the transparency around the entry and practice requirements of regulated professions, such as medicine, nursing and teaching.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Enabling the UK to implement its international agreements on professional qualifications and to allow regulators to enter into reciprocal agreements with their international counterparts to facilitate the recognition of professional qualifications. This will support UK professionals to deliver services in markets overseas.
- Making sure regulators have the information and flexibility they need to regulate professionals effectively who have qualified in a different part of the UK.
- Requiring regulators to publish details about entry and practice requirements

making information about careers more accessible and raising public confidence in regulated professions.

- Introducing a new system for recognising all architects who qualified overseas. This will expedite new international entrants to the Architects Register in the UK while requiring them to demonstrate an understanding of the specific UK landscape.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in this Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- In the UK there are over 160 professions that are regulated in law by over 50 regulators.
- Qualified professionals provide key services, including important public services in the fight against COVID-19, and are crucial to the UK's world-leading services sector. An effective regulatory framework for professions makes sure high standards are maintained and services are delivered safely.
- In 2020, UK exports of services were £267.1 billion, representing 46.2 per cent of total UK exports.

Turing Scheme

- The Government has introduced the Turing Scheme, a new international educational exchange scheme that has a global reach. This represents an opportunity for young people across the UK, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to work and study across the world, as we build back stronger.
- The Turing Scheme is backed by £110 million of funding, and in its first year will support around 35,000 participants in universities, colleges and schools to go on placements and exchanges around the globe. The sector has welcomed this new global scheme.
- The Turing Scheme is UK-wide, with education institutions eligible to apply across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The new scheme will help level up opportunities by targeting students from disadvantaged backgrounds and areas which did not previously have many students benefiting from Erasmus+, making life-changing opportunities accessible to everyone across the country.
- The scheme will be global, with every country in the world eligible to partner up with UK institutions, unlike Erasmus+, which is EU-focused.
- This scheme will be a key part of our long-term ambitions for a Global Britain.

Key facts

- Eligible education and training institutions across the UK are able to apply for funding for international opportunities. Applications for the academic year 2021-22 have now closed. Funding decisions are expected in July 2021, with funding placements starting from September 2021.
- Successful applications will receive funding for administering the scheme. All participating students will receive grant funding towards their cost of living, with grant rates in line with Erasmus+ grants and dependent on the destination country. For schools and colleges, all participants will receive travel funding. Disadvantaged university students will receive a supplement to their grant and funding for travel and disadvantaged participants in all sectors can receive additional funding for visas, passports, insurance and other travel-related costs.
- We have received over 130 applications from universities across the UK.
- All participating students will receive grant funding towards their cost of living, with grant rates in line with Erasmus+ grants and dependent on the destination country. Under the Turing Scheme, we will provide a living costs grant for

university students of £335 - £380 per month plus a disadvantaged supplement of £110 per month.

BUILDING BACK SAFER: PROTECTING THE UK AND INDIVIDUALS

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

“My Government will introduce measures to increase the safety and security of its citizens.

Legislation will increase sentences for the most serious and violent offenders and ensure the timely administration of justice.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Cut crime, better protect the public and support our police with new powers and tougher sentences to tackle serious violence.
- Build public confidence in our criminal justice system and uphold the rule of law with new powers to stop highly disruptive protests, tackle unauthorised encampments, and reform bail to better protect victims and witnesses.
- Improve the efficiency of justice by modernising our courts and tribunals, creating resiliency and improving the experience of victims, witnesses, and court users.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Protecting the public by giving police the tools they need to tackle crime and disorder, and ensuring justice and the protection of the public by extending the length of time spent in prison by serious and dangerous offenders.
- Protecting the police and other emergency workers who keep the public safe, with longer sentences for those who assault them and a new Policing Covenant to help ensure we take better care of our police officers and staff.
- Better protecting the rights of the law-abiding majority by providing the police with the necessary powers to deal with highly disruptive protests and tackle unauthorised encampments that cause nuisance and misery for local people.
- Creating a more resilient, accessible, and efficient court system by allowing courts to make use of new technology as it develops, making permanent the provisions for participants in criminal hearings to attend remotely, and allowing deaf people to serve on juries for the first time.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Introducing tougher sentences for offences such as rape, manslaughter and wounding with intent to cause Grievous Bodily Harm by ending the automatic

release at the halfway point for serious sexual and violent offenders sentenced to a standard determinate sentence of between 4 and 7 years. This will bring their release point in line with serious violent and sexual offenders sentenced to 7 years or more, following the secondary legislation we introduced in April last year.

- Increasing the maximum prison sentence for assaulting an emergency worker from 12 months to two years and creating a statutory requirement for the Home Secretary to report annually on progress made against the Police Covenant.
- Strengthening community sentences to cut crime by providing appropriate punishment addressing drivers of offending.
- Placing a duty on local authorities, the police, criminal justice agencies, health and fire and rescue services to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, and the introduction of Serious Violence Reduction Orders. These will be used to prevent serious violence by equipping the police with new powers to stop and search those convicted of knife and offensive weapons offences.
- Reforming pre-charge bail so that bail conditions, such as prohibiting contact, are used more effectively to better protect victims and witnesses.
- Extending the scope of offences in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 relating to the abuse of positions of trust legislation to capture additional roles, such as sport coaches and religious leaders.
- Balancing the rights of protesters with the rights of others to go about their business unhindered, by enabling the police to better manage highly disruptive protests.
- A new criminal offence to target trespassers using vehicles to reside on land who are causing significant damage or significant disruption to local communities.
- Creating the necessary basis in legislation for the providers of Secure Schools to operate this new form of youth custodial institution that is designed to place education at the heart of youth custody in order to cut crime.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend to the whole of the UK, with substantive provisions applying in the main to England and Wales, with some provisions also applying to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Key facts

- The Government is committed to delivering its manifesto target to recruit an

additional 20,000 police officers by 31 March 2023 – the biggest police recruitment drive in decades. Over 8,700 extra officers have been recruited as at 31 March 2021, exceeding the target for the first year of the recruitment campaign.

- On 4 February 2021, we published a total police funding settlement for England and Wales of up to £15.8 billion in 2021-22, an increase of up to £600 million compared to 2020-21. This includes Government grants to Police and Crime Commissioners (including police core grant, counter-terrorism funding and pensions grant), funding through local council tax precept and funding for national priorities, such as tackling serious and organised crime.
- Assaults on a constable with injury increased by 5 per cent between September 2019 and September 2020 to 11,484 assaults and without injury 14 per cent (to 23,549) over the same period.
- There were 698 victims of homicide in the year ending September 2020, a 7 per cent increase (from 655) with the previous year. The homicide incidence rate remains very low at 12 per 1 million people in the year ending September 2020.
- There were 621 adult offenders overall sentenced to a Standard Determinate Sentence (SDS) of 4-7 years in 2019 for the offences in scope of our proposed changes to release to the two-thirds point, representing 11 per cent of all SDS given for this sentence length.
- Knife crime has been rising in recent years, but had begun to fall before the pandemic, and the COVID-19 restrictions have helped suppress it. Our efforts to cut crime were taking effect before the pandemic, but there remains much more for us to achieve.
- Local authority responses provided data in response to the 2018 consultation on the number and scale of unauthorised encampments – these range from low numbers to over 150 across the previous two years in larger local authority areas.

Criminal Justice Catch-up and Recovery Plan

“Legislation will...ensure the timely administration of justice.”

- We are proud to have kept the justice system running in the face of the pandemic and to have been one of the first countries in the world to resume jury trials. We have provided funding across policing and courts to tackle the challenges and pressures of COVID-19 including nearly £200 million to police forces since the start of the pandemic.
- The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has prioritised charging for the most important cases, including high harm cases with vulnerable victims and COVID-related offences, and we have spent over £250 million on courts to roll-out new technology for remote hearings, hire more staff, make the court estate COVID-secure, and set up 60 new Nightingale courtrooms. While this has enabled disposals to return to pre-pandemic levels in the Crown Court, which is over 2,000 cases per week, and the completion of more than 7,000 jury trials last year victims, witnesses, and defendants are having to wait too long for their cases to be heard, and the number of outstanding cases has increased substantially.
- We will address this by increasing capacity in our courts, running Crown Courts to the fullest possible extent, using every judge and courtroom to maximise court sitting days. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill will help us go further with measures to improve the efficiency of courts, creating resilience, and modernising processes.
- We are determined to maintain the trust of victims and build confidence in the system, and that’s why we have increased funding for victim support services, with £151 million this year, including £27 million to increase the number of independent advisors for rape and domestic abuse victims by over 40 per cent. We are also providing an additional £5 million to bolster police Witness Care Units in their work to support victims and witnesses through the criminal justice process.

Coroners

- We will provide a package of coroner measures for England and Wales aimed at putting aspects of the running of the coronial system on the same footing as other courts and tribunals. Efficiency will be increased, through virtual hearings, inquests to be held without a hearing in non-contentious cases, investigations discontinued where the cause of death is natural without first requiring a post mortem, and allowing coroner areas to merge across local authority boundaries.
- By ensuring the coroners jurisdiction is in line with other courts and tribunals which already have remote hearings and enabling the recovery of coroner services following the COVID-19 pandemic, we will reduce delays in progressing

cases and therefore reduce the distress of bereaved families.

Criminal courts

- We will support court recovery in England and Wales by modernising and streamlining court processes and removing outdated or unnecessary procedures and hearings.
- We will extend the powers of criminal courts to serve documents more efficiently, including by electronic means, and simplify proceedings through greater use of written/online procedures for entering pleas; and speed up the allocation process for either-way cases enabling it to be done in the defendant's absence and in writing without a court hearing if appropriate.
- We will also schedule trials as quickly as possible for either-way offences, enabling defendants to be sent straight to the Crown Court (without a hearing in the magistrates court) if they indicate a guilty plea to a triable either way offence.

Employment tribunals

- We will transfer Employment Tribunal and Employment Appeal Tribunal rule-making powers from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy or Lord Chancellor to the Tribunal Procedure Committee.
- We will increase the efficiency of the process for Employment Tribunal procedures by aligning it with that of other tribunals in the Unified Tribunals structure. This will maximise the impact of ongoing work to tackle the impact of COVID-19 backlogs.

Key facts

- Courts never stopped running, and we were among the first to restart jury trials in May 2020. We now have over 290 COVID-secure jury trial rooms available.
- The Crown Court outstanding caseload has increased from 39,000 before COVID-19 to 57,000 now, but we are seeing an overall slowing in the growth of the outstanding caseload: in the first six months of the pandemic, the caseload grew by around 10,000, but grew by only around 7500 cases in the second six months.
- The magistrates' courts outstanding caseload has reduced from its COVID-19 peak last summer of 525,000, and is now at 476,000 (compared to 410,000 before COVID-19).
- Last year and this year sitting days have had no limit in the Crown Court, so that

they are not a restraint on the number of cases that the court can get through.

Coroners

- In many of the approximately 30,000 inquests each year, those most likely to attend are content not to do so.
- A coroner can currently only discontinue an investigation where the cause of death is revealed by a post mortem examination.

Criminal courts

- The Government is investing over £1 billion to transform the courts and tribunals system and a further £142 million in COVID-19 funding to help support court recovery by upgrading court buildings and ensuring they are digitally enabled.
- These measures form part of the criminal court reform programme and complement measures in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill (which enable greater use of audio and video technology in criminal proceedings). The programme aims to modernise court processes by removing outdated procedures and unnecessary hearings and making better use of new technology.

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

“Proposals will be brought forward to address violence, including against women and girls...”

- We are determined to tackle crime and this includes tackling violence against women and girls.
- We are taking action to toughen sentences, protect the public and improve support for victims. We are investing record amounts in support for victims, more than £300 million this year.
- We will be publishing a new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy which will help us to better target perpetrators and support victims. It will also increase our ability to tackle emerging crime types such as ‘upskirting’ and revenge porn. We are currently analysing the Call for Evidence responses (over 180,000), which will help inform the strategy and ensure we are listening to public concerns and placing victims and survivors at the heart of our approach.
- We are also conducting an end-to-end review of the criminal justice response to rape due this summer, looking at how every stage of the criminal justice system handles rape cases, from police report to the final outcome at court.
- The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill will overhaul sentencing laws to keep serious sexual offenders behind bars for longer. It will also help the police better manage those who pose a risk of sexual harm and further protect the public, including by requiring perpetrators to attend behavioural change programmes or to wear an electronic tag.
- We will also publish a Domestic Abuse Strategy focusing on prevention, accompanied by £25 million of investment which will more than double the amount being spent on programmes to work with perpetrators. This will help prevent these crimes happening in the first place and therefore break the cycle of abuse.
- Our landmark Domestic Abuse Act demonstrates this Government’s commitment to tackling domestic abuse - creating a new offence of non-fatal strangulation and giving the police new powers including Domestic Abuse Protection Notices, providing victims with immediate protection from abusers. Courts will be able to hand out new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders to help prevent offending by forcing perpetrators to take steps to change their behaviour, including seeking mental health support or drug and alcohol rehabilitation

Key facts

- We have taken forward a range of work to strengthen the response to violence against women and girls, including:
 - Passing the landmark Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to introduce a new duty on Local Authorities to assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims (and their children) and prohibited charges for the provision of domestic abuse legal aid letters by health professionals in general practice.
 - Carrying out an end-to-end Rape Review looking at how every stage of the criminal justice system handles rape cases.
 - Providing additional support during the COVID-19 pandemic, including £76 million to support victims of domestic and sexual abuse, vulnerable children and their families. This included the launch of Ask for ANI (the codeword scheme to support victims of domestic abuse). Around 5,000 independent pharmacies, in addition to Boots, are now participating.
 - Receiving more than 180,000 responses to our Violence Against Women and Girls survey. We will now listen to these responses and publish our strategy later this year.
 - More than doubling the Safer Streets Fund, which provides funding for local measures to improve safety and cut crime, such as better street lighting and CCTV.
 - Providing £27 million - an increase of over 40 per cent - to create more than 700 new posts for Independent Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Advisers, to ensure victims are supported throughout the criminal justice system process.

Draft Victims Bill

“Proposals will be brought forward to...support victims.”

The purpose of the draft Bill is to:

- Put into law the simplified and stronger rights that were set out in the new Victims’ Code and improve victims of crime experience of the criminal justice system.
- Set expectations for the standard and availability of victim support for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, demonstrating the Government’s continued commitment to tackling violence against women and girls and domestic abuse.

The main benefits of the draft Bill would be:

- Ensuring victims are more consistently aware of their rights and more consistently supported, helping victims to deal with and recover from the impacts of crime and improve their experience as a victim within the criminal justice process.
- Helping victims to engage confidently with the criminal justice system in the knowledge that they will be treated fairly and supported throughout their journey, thereby increasing the number of successful prosecutions and enabling more perpetrators to be brought to justice.

The main elements of the draft Bill are:

- Enshrining the 12 key rights in the new Victims’ Code into law. Those key rights include being:
 - Kept informed at key stages of the case.
 - Provided with regular updates on the progress of their case.
 - Referred to organisations supporting victims of crime.
 - Given the opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement and be informed how it was used in court.
 - Informed when an offender is released, where eligible under the Victim Contact Scheme.

Territorial extent and application

- The contents of the draft Bill are to be agreed.

Key facts

- Only 23 per cent of victims were aware of the existence of the Victims' Code in the year ending March 2020. We are working to address the lack of awareness among victims of their rights, including an awareness raising campaign as part of the launch of the Victims' Code, which is supported by the criminal justice agencies and victims' groups.
- We have committed to consult on the provision of community-based domestic abuse services as part of the Victims' Bill consultation.
- More victims than ever are seeking support, with calls to domestic abuse helplines currently 71 per cent above pre-pandemic baseline levels (8 March 2020), and calls to sexual violence helplines currently 150 per cent above pre-pandemic baseline levels for the same week. Consultation into the provision of support services will address this.
- In 2021-22, the Ministry of Justice will provide just under £151 million for victim and witness support services. This includes an extra £51 million to increase support for rape and domestic abuse victims, building on the emergency funding provided to help domestic abuse and sexual violence services meet COVID-19 driven demand. Additionally, £125 million will be provided to fund the new duty in the Domestic Abuse Act for local authorities to provide support services to victims of domestic abuse housed within safe accommodation.

New Plan for Immigration Legislation

“Measures will be brought forward to establish a fairer immigration system that strengthens the United Kingdom’s borders and deters criminals who facilitate dangerous and illegal journeys.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Support the delivery of our New Plan for Immigration which will increase the fairness and efficacy of our system so that we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum.
- Deter illegal entry into the UK, breaking the business model of criminal trafficking networks and protecting the lives of those they endanger.
- Enable those with no right to be here to be removed more easily from the UK.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Delivering the most significant overhaul of our asylum system in decades - a new, comprehensive, fair but firm long-term plan.
- Continuing our proud record of helping those facing persecution, oppression and tyranny.
- Taking down the criminal networks responsible for trading in human misery, putting lives in danger, and smuggling vulnerable people, as well as reducing the numbers of people entering the UK illegally.
- Increasing the removal of those with no right to remain in the UK, including foreign national offenders.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Ensuring our system does not reward those who enter the UK illegally and that those who have travelled through a safe country where they could have reasonably claimed asylum, such as France or Belgium, will not be admitted into the UK asylum system.
- Ensuring that for the first time, whether people enter the UK legally or illegally, will have an impact on how their asylum claim progresses, and on their status in the UK if that claim is successful.
- Creating a new and expanded ‘one-stop’ process to ensure that asylum, human

rights claims and any other protection claims are made and considered upfront at the very start of the process, ending the cycle of limitless appeals.

- Ending the use of hotels and moving towards reception centres for asylum seekers so they have simple, safe and secure accommodation to stay in while their claims are processed.
- Correcting historical anomalies in British Nationality law which have long prevented individuals from gaining British citizenship or registering for citizenship, through no fault of their own.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in the Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- In 2019 UK asylum applications increased by 21 per cent on the previous year to almost 36,000 – the highest number since the 2015-16 European 'migration crisis'.
- In 2019 there were just over 32,400 attempts to enter the UK clandestinely prevented at the juxtaposed controls located in France; and over 16,000 detected illegal arrivals to the UK.
- In 2019 around 62 per cent of asylum claimants to the UK had entered the country illegally (40 per cent clandestinely, 22 per cent without relevant documentation) with the remainder largely thought to have arrived regularly (on a visa before subsequently applying for asylum).
- The asylum system is costing the taxpayer over £1 billion a year.
- By the end of 2020, 52,000 asylum claims were awaiting an initial decision, with 109,000 cases in the system overall.
- In 2019, returns from the UK decreased to just over 7,000 (7,192), 22 per cent lower than the previous year, continuing a downward trend since 2013.
- The new Hong Kong BN(O) Visa:
 - On 31 January 2021, the UK launched a new, bespoke immigration route for British National (Overseas) status holders and their immediate family members.
 - Those with British National (Overseas) status in Hong Kong and their

eligible family members are able to come to the UK to live, study and work in virtually any capacity, on a pathway to citizenship. After five years in the UK, they and their family members will be able to apply for settlement, followed by citizenship after a further twelve months.

- The route is already a success with approximately 27,000 applications received as of 19 March 2021.
- Our central estimates of those who will take up this offer range between 123,000 and 153,700 people coming in the first year and between 258,000 and 322,400 over five years.

Draft Online Safety Bill

“My Government will lead the way in ensuring internet safety for all, especially for children, whilst harnessing the benefits of a free, open and secure internet.”

The purpose of the draft Bill is to:

- Introduce ground-breaking laws to keep people safe online whilst ensuring that users’ rights, including freedom of expression, are protected online.
- Build public trust by making companies responsible for their users’ safety online, whilst supporting a thriving and fast growing digital sector.
- Designate Ofcom as the independent online safety regulator.

The main benefits of the draft Bill would be:

- Delivering our manifesto commitment to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online, through improving protections for users, especially children, whilst protecting freedom of expression.
- Ensuring there is no safe space for criminal content and activity online.
- Restoring public trust in the services that online platforms offer and supporting a thriving, fast growing digital sector.

The main elements of the draft Bill are:

- Placing a duty of care on companies to improve the safety of their users online. This will require them to tackle illegal content on their services and to protect children from harmful content and activity online. They must seriously consider the risks their services pose to users and take action to protect them.
- Requiring major platforms to set out clearly in their terms and conditions what legal content is unacceptable on their platform and enforce these consistently and transparently.
- Requiring platforms to have effective and accessible user reporting and redress mechanisms to report concerns about harmful content, and challenge infringement of rights (such as wrongful takedown).
- Designating Ofcom as the independent online safety regulator and giving it a suite of robust enforcement powers to uphold the regulation. This will include very large fines of up to £18 million or 10 per cent of annual global turnover - whichever is greater - as well as business disruption measures. The Government

expects Ofcom to prioritise enforcement action where children's safety has been compromised.

- Boosting public resilience to disinformation through media literacy and supporting research on misinformation and disinformation.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- In April 2020, internet users in the UK spent an average of 4 hours 2 minutes online each day, a record figure. However, over three quarters of UK adults express a concern about going online.
- Fewer parents also feel the benefits outweigh the risks of their children being online (falling from 65 per cent in 2015 to 55 per cent in 2019).
- In a month-long period during 2020, the Internet Watch Foundation and its partners blocked at least 8.8 million attempts by UK internet users to access videos and images of children suffering sexual abuse.
- During lockdown, research by YouGov shows that 47 per cent of children and teens have seen content they would rather avoid, leaving them feeling uncomfortable (29 per cent), scared (23 per cent), and confused (19 per cent). One in seven (13 per cent) were exposed to harmful content on a daily basis.
- There were more than 69 million images and videos related to child sexual exploitation and abuse referred by US technology companies to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2019, an increase of more than 50 per cent on the previous year.
- In March 2021, 35 per cent of people used social media as a source of information about the pandemic. Social media has been the biggest source of false or misleading information about 5G technologies and COVID-19 vaccinations during the pandemic.

Counter-State Threats Bill

“Legislation will be introduced to counter hostile activity by foreign states.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Provide the security services and law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to tackle the evolving threat from hostile activity by states and actors.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Making the UK a harder environment for states to conduct hostile activity in and increasing the cost to them of doing so.
- Ensuring the security services and law enforcement agencies have the necessary powers to tackle future threats and the evolving tactics carried out by hostile states and actors.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Reforming the Official Secrets Acts 1911, 1920 and 1939 which have failed to keep pace with modern threats and legal standards.
- Creating of a Foreign Influence Registration Scheme to help combat espionage, foreign interference, and to better protect research.
- Bringing together new and modernised powers, ensuring our security services can tackle evolving hostile activity by states.
- We are also considering whether there is a case to be made for criminalising other harmful activity conducted by and on behalf of states, including the consideration of updating treason laws.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in this Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- A significant part of Official Secrets legislation dates back to the early 20th Century, with its legislative roots in an 1889 Act. The language is archaic and complex and does not address the modern threats posed by hostile activity carried out by states.

Telecommunications (Security) Bill

“My Government will introduce measures to increase the safety and security of its citizens.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Give the Government new powers to boost the security standards of the UK’s telecoms networks and establish one of the strongest regimes for telecoms security in the world.
- Strengthen the security and oversight of technology used in telecoms networks including the electronic equipment and software used across the network which handle internet traffic and telephone calls.
- Ensure that the Government can respond to national security threats within our networks now and in the future, as technologies evolve and new threats emerge.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring the long-term security and resilience of the UK’s telecoms networks and infrastructure and minimising the threat of high risk vendors.
- Giving people confidence in the security of the mobile and broadband networks which they rely upon for business and leisure, in an age where new and potentially transformative technologies such as 5G and gigabit-capable broadband are emerging.
- Delivering on the Government’s commitment in the 2019 Telecoms Supply Chain Review Report to introduce a new, robust telecoms security framework.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- New legal duties on telecoms firms to increase the security of the entire UK telecoms network.
- New powers for the Government to place controls on use of services and equipment from high risk vendors such as Huawei.
- New responsibilities on Ofcom to monitor telecoms operators’ security.
- Fines of up to 10 per cent of turnover or £100,000 a day for failing to meet the required standards.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill's provisions will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- The National Cyber Security Centre has issued advice which references the vendors it considers are high risk. These include Huawei and ZTE.
- We have set out our clear long-term timetable to remove Huawei from our 5G networks by the end of 2027 and announced that operators should stop installing Huawei telecoms equipment in 5G networks by the end of September 2021.
- The Bill would, subject to the relevant consultation requirements, enable the Government to put these announcements on a clear legal footing and to take action, when necessary, against other high risk vendors in the future.

Defence Spending

“My Ministers will provide our gallant Armed Services with the biggest spending increase in thirty years, taking forward their programme of modernisation and reinforcing the United Kingdom’s commitment to NATO.”

- The Government is investing over £24 billion more in defence in cash terms over the four years from 2021-22. This is the biggest sustained defence spending increase since the end of the cold war.
- This investment, and funding to implement the Integrated Review and the Defence Command Paper, is an unprecedented funding programme to modernise our Armed Forces, to make them fit for the threats of a more competitive age and the opportunities of a Global Britain.
- We are driving innovation in game-changing technologies that will give us a decisive edge, investing in agile, inter-connected, and data-driven capabilities that will make generational leaps in our capability to outpace our adversaries. It is vital that we seize the opportunities for innovation – focusing on game-changing technologies – and protect those technologies that will provide us with a decisive edge. This will enable us to ensure that the UK continues to have competitive, innovative and world-class defence to accelerate the transformation of our armed forces and sustain our strategic advantage.
- We will constantly adapt, experiment, and take risks to further strengthen the UK’s strategic technological advantage. The additional funding announced will:
 - Enable research into artificial intelligence and other battle-winning technologies, with an investment of at least £6.6 billion in research and development.
 - Enhance the breadth of our space capabilities and our new Space Command.
 - Continue the renewal of the UK’s nuclear deterrent.
 - Deliver our plans for eight Type 26 and five Type 31 frigates, and develop the next generation of naval vessels, including Type 32 frigates and Fleet Solid Support ships.
 - Further develop our Carrier Strike capabilities, with at least 48 UK F-35s by 2025.
 - Deliver upgraded Typhoon radars and develop a new Combat Air system for the RAF.

- Ensure our Armed Forces are more agile, more lethal and more integrated as well as providing additional investment in new Army equipment on top of the more than £20 billion planned.
- Enable the creation of a new special operations Ranger Regiment, development of the Future Commando Force and a pioneering warfighting experimentation Battle Group.
- Enable us to upgrade 148 main battle tanks, making Challenger III one of the most protected and lethal in Europe.
- This cash injection reaffirms the UK's commitment to our allies, cementing the UK as the largest European defence spender in NATO and the second largest in the Alliance.

Key facts

- The additional investment of over £24 billion in the defence budget will:
 - Exceed the Government's commitment to spend at least 2 per cent of GDP on defence in every year of this Parliament; NATO figures show our current commitment is 2.3 per cent.
 - Ensure the UK continues to meet both NATO spending guidelines to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence and 20 per cent of annual defence expenditure on major equipment and associated research and development.
 - Secure 400,000 jobs and increase opportunities across the Union.
 - Support around £20 billion investment in UK industry and commerce every year.
 - Ensure at least £6.6 billion investment for next generation capabilities and research, especially cyber and space.
- We will double shipbuilding investment over the life of this Parliament to more than £1.7 billion a year.

Armed Forces Bill

“My Ministers will honour and strengthen the Armed Forces Covenant, placing it in law.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Renew the Armed Forces Act 2006, which underpins the Armed Forces and its governance.
- Deliver the Government’s commitment to further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law.
- Maintain the effectiveness of the Service Justice System so that it continues to serve the needs of the Armed Forces.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring the continuation of the UK Armed Forces.
- Ensuring that those who serve, or have served, and their families are treated with fairness and respect by enshrining the Armed Forces Covenant in law.
- Strengthening and improving the service justice system so that personnel have a clear, fair and effective route to justice wherever they are operating.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Renewing the Armed Forces Act 2006, which would otherwise expire at the end of 2021 and there would be no legislative basis for our Armed Forces.
- Introducing a new duty to require relevant public bodies across the UK, when exercising specified public functions in the education, healthcare and housing sectors to have due regard to the three principles of the Armed Forces Covenant:
 - Recognising the unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the Armed Forces.
 - That it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces.
 - That special provision for Service people may be justified by the effect on such people of membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces.
- Implementing the recommendations of the independent review of the service

justice system that require primary legislation, including:

- Providing clearer guidance for prosecutors on how serious crimes committed by service personnel in the UK should be handled, placing a Duty on the Director of Service Prosecutions and the Director of Public Prosecutions to agree a protocol where there is concurrent jurisdiction to provide clearer guidance to assist those independent decisions.
- Creating an independent body to oversee complaints, overseen by a Service Police Complaints Commissioner who will ensure there is an independent line of redress if someone is dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint.
- Making the complaints system more efficient by bringing the time given to personnel to lodge an appeal in line with timings offered in the private sector.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in this Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK.
- Amendments to the Armed Forces Act 2006 extend directly to the Isle of Man and the British Overseas Territories (excluding Gibraltar), subject to a power to modify the Act by Order in Council. They can be extended, with appropriate modifications, by Order in Council to the Channel Islands.

Key facts

- The Armed Forces Covenant was introduced a decade ago. During that time, we have seen an important and welcome shift in attitudes towards Service people and the unique challenges they face.
- Veterans have found work, reservists have got the time off needed to deploy, and military spouses have received further help for their careers.
- Last year's annual report showed that the scope and effectiveness of the Armed Forces Covenant has continued to grow.
- 79,000 service children now benefit from £24.5 million of additional pupil funding.
- 22,200 service personnel have been helped on to the housing ladder by the Forces Help to Buy and 800 GP practices in England are now accredited as 'veteran friendly' with more joining their ranks every day.
- The Defence Accommodation Strategy will set the direction for how the Defence's

offer on accommodation supports the needs of serving people and their families, including an investment of £1.5 billion to improve Single Living Accommodation over 10 years.

- Informed by the Living In Our Shows report, we will refresh the UK Armed Forces Families Strategy and develop the Service Children's Childcare plan, including the Manifesto commitment for 4-11 year old Wraparound Childcare.
- We have provided cash boosts for family accommodation, introduced free breakfasts and after school clubs for military children, brought in the veterans' rail card and given millions to service charities.

BUILDING BACK FAIRER: IMPROVING AND INCREASING OPPORTUNITY

Education Recovery Plan

“My Ministers will address lost learning during the pandemic and ensure every child has a high quality education and is able to fulfil their potential.”

- As we build back from the pandemic, we are putting in place a package of measures to ensure no child is left behind as a result of the education and extracurricular activities they may have missed out on. We are working with the Education Recovery Commissioner – Sir Kevan Collins – to develop an ambitious, long-term plan that builds back a better and fairer education system in England and delivers significant reforms to address the scale of this challenge.
- As a first step, over the past year we have already provided over £2 billion to schools, colleges and early years settings to support pupils’ academic and wider progress. This includes £1.7 billion in funding to support education recovery and over £400 million is being invested to support access to remote education including securing 1.3 million laptops and tablets.

Wider Education Reform

- We are continuing our long-term reform of school funding, investing over £14 billion more in our schools over the next three years to 2022-23, meaning all schools will receive more money for every pupil. We will also progress towards a single national funding formula that determines every school’s funding, so that schools see greater consistency and fairness in their funding.
- We are investing an additional £730 million into high needs in 2021-22, building on the additional £780 million in 2020-21.
- We are making a significant investment in teachers. From September 2021 we will be funding an entitlement for early career teachers in England to access world class professional development at the start of their career so they are trained in evidenced-based techniques. These reforms are the most significant reforms to teaching in a generation and will ensure early career teachers are supported to deliver the best outcomes for their pupils.
- Post-16 technical education must meet the needs of employers, which is why we will continue with the roll out of T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications, ensuring that more students can benefit from these high quality qualifications, based on employer led standards. We have already invested £200 million in updating the Further Education estate and we will be investing a further £1.3 billion over the next 5 years.

- To support vulnerable children and young people, we are investing £220 million in the Holiday Activities and Food programme, which will be expanded across England this year to provide healthy food and enriching activities during the school holiday. We are also investing £79 million to boost children and young people's mental health support.
- We have launched an independent review of children's social care, looking at the needs, experiences, and outcomes of the children it supports. We are also continuing our work on the Review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), which aims to ensure the SEND system is consistent, high quality, and integrated across education, health and care.

Key Facts

- So far, we have made available £1.7 billion to support education recovery. In June 2020 we announced a £1 billion catch-up package including a National Tutoring Programme and a Catch-up Premium. In February 2021 we committed to further funding of £700 million. This will fund summer schools, an expansion of our tutoring programmes and a £302 million Recovery Premium for the next academic year, which includes £22 million to scale up well evidenced programmes.
- The Sutton Trust found that pupils from the least affluent families are significantly less likely to have been tutored compared to those from the most affluent (18 per cent vs. 43 per cent), a gap that likely widened during lockdown.
- We are investing over £400 million to support access to remote education and online social care services, including securing 1.3 million laptops and tablets.
- In 2021-22, mainstream school funding will increase by 3.5 per cent overall.
- We will recruit and retain the best teachers in our classrooms through our commitment to increasing starting salaries to £30,000 – they have increased by 5.5 per cent this year.
- We are investing £10 million through our behaviour hubs programme, to run over the next three years. Good behaviour and discipline in schools is crucial if children are to reach their full potential.
- The Independent Review of Children's Social Care is a manifesto commitment and launched on 15 January 2021. Josh MacAlister, the founder and former Chief Executive of Frontline, has commenced his role as Chair of the Independent Review.

Early Years Healthy Development Review

“Measures will be brought forward to ensure that children have the best start in life, prioritising their early years.”

- As part of the Government’s determination to level up across the country, we are committed to ensuring that the youngest members of society – and the families who nurture and care for them – are given the help and support they need to ensure they can fulfil their potential in future. The Government has an excellent track record for improving outcomes for young children, and spends over £3.5 billion per year on our early education entitlements and to support families with their childcare costs.
- We are delivering on our manifesto commitment to roll out Family Hubs, which bring services together and aim to secure greater impact from these services for children and families. The Government is providing a further £14 million investment in Family Hubs to champion the model. The £14 million investment includes:
 - A new National Centre for Family Hubs to provide expert advice, guidance and advocacy.
 - An evaluation innovation fund to build the evidence base (around £900,000 over two years).
 - Data and digital products (through the Family Hubs – Growing Up Well project) that will support the practical implementation of Family Hubs by helping local early years professionals to provide joined up planning and support for families.
- In order to further improve improving how families with babies are supported in the period from conception to age two, the Government will deliver the ‘Action Areas’ set out in the Early Years Healthy Development Review. As detailed in *The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days*, published on 25 March 2021, this means we are:
 - Encouraging all local authorities to publish a clear Start for Life offer for parents and carers, showing families what support they can expect to receive during the 1,001 critical days from conception to age two.
 - Building on the Government’s commitment to champion ‘Family Hubs’, encouraging local authorities to make them a place for families to access Start for Life services as well as advice and support with other issues.
 - Designing digital, virtual and telephone services around the needs of

families with babies, including digitising the Personal Child Health Record – commonly known as the ‘Red Book’ – by April 2023.

- Developing a modern skilled workforce to meet the changing needs of families with babies, looking at new ways to support, train and retain skilled professionals.
 - Working across the system to hold local services to account, including through proportionate inspections, and to improve data, evaluation and outcomes of health services.
 - Encouraging local areas to nominate a leader and ensuring the delivery of the Review is overseen at a national level.
- Alongside the Early Years Healthy Development Review, we are implementing a wide range of policies to improve child health including the most ambitious childhood obesity plan in the world, transformation of children’s mental health and maternity services and a world-leading immunisation programme.
 - The Healthy Child Programme is the national evidence-based universal programme for children aged 0-19. The programme provides the bedrock for health improvement, public health and supporting families. There is commitment to modernise the programme over the next few years, to ensure the programme is both current in terms of evidence and context.

Key facts

- Leading child health experts agree the care given during the 1,001 critical days from conception to age two has significant influence on a child's future. Experiences during this time have an impact on the health, wellbeing and opportunity of children throughout life.
- The Government has an excellent track record of improving outcomes for young children. The proportion of children achieving a ‘good level of development’ at age five increased from 52 per cent in 2013 to 72 per cent by 2019.
- In addition, we have spent over £3.5 billion in each of the past three years on our early education entitlements and continue to support families with their childcare costs. The Chancellor announced on 25 November 2020 a £44 million investment for 2021-22, for local authorities to increase hourly rates paid to childcare providers for our free childcare entitlement offers.
- Since 2010, all three and four year olds have been able to access 15 hours of early education a week. In 2013, we also introduced 15 hours of free early

education a week for disadvantaged two year olds. Over one million disadvantaged two year olds have benefitted from 15 hours free childcare since the entitlement began, and take up has risen from 58 per cent in 2015 to 69 per cent in 2020.

- In September 2017, we doubled the free childcare available for eligible working parents of three and four year olds to 30 hours a week.

Building Safety Bill

“My Ministers will establish in law a new Building Safety Regulator to ensure that the tragedies of the past are never repeated.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Make substantial reforms to the UK’s building safety regime by establishing the Building Safety Regulator to deliver a new approach to regulating the built environment.
- Implement the recommendations made in the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety, led by Dame Judith Hackitt.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Changing the regulations and standards for the construction of high-risk buildings to ensure accountability and responsibility by making fundamental changes to the regulatory framework for higher-risk buildings and ensuring that products used in the construction of buildings will be held to rigorous safety standards.
- Putting in place measures that ensure homeowners can have a clearer path to redress and giving residents a stronger voice in the system.
- Ensuring the lessons from the Grenfell Tower tragedy are learnt and that residents are safe and feel safe in their homes.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Establishing the Building Safety Regulator and updating existing building safety regulation, including a new stringent regime for buildings 18 metres or more, or 7 storeys or more, and introducing a system of Accountable Persons and Dutyholders – who will be responsible for making and keeping a building safe.
- Establishing a new framework to provide national oversight of construction products, and strengthening the powers of the Office for Product Safety and Standards in this area.
- Establishing a new homes ombudsman and simplifying the process to log complaints to the Housing Ombudsman for social housing tenants.
- Making provisions to support the removal of unsafe cladding, including through a financing scheme to pay for costs and a levy to ensure the development industry pays its fair share of the costs of remediating unsafe cladding.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK. Its substantive provisions would apply in the main to England, with some provisions applying to England and Wales and provisions related to the Construction Products Regulator applying to the whole of the UK.

Key facts

- Over 13,000 buildings will fall into the higher risk regime established by the Bill, with an estimated 400 additional buildings coming into scope each year.
- We are supporting the removal of all unsafe cladding from buildings between 11-18m through a £5 billion investment fund which will fully cover these costs. We have also announced a generous financing scheme for the removal of unsafe cladding from buildings between 11 and 18 metres. A new tax on the residential property development sector will raise at least £2 billion to help cover the costs of the Government's remediation programme. We are also providing £30 million to pay for the cost of common alarm systems, to help end costly waking watch measures in buildings waiting for remediation.
- We are clear that the responsibility for building safety still lies with the building owner and that the Government has stepped in only as a last resort.
- The Government published a draft bill in July 2020 for pre-legislative scrutiny by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee. We will respond to their considerations shortly.

Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill

“Laws [to modernise the planning system]...will be brought forward, along with measures to end the practice of ground rents for new leasehold properties.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Tackle the inconsistency and ambiguity of ground rents for future leaseholders. The Government is legislating to require that – for the first time – ground rents in residential long leases will have no financial demand. These will be set in law as a ‘peppercorn rent’ level (the legal term), meaning that nothing more than a literal peppercorn can be sought from leaseholders.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring leaseholders of new, long residential leases cannot be charged a financial ground rent for no tangible service, making leasehold a more transparent and fairer system for homeowners.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Restricting the charging of ground rents on new long residential leases.
- Enforcing the charging of a prohibited ground rent by way of a civil penalty regime, including fines of up to £5,000 for freeholders that charge ground rent in contravention of the Bill.
- Ensuring that there can be no financial demand for ground rent for all future qualifying leases so that future leaseholders do not face unfair terms or significant ground rent liabilities.
- Having only selected exemptions, including:
 - Some parts of the community-led housing sector, so they can retain the right to levy ground rent to maintain their ability to further promote community activities.
 - Certain financial products which depend on leases where rent replaces interest bearing mortgage payments, such as those drawn on by the older population for a type of equity release and the growing Islamic finance sector.
 - Business leases, to allow people who need to live in the same premises as their workplace to continue to do this and agree with their freeholder the most beneficial and appropriate terms.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in the Bill will extend and apply to England and Wales.

Key facts

- Leasehold has always been a common form of ownership for flats. Historically, ground rents in leasehold contracts would require the payment of no or little financial value (a peppercorn) and only be used as a nominal consideration to form a leasehold contract, as opposed to a payment for any type of service.
- The Government has asked the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to conduct an investigation into potential mis-selling in the leasehold sector, which includes the problem of onerous ground rent terms.
- The CMA published an update in March 2021 and has issued consultation letters to two housing developers in relation to possible breaches of consumer protection law in the residential leasehold sector. Progress on the investigation can be found on the CMA website.

Renters' Reforms

“My Government will help more people to own their own home whilst enhancing the rights of those who rent.”

- The Government is committed to building back fairer and having a Better Deal for Renters in England. Later this year we will:
 - Publish our consultation response on reforming tenancy law to abolish Section 21 ‘no fault’ evictions and improve security for tenants in the private rented sector, as well as strengthening repossession grounds for landlords when they have valid cause.
 - Outline proposals for a new ‘lifetime’ tenancy deposit model that eases the burden on tenants when moving from one tenancy to the next, helping improve the experience of those living in the private rental sector.
 - Bring forward reforms to drive improvements in standards in rented accommodation, including by ensuring all tenants have a right to redress, and ensuring well targeted, effective enforcement that drives out criminal landlords, for example exploring the merits of a landlord register.
 - We will publish a White Paper detailing this reform package in the autumn, and legislation will follow in due course.
- There will be extensive stakeholder engagement working with the sector to inform and shape reforms. This will ensure the reforms deliver a private rented sector that works for both tenants and landlords, while also learning from the pandemic and its impact on the sector.
- This reform package is also expected to:
 - Require all private landlords to belong to a redress scheme, to drive up standards in the private rented sector and ensure that all tenants have a right to redress.
 - Consider further reforms of the private renter sector enforcement system so it is well targeted, effective and supports improvements in property conditions. This will include a set of measures to hold bad landlords to account for delivering safe and decent housing to tenants without penalising good landlords.
 - Explore improvements and possible efficiencies to the possession process in the courts, to make it quicker and easier for landlords and tenants to use.

- We will continue to deliver on the Social Housing White Paper proposals, including implementing the Charter for Social Housing Residents, delivering transformational change for social renters. We will also continue to develop reform of social housing regulations and look to legislate as soon as practicable. These reforms will drive social landlords' compliance with improved consumer standards and place social renters' interests at the heart of the regulatory system. We have already launched a review of the Decent Homes Standard, a working group on electrical safety, and held a consultation on smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, three key aspects of our commitment to ensure safe and decent homes, as well as running a national campaign to raise awareness of how to seek redress.

Key facts

- There are currently 4.4 million households in the private rented sector in England, making it the second largest tenure (19 per cent of households) behind the 15.4 million households (65 per cent) who are owner occupiers.
- Support for renters during the pandemic has included a six-month pause in court possession proceedings between March and September 2020, which protected 8.4 million households during the first wave of the pandemic. We increased the notice landlords are required to provide tenants before eviction to six months in most cases between 29 August 2020 and 31 May 2021. Restrictions on bailiff enforcement are in place until 31 May in all but the most egregious cases.
- Extensive financial support has also been provided for renters through the furlough scheme and a boost to the welfare safety net of billions of pounds. This included an increase in the Local Housing Allowance in April 2020 to cover at least 30 per cent of market rents – which has already benefited 1.5 million households by over £600 on average. We are also providing £140 million for this year through Discretionary Housing Payments to help people pay their rent – building on the £180 million provided last year.

Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

“Measures will be brought forward to address racial and ethnic disparities...”

- Last year the Prime Minister established an independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities to examine where inequality exists across the United Kingdom and to set out a positive agenda for change.
- The Commission reported on 31 March 2021, concluding that while racism clearly exists, the reasons behind disparities are complex, and often as much to do with social class, family structure and geography.
- The evidence based report uses data as a basis for its 24 recommendations which span education, employment, health and the criminal justice system. The recommendations are all designed to build trust, promote fairness, create agency and achieve inclusivity.
- The report makes an important contribution to both the national conversation about race, and the Government’s efforts to level up and unite the whole country. It is broader in scope than previous reviews and draws on a wide range of data. It also examines factors which explain ethnic minority success.
- The Government is now considering the Commission’s findings and recommendations in detail, assessing their implications on future Government policy, and will respond in due course.

Key facts

- The report presents a complex picture of ethnic disparities in the UK and the causes that lie behind them. Ethnic minorities have better school outcomes, higher entry rates to university, better average pay than whites under 30, longer life expectancy and better cancer outcomes.
- However, persistent and serious disparities continue to affect the life chances of ethnic minority groups. Black people aged 16 to 24 are murdered at a rate 24 times that of white people and people with ethnic minority names have to write 60 per cent more letters to get a call back for a job interview than those with a majority sounding name.
- The category of ‘BAME’ masks divergent outcomes between different ethnic minority groups. For example, 76 per cent of Black Africans have confidence in the police, 75 per cent of White British people have confidence but this falls to 56 per cent for Black Caribbeans. At GCSEs, Black African pupils outperform both these groups.

- The report recommends a range of measures to tackle racism in society: for example, more resourcing to the Equality and Human Rights Commission to pursue race discrimination cases and more effort from social media companies to tackle online racial abuse whilst maintaining free speech.
- It also recommends measures to build trust and improve public services. For example, enhanced community scrutiny of police to build mutual trust between the police and black residents and also for inspections to judge how well every force engages with their communities. This would mean more local accountability of police for disparities in stop and search, use of force and workforce diversity. The report also makes recommendations on education, employment and health.

Conversion Therapy

“Measures will be brought forward to...ban conversion therapy.”

- We will ban conversion therapy to prevent these abhorrent practices which can cause mental and physical harm.
- People should be free to be themselves in the UK. The ban will eliminate coercive practices which cause mental and physical harm to individuals. We will ensure the action we take to stop this practice is proportionate and effective, and does not have unintended consequences. We will ensure medical professionals, religious leaders, teachers and parents can continue to be able to have open and honest conversations with people.
- We will remain in close contact with the devolved administrations as we develop these measures to find constructive solutions to end this abhorrent practice for good.
- We will also launch a consultation before details of the ban are finalised to hear from a wide range of voices on how best to protect people from conversion therapy.
- We have commissioned research into the scope of practices and experiences of those subjected to conversion therapy, so that we can fully consider the needs of all those it affects.
- We will shortly invite organisations to bid to develop a package of support that will ensure victims of conversion therapy are able to find and access the help that they need. We anticipate that, following a competitive tender, the chosen provider will be in place by the summer.
- The Government is committed to delivering fairness for all. We are determined that Britain continues to be a global leader in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality. We will lead the effort to advance freedoms for LGBT people around the world by delivering Safe To Be Me, the UK's first ever International LGBT Conference.

Key facts

- The 2017 National LGBT Survey - the largest survey of its type in the world to date - found that 5 per cent of those who responded reported being offered, and 2 per cent reported having undergone conversion therapy. The survey did not ask when the conversion therapy took place, or in which country.
- Respondents were most likely to say that faith organisations had offered (53 per

cent) or conducted (51 per cent) conversion therapy. Moreover, 19 per cent of respondents said that the conversion therapy had been conducted by healthcare providers or medical professionals, and 16 per cent said that it had been conducted by their parents, guardians or other family members.

- There is no standard legal definition of conversion therapy.
- A victim support package will ensure victims of conversion therapy are able to find and access the support they need.
- The UK has accomplished a huge amount for LGBT people, including:
 - Introducing in January 2020 marriage for same-sex couples including in Northern Ireland.
 - Passing the 2017 Turing Law, to pardon men who were cautioned or convicted under historical legislation that outlawed homosexual acts.
 - Appointing the UK's first National LGBT Health Advisor, Dr Michael Brady, who is tasked with improving awareness of LGBT issues amongst the clinical profession and working to improve LGBT access to both physical and mental health services.
 - Rolling out the HIV prevention drug PrEP on the NHS, making it available across the country, benefiting tens of thousands of people, and driving us towards our ambition of zero new HIV transmissions by 2030. But we recognise that we need to go further to deliver this ambition, so we will be setting out our plans on reaching the 2030 target later this year.

Dormant Assets Bill

“Legislation will support the voluntary sector by... releasing additional funds for good causes.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Expand the Dormant Assets Scheme into the insurance and pensions, investment and wealth management, and securities sectors.
- Enable the social and environmental focus of the English portion of funds to be set through secondary legislation, so that over time the Scheme is able to respond more flexibly to changing social and environmental needs in England. This is in line with the model used in the devolved administrations.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Unlocking around £880 million for social and environmental initiatives across the UK.
- Protecting dormant asset owners and participating businesses while putting assets lying idle from a wider range of financial sectors to good use.
- Delivering on public commitments to expand the Scheme and maintain strong, voluntary engagement with a broad range of industry participants.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Expanding the Scheme into new asset classes and improving consumer protection in reuniting people with forgotten money.
- Aligning the model for how dormant assets funding is allocated in England with that used in the devolved administrations. This will enable Ministers to set, through secondary legislation, more specific purposes for the allocation of funding within the general “social or environmental purpose”.
- Improving the Scheme’s operation, for example by allowing the Scheme’s administrator, Reclaim Fund Ltd, to only accept transfers from participants who have undertaken appropriate efforts to trace, verify and reunite the asset with its rightful owner.
- Naming Reclaim Fund Ltd as the Scheme’s authorised reclaim fund.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK, with the exception of the provision on the distribution of money in England, which will only apply to England.

Key facts

- Expansion of the scheme has the potential to make £880 million available across the UK as it recovers from COVID-19.
- Over the last decade, the Scheme has unlocked more than £745 million for social and environmental initiatives from dormant bank and building society accounts. This includes releasing £150 million to help charities, social enterprises, and individuals during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The measure to align the English model for how dormant assets funding is allocated with that used in the devolved administrations includes a statutory duty to consult. Should the measure pass, the Government intends to launch a public consultation on the causes to which future funding can be distributed.

Charities Bill

“Legislation will support the voluntary sector by reducing unnecessary bureaucracy...”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Address a range of issues in charity law which hamper charities’ day to day activities, by implementing the majority of the recommendations in the Law Commission’s 2017 report ‘Technical Issues in Charity Law’.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Removing inappropriate burdens while safeguarding the public interest in ensuring that charities are properly run. Charities currently face unnecessary administrative and financial burdens because of inefficient and unduly complex law.
- Helping charities consolidate and restructure by simplifying a number of relevant processes, reducing costs and saving time for charities.
- Making charity regulation more effective and make the legal framework easier to navigate. This will enable charities to use their money and resources more effectively to promote their charitable causes.
- Providing a rebalancing of regulation – enabling trustees to run charities effectively, whilst ensuring that there is proper oversight and ensuring that the law works better for the entire sector.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Changing the law to help charities amend their governing documents more easily with Charity Commission oversight where appropriate.
- Giving charities more flexibility to obtain tailored advice when they sell land, and removing unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Increasing flexibility for charities to use their permanent endowment (assets or investments where the capital value must be preserved), with checks in place to ensure its protection in the long term.
- Removing legal barriers to charities merging, when a merger is in their best interests.
- Giving trustees advance assurance that litigation costs in the Charity Tribunal can

be paid from the charity's funds.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill's provisions will extend and apply to England and Wales.

Key facts

- Currently charities can find it burdensome to change governing documents, sell land, make better use of permanent endowment funds, and to merge with other charities. This Bill will make the above easier and will save charities time and money.
- There are approximately 169,000 charities in England and Wales registered with the Charity Commission.
- The sector employs almost 3 per cent of the total UK workforce. There are also more than 951,000 trustees of registered charities, supported by over 3.5 million volunteers.
- The Technical Issues in Charity Law report was published on 14 September 2017.
- The Law Commission's work on charity law developed from its Eleventh Programme of Law Reform.
- The report follows the Law Commission's 2014 Social Investment by Charities report, the recommendations from which were implemented in the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016.

Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Ensure equal treatment for all members within each of the main public service pension schemes. Reforms to these pension schemes were introduced in 2015 which, among other things, changed the schemes so that pensions are calculated on the average salary throughout an individual's career rather than their final salary. At the time the Government agreed, following negotiations with trade unions, to protect those closest to retirement, allowing them to remain in the final salary schemes. This was challenged in the Courts and found to discriminate against younger members. The Bill will remedy this.
- Reform the pension arrangements and increase the mandatory retirement age for the judiciary and to put judicial allowances on a firmer legal footing.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Providing public service workers with greater certainty of their benefit entitlements, as they will make their choice at retirement.
- Ensuring public service pensions continue to reward public servants for their dedicated service, whilst being fairer – especially for lower earners – and more affordable to the taxpayer.
- Supporting recruitment and retention in the judiciary and ensuring our judiciary can continue to meet the demands of the justice system, by reforming their pension arrangements and increasing the judicial mandatory retirement age.
- Increasing flexibility to tackle recruitment and retention issues in the judiciary by putting allowances on a firmer legal footing.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Implementing changes across all the main public service pension schemes in response to the Court of Appeal judgment in the *McCloud* and *Sargeant* cases:
 - Eligible members will have a choice of the benefits they wish to take for the “remedy period” of April 2015 to 31 March 2022.
 - From 1 April 2022, when the remedy period ends, all those in service will be members of the reformed pension schemes, ensuring equal treatment from that point on.
 - Bespoke measures to implement corresponding changes in the Judicial

Pension Schemes and Local Government Pension Scheme to reflect their different arrangements.

- Transfer members of the judiciary into a reformed pension scheme owing to the judges' unique circumstances of appointment.
- Raising the mandatory retirement age of judicial office holders from 70 to 75.
- Placing the power to set judicial allowances on firmer legal footing.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill's provisions will extend and apply to the whole of the UK. All substantive pensions measures will apply UK wide but some elements of the judicial measures will apply to England and Wales only.

Key facts

- The 2011 to 2015 reforms to public service pensions are estimated to save over £400 billion across the 50 years following their introduction.
- The cost of providing additional pension benefits during the remedy period (April 2015 to 31 March 2022) is estimated to be £17 billion (excluding administration costs). This equates to £2.5 billion for each year of the remedy period, based on 2016 valuation data. This is around 4 per cent of the savings from the 2011 to 2015 reforms.
- Raising the judicial mandatory retirement age from 70 to 75, averaged over a 10-year period, would allow approximately 400 judges and non-legal members, and 2000 magistrates to continue to serve.

BUILDING BACK GREENER: BUILDING A CLEANER AND GREENER UK

Climate Change, Net Zero and COP26

“My Government will invest in new green industries to create jobs, while protecting the environment. The United Kingdom is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and will continue to lead the way internationally by hosting the COP26 Summit in Glasgow.”

- We are already leading the way globally in acting on climate change - as the first major economy in the world to set net zero in law, we reduced our emissions by 44 per cent between 1990 and 2019, while growing our economy by 78 per cent. This is the fastest rate in the G7.
- We have laid legislation to set Carbon Budget 6 at the level recommended by the Climate Change Committee, which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 compared to future estimates of 1990 emissions levels – the most ambitious in the world.
- The Prime Minister has laid out a Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution over the next decade. The Plan will mobilise £12 billion of Government investment and could unlock three times as much private sector investment by 2030 to create thousands of highly-skilled green jobs, build back a greener economy and level up opportunity across the country.
- We are delivering on our Plan. We have announced new offshore wind ports supporting up to 60,000 jobs, supported over 100,000 businesses and public bodies to transition to low carbon heating, and we are helping tens of thousands of households to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes.
- We have already published our Energy White Paper which sets out the transformation of the UK's energy system. Policies included will create new industries and investment in green innovation and will support up to 220,000 jobs by 2030.
- Our Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy sets out an ambitious blueprint to deliver the world's first low-carbon industrial sector and over £1 billion to cut emissions, as well as supporting up to 80,000 jobs over the next three decades.
- Our forthcoming sector strategies, including Heat and Buildings, the Transport Decarbonisation Plan, and the comprehensive Net Zero Strategy will set out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050.
- The UK will host the vital COP26 climate negotiations in November this year to catalyse ambitious global action to cut emissions to net zero further, to help

communities adapt and increase resilience and harness growing momentum to successfully deliver the goals of the Paris Agreement.

- We will work with international partners to push a significant reduction in global carbon emissions with new or updated 2030 targets, otherwise known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), ahead of COP26, and commitments from countries, regions, businesses that set a course for net zero.
- The UK has announced a new NDC, which commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68 per cent by 2030 on 1990 levels, the highest level of emissions reductions by 2030 of any major economy to date, compared to 1990 levels.
- The UK is among the largest contributors of climate finance. The Prime Minister announced that the UK will double our International Climate Finance to at least £11.6 billion from 2021 to 2025 to drive clean and resilient growth in developing countries.
- From 31 March 2021 the UK Government will no longer provide any new direct financial or promotional support for the fossil fuel energy sector overseas, other than in limited circumstances. This includes UK Export Finance support, international aid funding, and trade promotion for new crude oil, natural gas and thermal coal projects. We are leading the way in R&D and innovation, including through the £1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio, and the £1 billion Ayrton Fund.

Key facts

- In 2019, the UK became the first major economy in the world to make a legally binding commitment to end its contribution to global warming by 2050 by reaching net zero emissions.
- We met our first and second carbon budgets that were established under the Climate Change Act 2008, and we are on track to overachieve on the third. We are taking decisive action to go further faster to deliver Carbon Budgets 4 and 5 (2023-27; 2028-32).
- Over 460,000 people are already working in low carbon businesses and their supply chains across the country, with turnover estimated at £46.7 billion in 2018.
- We are making progress. So far:
 - Low carbon electricity now gives us over 50 per cent of our total. We have the world's largest offshore wind capacity (a third of the global total).

- Coal's share of generation has fallen from 40 per cent in 2012 to under 3 per cent in 2019 and will be zero by 2024.
- Emissions from business and industry have halved since 1990.
- We have halved our emissions from the natural resources sector since 1990 and emissions from public buildings are down 42 per cent since 1990.
- In 2020, 13,460 hectares of trees were planted towards our 2025 UK yearly target of 30,000 hectares per year.
- We are ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030 putting the UK on course to be the fastest G7 country to decarbonise cars and vans, and from 2035, all new cars and vans must be zero emissions at the tailpipe. Currently, sales of battery electric vehicles are at seven per cent of all car sales.
- We have reduced emissions by more than two-thirds in the power sector. Renewable electricity generation has more than quadrupled since 2010 and low carbon electricity now gives us over 50 per cent of our total.
- We are taking action in every sector of the economy, investing in green industries to spur more private investment, including:
 - Committing £240 million for low carbon hydrogen production out to 2024-25.
 - £2 billion to kickstart a cycling and walking revolution.
 - £1 billion to capture carbon from power stations and industry.
 - £640 million Nature Climate Fund to provide significant funding for the creation, restoration and management of woodland and peatland habitats.
 - £100 million to research and develop Direct Air Capture technologies.
- Our Nationally Determined Contribution will reduce emissions by at least 68 per cent by 2030 on 1990 levels.
- Since 2011, our International Climate Finance has helped:
 - 57 million people cope with the effects of climate change.
 - 26 million people with improved access to clean energy.
 - Reduce or avoid 16 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Environment Bill

“My Government will invest in new green industries to create jobs, while protecting the environment... Legislation will set binding environmental targets.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Put the environment at the centre of policy making, making sure that this Government – and those in the future – are held accountable for making progress on environmental issues.
- Introduce a framework for legally-binding environmental targets and establish a new, independent Office for Environmental Protection.
- Introduce measures to revolutionise how we recycle; enhance local powers to tackle sources of air pollution; secure long-term, resilient water supplies and wastewater services; and protect nature and improve biodiversity.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Setting up a new, independent body that will hold all public authorities to account on environmental law, helping to drive momentum on progress to protect and improve the environment.
- Improving air quality by fighting air pollution so that we have cleaner air to breathe.
- Ensuring we can manage our precious water resources in a changing climate.
- Supporting Government’s ambitions to become a world leader in using resources efficiently.
- Restoring and enhancing nature and biodiversity, with thriving plants, wildlife and habitats.
- Ensuring companies undertake due diligence to protect ecosystems such as the rainforest from illegal deforestation.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Placing a duty on Ministers to ensure environmental considerations are central to policy development; setting legally-binding targets; producing a long-term environmental improvement plan; and setting up the independent Office for Environmental Protection.

- Preserving our resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency, and moving towards a circular economy. These measures include extended producer responsibility, product labelling powers, introducing a consistent approach to recycling across local authorities in England, introducing a deposit return scheme for drinks containers, and providing for more effective litter enforcement. It will also provide the powers to introduce charges for single use plastic items to combat pollution.
- Improving air quality by requiring the Secretary of State to set at least two legally-binding targets on air quality for PM2.5, the most harmful air pollutant.
- Managing water sustainably through modernised legislation to secure a long-term, resilient water supply and wastewater services.
- Protecting nature by mandating ‘biodiversity net gain’ in the planning system, ensuring new houses are not built at the expense of nature and delivering thriving natural spaces for communities. We will improve planning for nature recovery through Local Nature Recovery Strategies and create Nature Recovery Networks to join up nature sites and create wildlife-rich places. We will give communities a greater say in the protection of local trees.
- Placing requirements on larger businesses that use agricultural commodities associated with deforestation. These requirements will prohibit larger businesses from using key agricultural commodities produced on illegally deforested land.
- We will be putting forward amendments to the Environment Bill to reduce the harm from storm overflows to our rivers, waterways and coastlines. New duties will require the Government to publish a plan to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows by September 2022 and report to Parliament the progress of implementing the plan.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply UK wide, with over half of the Bill’s provisions applying to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Key facts

- The Bill has been carried over into the second session but work on implementing its measures has not stopped: Dame Glenys Stacey has been appointed as chair of the Office for Environmental Protection; a draft Principles Policy Statement is out for consultation; we have started developing our legally-binding targets with experts; and consultations have been launched on the deposit return scheme for drinks containers and extended producer responsibility for packaging.

- The Government is taking strong action to deliver the most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth and leave the environment in a better state than we found it.
- The UK was the first major economy to legislate to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and we have set out the most ambitious climate change target, cutting emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 on 1990 levels.
- This follows on action we have already taken:
 - We introduced one of the world's toughest bans on microbeads in rinse off personal care products in 2018 and introduced a ban on the supply of plastic straws, cotton buds and stirrers from 1 October 2020.
 - We will increase tree planting across the UK to 30,000 hectares of trees per year by 2025, have created a Nature for Climate Fund to drive a step change in planting in England and will publish an England Trees Action Plan this spring.
 - We have strengthened protections for ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other irreplaceable habitats in the revised national planning policy framework.
 - We have invested £3.8 billion into cleaner air, and emissions of nitrogen oxides have fallen by 32 per cent since 2010 and are at their lowest level since records began.
 - We have committed to protect 30 per cent of the UK's land by 2030 and will create new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and ten Landscape Recovery projects.
- The Environment Bill will work in tandem with policies introduced in the Agriculture Act 2020, supported by measures such as the Environmental Land Management schemes.

Animal Welfare Plan and Legislation

“Legislation will also be brought forward to ensure the United Kingdom has, and promotes, the highest standards of animal welfare.”

The purpose of the plan and legislation is to:

- Deliver on our commitment to the highest standards of animal welfare by bringing forward ambitious plans to improve standards and eradicate cruel practices through an Action Plan for Animal Welfare and legislation.
- Take advantage of our status as an independent nation outside the EU to go further in protecting our animals, whether on the farm, at home or in the wild and address the challenges presented to the welfare of animals in both the domestic and international spheres.
- Solidify and enhance our position as a global leader in protecting animal welfare by influencing practices and setting high standards for others across the world to follow.

The main benefits of the plan and legislation would be:

- Bringing in greater protections for wild animals by ending low welfare practices and enhancing conservation measures.
- Protecting and enhancing animal welfare for farm animals, bringing in more support for livestock farmers and ensuring effective powers are available to address welfare challenges.
- Recognising the importance of pets to people’s lives and cracking down on pet theft and improving the operation of microchipping practices.
- Continuing to lead the way in animal sentience by putting it at the heart of policy making and strengthening the penalties for those who abuse animals.
- Building on our reputation as a global leader for international advocacy on animal welfare and ensuring that our high animal welfare standards are not compromised in our trade negotiations.

The main elements of the plan and legislation are:

- Setting out our ambitious and wide-ranging plan for driving forward reforms in the first of its kind Action Plan for Animal Welfare.
- Delivering our commitment to recognise animal sentience in law through

the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill.

- Increasing protections for pets, sporting animals, and farm animals by ending the export of live animals for fattening and slaughter, bringing in more effective powers to tackle livestock worrying, ending the low welfare practice of keeping primates as pets, improving standards in zoos, cracking down on puppy smuggling, and enhancing conservations through a Kept Animals Bill.
- Banning the import of hunting trophies from endangered animals abroad and ending the advertising for sale here of low welfare experiences abroad through an Animals Abroad Bill.
- Implementing the Ivory Act to ban dealing in elephant ivory and consider further steps to limit the trade and sale of foie gras.
- Co-designing and implementing an Animal Health and Welfare Pathway with industry to promote the production of healthier, higher welfare animals; and fulfilling our commitment to a wide-ranging review into food labelling.
- Bringing in mandatory cat microchipping, reviewing the operation of the current microchip databases, which also apply to dogs, with a view to introducing improvements.
- Continuing our initiatives to educate the public on how to buy pet dogs and cats responsibly via our National 'Petfished' Communications Campaign and drawing up recommendations on how to tackle pet theft through the newly created cross Government taskforce.

Territorial extent and application

- Animal welfare is devolved and we will continue to work closely with the devolved administrations to discuss these policies.

Key Facts

- This programme of animal welfare reforms builds on the Government's strong record on animal welfare and protection of animals to date, including:
 - Banning commercial third-party sales of puppies and kittens in England, to end the terrible welfare conditions found in puppy farming.
 - Banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses.
 - Introducing the world's toughest bans on ivory sales to help stop the poaching of elephants.

- Supporting the passage of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021, sponsored by Chris Loder MP, which increases maximum custodial sentences for animal cruelty offences from six months to five years.
- Banning battery cages for laying hens, sow stalls and veal crates.
- Introducing CCTV in all slaughterhouses in England.

BUILDING BACK STRONGER: STRENGTHENING THE UNION AND THE CONSTITUTION

The Union

“My Government will strengthen the economic ties across the union, investing in and improving national infrastructure.”

“My Ministers will promote the strength and integrity of the union. Measures will be brought forward to strengthen devolved Government in Northern Ireland and to address the legacy of the past.”

- The Government is committed to protecting and promoting the strengths of the United Kingdom, building on hundreds of years of partnership between the regions of our country as the most successful political and economic union in history, the foundation upon which all our businesses and citizens are able to thrive and prosper.
- We are slowly emerging from the worst public health crisis in over a century and recovering from it is not going to be quick or easy. We need to get people back into work, businesses back on their feet, get hospital waiting times down from their record highs, and ensure young people catch up on the education they have missed. These are shared challenges that all parts of the UK face together, and our collective priority right now should be tackling them together.
- Throughout the pandemic, the UK Government has worked closely with the devolved administrations and other public authorities across the country, and remains committed to doing so. It is through working together, as a United Kingdom, that we can build back better, learning from one another to try and achieve the best outcomes for all the people of our great nation. To address the shared challenges of recovery from the pandemic the UK Government will invite the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales and the First and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland to a summit meeting in the coming weeks. This builds on the dozens of ministerial and official-level meetings between the UK Government and devolved administrations over recent months.
- The UK Government has ensured citizens and businesses across the UK benefit from our £352 billion package of support since the start of the pandemic – protecting 1.7 million jobs in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The Government has also provided access to the tests and key medicines, and ensured patients can receive treatment in NHS England, when required. As a result of the UK Government’s successful vaccine procurement, every part of the UK has received its fair share of one of the world’s largest and most diverse vaccine portfolios.

- The Government recognises the importance of transport to economic growth, job creation, building housing, social cohesion and to levelling up across all parts of the country. The Prime Minister asked Sir Peter Hendy to lead the Union Connectivity Review (UCR). The Review will consider specific transport projects that could improve transport connectivity between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The interim report was published in March 2021, with the final report due this summer.
- The recent Budget also demonstrated our commitment to strengthening the Union. Most of the policies announced in the Budget were UK-wide, including the extension to furlough and self-employed schemes, support for our Armed Forces, Recovery Loans, VAT cut, mortgage guarantee and Super Deduction capital investment.
- The financial assistance power in the UK Internal Market Act 2020 provides the opportunity for the UK Government to complement and strengthen support given to citizens, businesses and communities across Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. For the first time in decades, the UK Government can provide direct financial support to regenerate town centres and high streets, improve local transport links and infrastructure, and invest in the kind of cultural, sporting and economic development that can level up the whole country. The UK Government will continue to work closely with the devolved administrations as well as with other public authorities and stakeholders across the country.
- The Government is committed to boosting funding for communities in all parts of the UK, with the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund and with £220 million to invest in local areas ahead of launching the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Scotland

- Scotland is benefitting from the UK Government led, UK-wide roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. Over 4.7 million doses of vaccine have been allocated to Scotland and 4.2 million have been delivered to date.
- The UK Government will continue to deliver for people and businesses across Scotland, as part of a strong United Kingdom:
 - Scotland will continue to benefit from our £352 billion package of support, which has protected one in three Scottish jobs.
 - As of 14 April 2021, the UK Government furlough scheme supported nearly 900,000 jobs in Scotland, and the Self Employment Income Support Scheme grants have supported a further 431,000.
 - Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the Scottish Government has

benefited from £13.4 billion of additional funding through the Barnett formula.

- The UK's military has played a key role supporting the fight to tackle COVID-19 in Scotland, using their expertise to expedite the establishment of 80 vaccine centres.
 - More than 90,000 loans have been granted to Scottish businesses by the UK Government through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and Bounce Back Loan Scheme, worth over £3.4 billion.
 - Scotland's hospitality and tourism businesses are benefiting from a VAT cut which has been extended to September 2021.
- As announced in the last spending review, Scotland stands to benefit from over £100 billion in capital investment across the UK in 2021-22.
 - We agreed a deal with the EU which delivers for Scotland and the rest of the UK. Scottish businesses will flourish outside the EU and we will continue to open up new global opportunities as we strike new trade deals across the world, creating new markets for Scotland's exporters, including our world-leading food and drink sector.
 - In March 2021, the US government announced it would temporarily suspend all retaliatory tariffs on direct exports from the UK to the US resulting from the Airbus dispute, a significant boost for the Scotch whisky industry, which represented the UK's largest food and drink export in 2020.
 - At the Budget in March 2021, the Government committed to providing £27 million, subject to business case, for the Aberdeen Energy Transition Zone, helping to support jobs in North East Scotland and to help ensure the region can play a leading role in meeting the UK's net zero ambitions. The Government will also provide a further £5 million for the Global Underwater Hub, subject to business case, on top of the £1.3 million committed last year, and up to £2 million to develop further industry proposals as part of the Government's support for the North Sea Transition Deal.
 - The UK Government has committed over £1.5 billion to the Deals programme in Scotland, accelerating seven City and Growth Deals in Scotland to drive forward local economic priorities in Tay Cities, Borderlands, Moray and the Scottish Islands (at SR20), and Ayrshire, Argyll & Bute, and Falkirk (at Budget 2021). All areas of Scotland are now covered by either a City Deal or Growth Deal.
 - Of those Deals in Scotland, we now have eight in implementation, with another three where Heads of Terms agreements have been signed and

one Growth Deal where pre-Heads of Terms have been agreed. For those Deals not in implementation we anticipate we will have full signed agreements by the end of 2022.

- Both Glasgow and East Kilbride will benefit from new jobs and investment from the Government, with the Cabinet Office and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office moving hundreds of UK Government Civil Service roles to Scotland. This will also create new opportunities for Scottish public servants to join UK efforts in tackling joint domestic and international challenges, and allow closer collaboration between Scotland's two governments, as well as with local authorities and other stakeholders across Scotland, as we work together to build back better from the pandemic.

Wales

- Wales is benefitting from the UK Government-led, UK-wide roll-out of Covid-19 vaccines. 2.9 million doses of vaccine have been allocated to Wales and 2.7 million have been delivered to date.
- The UK Government will continue to deliver for people and businesses across Wales, as part of a strong United Kingdom:
 - Wales will continue to benefit from our £352 billion package of support – which has protected well over half a million Welsh jobs.
 - More than 57,000 loans have been granted to Welsh businesses by the UK Government through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and Bounce Back Loan Scheme, worth over £2 billion.
 - As of 14 April 2021, the UK Government furlough scheme has supported over 460,000 jobs in Wales and £757 million in Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grants has been allocated in response to 295,000 claims.
 - Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the Welsh Government has also benefited from an extra £7.9 billion since the start of the pandemic through the Barnett formula; that is over £2,300 per person in Wales. This includes a £5.2 billion funding guarantee, £650 million of flexible funding and an additional £1.5 billion announced at the Spending Review and Budget.
 - The UK's Armed Forces have played a key role supporting the fight against COVID-19 in Wales. Almost 300 personnel supported the Welsh NHS in delivering health services and rolling out the vaccination programme.

- Wales's hospitality and tourism businesses are benefiting from a VAT cut which has been extended to September 2021.
- As announced in the last spending review, Wales stands to benefit from over £100 billion in capital investment across the UK in 2021-22.
- This includes providing major investment in City and Regional Growth Deals across the whole of Wales, securing commitments of over £790 million of funding from the Government on top of the Welsh block grant to cover all regions of Wales, delivering real opportunity from Bangor to Brecon.
 - The Government signed a Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal on the 17th December 2020.
 - Three City and Growth Deals were also accelerated at Budget 2021, to drive forward investment in local economic priorities in Swansea Bay, North Wales, and Mid Wales.
- Wales's contribution to net zero will be supported through £4.8 million for the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub: a green hydrogen demonstration project which could create 30 new high-skilled green jobs in Anglesey, indirectly support 500 jobs, and bring further investment into the area.
- The Government is also providing up to £30 million towards the Global Centre of Rail Excellence in Neath Port Talbot, alongside investment by the Welsh Government, which will see up to 120 skilled jobs created at the new rail and infrastructure testing facility.

Northern Ireland

- Northern Ireland is benefitting from the UK Government led, UK-wide roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. Over 1.7 million doses of vaccine have been allocated to Northern Ireland and 1.6 million have been delivered to date.
- The UK Government will continue to deliver for people and businesses across Northern Ireland, as part of a strong United Kingdom:
 - Northern Ireland will continue to benefit from our £352 billion package of support and, as of 14 April 2021, the UK Government furlough scheme has protected almost 300,000 jobs in Northern Ireland, along with the Self Employment Income Support Scheme grants protecting a further 210,000 people.
 - Nearly 40,000 loans have been granted to businesses in Northern Ireland by the UK Government through the Coronavirus Business Interruption

Loan Scheme and Bounce Back Loan Scheme, worth over £1.6 billion.

- Northern Ireland's hospitality and tourism businesses are benefitting from a VAT cut which has been extended to September 2021.
- As announced in the last spending review, Northern Ireland stands to benefit from over £100 billion in capital investment across the UK in 2021-22.
- The £400 million New Deal for Northern Ireland will support businesses to innovate and invest following the Transition Period, while also ensuring businesses in Northern Ireland are ready to seize the trade and investment opportunities ahead, and the £617 million in City and Growth Deals will boost economic growth, with Deals covering the whole of Northern Ireland.
- In the New Decade, New Approach agreement, the Government committed £2 billion to transform public services, turbocharge infrastructure investment and address Northern Ireland's unique circumstances.
- This year is the centenary of Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom as we know it today. The UK Government will take every opportunity to strengthen Northern Ireland's place within the UK and promote abroad the success of Northern Ireland within the UK.
- The Government is using this centenary year to promote Northern Ireland globally and celebrate its people, culture, traditions and enterprise, and its vital contribution to our United Kingdom.
- Working with the Northern Ireland Executive, the Government continues to drive forward delivery of the commitments in the New Decade, New Approach deal. The Government will be introducing a bill to further implement their commitments in this deal: see Northern Ireland (Ministers, Elections and Petitions of Concern) Bill brief.
- The Government is fully committed to introducing legislation to address the legacy of the Troubles in Northern Ireland and will confirm further details in the coming weeks.
- It is clear that the current system for dealing with the legacy of the past is not working well for anybody, with criminal investigations increasingly unlikely to deliver successful criminal justice outcomes, and failing to obtain answers for a majority of victims and families.
- The Government will introduce a legacy package that delivers better outcomes for victims, survivors and veterans, focuses on information recovery and reconciliation, and ends the cycle of investigations. This package will deliver on

the commitments to Northern Ireland veterans, giving them the protections they deserve as part of a wider package to address legacy issues in Northern Ireland. Dealing with the legacy of the past in Northern Ireland must address the needs of victims and veterans together.

- The Government will work with all relevant stakeholders, including the parties in Northern Ireland and Westminster, the Irish Government and civil society, including victims groups, as part of this process.

Union Connectivity Review

- In his interim report for the Union Connectivity Review, published in March 2021, Sir Peter Hendy concluded that there was a lack of attention to connectivity between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, due to competing priorities and complex funding.
- The interim report marks a key step in looking at how connectivity across the UK can be improved, to support the levelling-up agenda and build a stronger, fairer economy for the future. To support this, we are making £20 million of development funding available to begin assessing options for schemes identified by the review as crucial for cross-border connectivity, such as:
 - Improved rail connectivity between the North coast of Wales and England.
 - Upgrading the A75 between Gretna, Dumfries and Stranraer, a key route for south-west Scotland and Northern Ireland but almost entirely single-carriageway.
 - Significantly faster rail links from England to Scotland, including looking at options to enhance the West Coast Mainline.
 - Rail improvements in South-East Wales building on ideas from the Welsh Government's Burns Commission.
- In addition, the Government is currently consulting on Air Passenger Duty (APD), to consider how the tax could support Union and regional connectivity, and our commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Electoral Integrity Bill

“My Government will strengthen and renew democracy and the constitution. Legislation will be introduced to ensure the integrity of elections...”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver manifesto pledges to tackle electoral fraud, prevent foreign interference and to make it easier for British expats to participate in elections.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Giving voters confidence that their vote is theirs, and theirs alone, by tackling electoral fraud and intimidation.
- Increasing transparency, fairness and accountability within political campaigning, and further preventing foreign interference.
- Making our polls more inclusive by ensuring that voters with disabilities are better supported to exercise their right to vote.
- Increasing participation in our democracy for British citizens living abroad.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Improving the absent ballot process by increasing protection on postal and proxy voting, including banning postal vote ‘harvesting’.
- Strengthening the laws on intimidation and undue influence.
- Requiring identification to vote in a polling station, as already required in Northern Ireland.
- Extending the ‘imprint’ requirement to digital political campaigning, and introducing measures to prevent foreign interference in elections.
- Improving access to voting for electors with disabilities.
- Removing the 15 year limit on the voting rights of British expats and making it easier to cast their vote.

Territorial extent and application

- This Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK. The UK Government is engaging with the Scottish Government and Welsh Government on the scope for applying certain provisions to devolved elections.

Key facts

- Sir Eric Pickles produced a comprehensive Government report on election fraud in 2016. This followed the 2015 election court judgement on election corruption in Tower Hamlets, and previous election court judgments, which have exposed the vulnerability of Britain's electoral system.
- Northern Ireland elections have required photographic identification in polling stations since 2003, since being introduced by the last Labour Government, without an adverse effect on participation
- The Government has undertaken a programme of work to tackle intimidation in public life, following a review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life after the 2017 general election.

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

“My Government will strengthen and renew democracy and the constitution. Legislation will be introduced to...protect freedom of speech...”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Fulfil the manifesto commitment to strengthen academic freedom and free speech in universities in England.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Strengthening legislation on freedom of speech and academic freedom in higher education in England, with duties on higher education providers and students' unions.
- Ensuring that universities in England are places where freedom of speech can thrive for all staff, students and visiting speakers, contributing to a culture of open and robust intellectual debate.
- Ensuring that academic staff feel safe to question and test received wisdom and put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without being at risk of losing their jobs, privileges or promotion.
- Creating ways for staff, students and visiting speakers to get redress if they suffer a loss as a result of the duties being breached.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Including new freedom of speech and academic duties on higher education providers and students' unions. The regulator, the Office for Students, will have the power to impose fines for breaches.
- Ensuring that, for the first time, students' unions at universities will have to take steps to secure lawful freedom of speech for their members and others, including visiting speakers.
- Creating a new role of Director for Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom at the Office for Students, with a remit to champion freedom of speech and academic freedom on campus, and responsibility for investigations of infringements of freedom of speech duties in higher education which may result in sanctions and individual redress.
- Enabling individuals to seek compensation through the courts if they suffer loss as a result of breach of the freedom of speech duties.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend to Great Britain only. Most provisions will apply to England only and relate to matters devolved in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Key facts

- There is growing concern about a 'chilling effect' on university campuses which means that not all students and staff feel able to express themselves without fear of repercussions.
- A number of studies, surveys and reports highlight instances where freedom of speech and academic freedom are being curtailed in the higher education sector. The most notable are studies by Kings College London, Policy Exchange and the Joint Committee on Human Rights.
- Policy Exchange polling shows that a significant number of current and retired academics choose to self-censor. The survey shows that 32 per cent of those who identify as 'fairly right' or 'right' have refrained from airing views in teaching and research, with 15 per cent of those identifying as 'centre' or 'left' also self-censoring.
- There are a small number of high profile reported incidents, both international and domestic, where staff or students have been threatened with negative consequences, including loss of privileges or dismissal, confirming that the fear of repercussions is not always unfounded. Some of these reports relate to those who do not currently have routes of redress, for example visiting speakers.

Judicial Review Bill

“My Government will strengthen and renew democracy and the constitution. Legislation will be introduced to...restore the balance of power between the executive, legislature and the courts.”

The purpose of the Bill is to (subject to the outcome of the consultation):

- Introduce reforms to Judicial Review to protect the judiciary from being drawn into political questions and preserve the integrity of Judicial Review for its intended purpose – which is to hold the Government and public authorities to account, apply the intent of Parliament, and protect individuals’ rights.

The main benefits of the Bill would be (subject to the outcome of the consultation):

- Giving the courts the power to suspend quashing orders in Judicial Review cases, so as to allow defects to be remedied. This will enable the courts to have more flexibility in Judicial Review cases. This may help ensure that, for example, a large infrastructure project is not delayed because an impact assessment has not been properly done.
- Reversing the *Cart* judgment, (whereby certain decisions of the Upper Tribunal became reviewable by the High Court) which will increase the efficiency of the courts and tribunal system and clarify the status of decisions of the Upper Tribunal. An additional effect will very likely be to reduce delays in the immigration and asylum system.

The main elements of the Bill are (subject to the outcome of the consultation):

- Allowing for the court’s use of Suspended Quashing Orders in Judicial Review cases. The court would be able to suspend, for a specified time, the effect of an order quashing (thus rendering no legal effect) a decision or action. This gives the public authority time to rectify the identified errors. If the errors are not rectified within the specified timeframe, the quashing order would become effective.
- Reversing *Cart*. The *Cart* judgment made certain decisions of the Upper Tribunal reviewable by the High Court. This has given rise to numerous spurious cases challenging Upper Tribunal decisions. We are considering this proposal in light of ongoing evidence analysis.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend and apply UK wide, with the majority of the provisions likely to apply to England and Wales.

Key facts

- Since the decision in *R (on the application of Cart) v the Upper Tribunal [2011] UKSC 28*, there are around 700 'Cart Judicial Reviews' per year. A *Cart* Judicial Review is a case where a claimant, whose claim has been rejected by the First-tier Tribunal and had permission to appeal refused by the First-tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal, brings a challenge against the Upper Tribunal in the High Court. We are investigating how many of these cases result in a successful outcome for the claimant.
- The courts have previously considered introducing Suspended Quashing Orders but found no common law basis to do so. Such orders (if available and used by the court) could have provided the opportunity for more flexible remedies for the claimant, defendant and individuals.

Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill

“My Government will strengthen and renew democracy and the constitution. Legislation will be introduced to...restore the balance of power between the executive, legislature and the courts.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver the manifesto commitment to repeal the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011.
- Restore tried and tested powers for bringing forward UK general elections.
- Reinstating the constitutional principle whereby the Government of the day has the confidence of the House of Commons and is able to seek a fresh democratic mandate from the British public when it is needed.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Enabling the Prime Minister to decide to put the power back in the hands of the public during critical moments for the country; preventing stalemates in Parliament from paralysing democracy (as happened in the last Parliament).
- Providing increased legal, constitutional and political certainty around the process of dissolving Parliament, while providing flexibility for exceptional circumstances.
- Restoring the essential link between confidence and dissolution, enabling critical Parliamentary votes to once more be designated as matters of confidence - which, if lost, trigger a general election.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Repealing the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 ('2011 Act').
- Reviving the prerogative powers relating to the dissolution of Parliament, and the calling of a new Parliament.
- Reaffirming the long-standing position that the courts may not block a dissolution (and hence a general election) through a non-justiciability clause.

Territorial extent and application

- The provisions in this Bill will extend and apply to the whole of the UK. Elections to the UK Parliament remains a reserved matter.

Key facts

- This Bill will repeal the 2011 Act and re-establish the long-standing constitutional norm, whereby the Sovereign may grant a dissolution of Parliament following a request from the Prime Minister.
- Under the 2011 Act, a UK Parliamentary election can currently only be triggered outside of the normal Parliamentary cycle by one of two scenarios: if two-thirds of the House of Commons vote in favour of one, or if the Government loses a vote of no confidence.
- Certain prerogative powers remain with the Sovereign and are exercised by the Sovereign on the advice of, or in the case of dissolution, at the request of the Prime Minister. In this case, the revival of these specific prerogative powers will enable Governments, within the life of a Parliament, to call a general election at the time of their choosing.
- Detailed pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Bill has been completed by the Joint Committee on the Fixed-term Parliaments Act. The Committee welcomed the repeal and noted that the Bill was drafted clearly “to give effect to the Government’s intention of returning to the constitutional position before the passing of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011”
- The Government has introduced this constitutional reform on the basis of scrutiny from Parliament and crafting consensus among Parliamentarians in both Houses.

Northern Ireland (Ministers, Elections and Petitions of Concern) Bill

“Measures will be brought forward to strengthen devolved Government in Northern Ireland...”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Implement those aspects of the New Decade, New Approach deal relating to the operation and governance of the Northern Ireland institutions, including:
 - Reforms to the sustainability of the institutions.
 - Updating the Ministerial Code of Conduct.
 - Reform of the Petition of Concern mechanism.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Delivering greater transparency and improved governance arrangements to maintain public confidence in the Northern Ireland institutions.
- Ensuring that the institutions in Northern Ireland are more sustainable, resilient and able to continue to function throughout periods of political difficulty.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Extending the time allowed for the appointment of Ministers to the Northern Ireland Executive, following an Assembly election or the resignation of the First or Deputy First Ministers, before an election must take place and to allow Ministers to remain in post longer to allow for greater continuity of decision making in the Executive.
- Reforming the Petition of Concern mechanism used in the Northern Ireland Assembly so that its use is returned to its intended purpose, ensuring that all sections of the community are protected when the Northern Ireland Assembly legislates and preventing one party from blocking measures or business.
- Updating the Ministerial Code of Conduct with regard to the expectations of the behaviour of Ministers, including provisions around the treatment of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, public appointments and the use of official resources and information management.

Territorial extent and application

- The Bill will extend to the whole of the UK, but will apply and have practical effect in Northern Ireland.

Key facts

- Prior to the New Decade, New Approach deal there had been no functioning Executive in Northern Ireland for over 3 years.
- In January 2020 the Executive was restored, with all five of Northern Ireland's main political parties coming together under the New Decade, New Approach deal. This deal restored the institutions of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, including the Northern Ireland Executive, the Northern Ireland Assembly, the North South Ministerial Council, the British-Irish Council and the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference.
- This Bill will implement aspects of the New Decade, New Approach deal that cannot be legislated for in the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- The UK Government has already made significant progress on our commitments within the New Decade, New Approach deal. We provided £2 billion of funding to support implementation of the New Decade, New Approach deal with £556 million of this having been allocated to date. We will continue to work with the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government to deliver the outstanding commitments.

Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions

“Measures will be introduced to ensure that support for businesses reflects the United Kingdom’s strategic interests and drives economic growth.”

The purpose of the legislation is to:

- Deliver the manifesto commitment to stop public bodies from imposing their own approach or views about international relations, through preventing boycott, divestment or sanctions campaigns against foreign countries.

The main benefits of the legislation would be:

- Creating a coherent approach to foreign relations from all public bodies, ensuring that the UK taxpayer only has to pay for foreign policy once. The Government is responsible for setting the UK’s foreign policy and determining how our country interacts with other nations, which includes imposing sanctions where necessary. Public bodies should not be pursuing their own foreign policy agenda with public money.
- Preventing divisive behaviour that undermines community cohesion by preventing public bodies from imposing their own approach or views about international relations via their own boycott, divestment or sanctions campaigns. There are concerns that such boycotts may legitimise antisemitism.

The main elements of the legislation are:

- Stopping public bodies from taking a different approach to UK Government sanctions and foreign relations. This will be in the form of preventing public institutions carrying out independent boycotts, divestments and sanctions against:
 - Foreign countries, or those linked to them.
 - The sale of goods and services from foreign countries.
 - UK firms which trade with such countries, where such an approach is not in line with UK Government sanctions.
- The measures will cover purchasing, procurement and investment decisions which undermine cohesion and integration.

Territorial extent and application

- Further details on the territorial extent and application of the policy will be published in due course.

Key facts

- It is a long-standing principle that there may be restrictions on taxpayer-funded public bodies that do not apply to private bodies; for example, where public bodies cannot engage in party political campaigning.
- Unofficial boycotts have been associated with antisemitism in the United Kingdom - including kosher food being removed from supermarket shelves, Jewish films being banned from a film festival and a student union holding a vote on blocking the formation of a Jewish student society.
- Having left the EU, the Government has established its own sanctions regime through the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018, which includes powerful new tools to tackle international corruption.

Integrated Review

“My Ministers will implement the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy.”

- The Integrated Review sets out the Government’s vision of the UK’s role in the world through to 2030 and the action we will take at home and with other countries to ensure that we are stronger, safer and more prosperous in a more competitive age.
- We will not be able to achieve the objectives set out in the Integrated Review by working alone: collective action with our allies and partners will be vitally important. We will lead by example where we have unique or significant strengths and identify where we are better placed to support others in achieving our shared goals.
- We will play a more active part in international institutions including the United Nations, World Trade Organisation, World Health Organisation and the international financial institutions. We will seek to shape the international order of the future, extending it in areas such as cyberspace and space, and protecting democratic values.
- We will build stronger alliances and wider partnerships:
 - Recognising no relationship is more valuable than our one with the United States.
 - Increasing our engagement in the Indo-Pacific, including through becoming a Dialogue Partner to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members.
 - Pursuing constructive and productive relationships with our friends and neighbours in Europe based on mutual respect for sovereignty.
 - Being a partner of choice in Africa, with a focus on East Africa.
 - Fostering thriving relationships in the Middle East based on trade, green innovation and science and trade.
- We will do more to integrate our approach across diplomacy, development, and defence and we will return to spending 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income on international development when the fiscal situation allows.
- We are realistic about the challenges we face, but optimistic about our future as an active European country with a global perspective, which brings countries

together to solve the issues that matter most to our citizens and to improve their lives.

Key facts

- As the Integrated Review sets out, we will focus on five key areas:
 - Solving global challenges.
 - Investing in science and technology and acting as a responsible cyber power.
 - Acting as a force for good in the world, defending democracy and human rights.
 - Championing the free flow of trade, capital and knowledge as the best way to drive economic growth.
 - Taking a more robust approach to security and deterrence.

Foreign Affairs

“The United Kingdom will host the G7 Summit and lead the global effort to secure a robust economic recovery from the pandemic. My Ministers will deepen trade ties in the Gulf, Africa and the Indo-Pacific.

My Government will continue to provide aid where it has the greatest impact on reducing poverty and alleviating human suffering. My Government will uphold human rights and democracy across the world. It will take forward a global effort to get 40 million girls across the world into school.”

Global Britain

- As President of the G7 and host of COP26 in 2021, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the second largest defence spender in NATO, we are using our position as a leading member of the international community to tackle the shared challenges we face, from climate change to security to poverty.
- On human rights and defending democracy, we are using our ‘Magnitsky’ sanctions to hold human rights abusers to account, from Belarus to China. We are leading the world through the Media Freedom Coalition in calling for journalists to be protected.
- We are supporting the most vulnerable people in the world. We are one of the biggest donors to the COVAX scheme which is helping to supply more than a billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to 117 countries and territories, including 92 developing countries. We are also playing a leading role in championing the right of every girl in the world to 12 years of quality education.
- Drawing on our clout as the fourth largest diplomatic network in the world, with the third biggest aid budget in the G7 as a percentage of our national income, we are using our unparalleled expertise to help resolve conflicts from Cyprus to Yemen.
- Our global leadership in science and technology is driving our pioneering approach to free trade, which has seen the UK sign 67 trade deals and launch negotiations to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.
- We are expanding our network of like-minded partners to reflect the shifting balance of power towards the Indo-Pacific, for example by applying to become an ASEAN Dialogue Partner. This summer, HMS Queen Elizabeth is leading a British and allied task group which will travel to the region.

- On protecting our environment, we are pushing for strong collective global action to tackle climate change ahead of hosting COP26 in November. We are leading by example by being the first major economy to legally enshrine a commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and by setting a new target to reduce emissions by at least 78 per cent by 2035, one of the highest percentages in the world.

International Development

- We are a world leading development donor. We will spend more than £10 billion this year to fight poverty, tackle climate change and improve global health making us proportionally the third largest donor in the G7, spending 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI), despite the seismic impact of the pandemic on the UK and global economy.
- In the last year alone, we spent £1.4 billion to support the international effort to fight COVID-19 and £1.3 billion on humanitarian assistance.
- The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office gave more than half of our regional bilateral aid to countries in Africa last year.
- As a development superpower and one of the largest donors in the G7 the UK will ensure aid is spent even more effectively in 2021 to address global challenges while working in the UK's national interest.
- We will focus on global challenges where the UK can maximise impact, including tackling climate change, supporting the global recovery from the pandemic and helping millions of girls around the world access education.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a seismic impact on our economy and will therefore affect the size of the aid budget. Despite this, we will spend more than £10 billion in 2021 to fight poverty and help the world's poorest people.
- We will focus on seven key priorities where the UK can use development and diplomacy expertise to make the greatest impact: climate and biodiversity; COVID-19 and global health security; girls' education; science and research; open societies and conflict; humanitarian assistance; and trade.

Girls' education

- If we want to change the world for the better, girls' education is the place to start. Educating girls is one of the smartest investments we can make to lift people out of poverty, grow economies, save lives, and build back better from COVID-19. It can transform the fortunes of not just individual women and girls but whole communities and nations.

- The UK has set ambitious global targets of getting 40 million more girls in school, and 20 million more girls reading in low- and middle-income countries by 2025.
- We are rallying others to back, promote and achieve these goals and stand up for every girl's right globally to 12 years of quality education.
- We are investing in girls' education around the world, including through the Girls' Education Challenge: the world's largest fund focused on girls' education.
- The UK has been the leading donor to the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait, giving us unique leverage to influence the global system.
- The UK is partnering with Kenya and the Global Partnership for Education to co-host the Global Education Summit in London in July this year, urging world leaders to invest in education and improve access for girls. The Global Partnership for Education is seeking up to \$5 billion as a rolling target over five years to give 175 million children the opportunity to learn.

Global Trade

- Global Britain is a fierce champion of free and fair trade, working with like-minded democracies to pave the way to prosperity and set the standard for modern trade in the 21st century. Together, we can build back a better trading system that delivers for people across the UK and beyond our shores.
- We are delivering the promises of Brexit by forging closer links with fast-growing and like-minded nations across the Americas and Pacific to help the best of British business thrive. We aim to secure free trade agreements with countries, to account for 80 per cent of UK total trade within three years of having left the EU.
- We will bring home the benefits of free and fair trade across the UK through our Trade Hubs in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the North-East of England. These are supported by our new Office for Investment and by Freeports to drive an export-led and jobs-led recovery.
- The UK is pioneering the first G7 Trade Track so we can work closely with like-minded allies – including through our G7 presidency – for a reformed World Trade Organization (WTO) and to crack down on non-market economies undermining the rules. By doing so, we can ensure global trade reflects our values, restoring faith in free enterprise.
- To restore trust and fairness in the international trading system, the UK is highlighting market-distorting practices by putting these high on the international agenda, including at the G7 and WTO. Tackling unfair and distortive practices by

reforming the WTO rulebook and progressing current and future WTO negotiations are key UK priorities for 2021; as is ensuring that the UK has all the necessary tools to defend against such practices.

- We will put the UK at the centre of a network of modern deals spanning the Americas and Pacific. Negotiations are currently underway with Australia, New Zealand, and the United States on deals that will bring significant benefits for the whole of the United Kingdom. On 1 February 2021, we submitted our notification of intent to begin the process to accede to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). This is the first formal step towards accession before formal negotiations start later in the year.
- We are continuing to use a range of trade policy tools to strengthen our bilateral trade relations with key economic and strategic partners across the Indo-Pacific, South Asia, Middle East, Africa, the Americas and Europe. This includes exploring the options for new free trade agreements with our trading partners.
- The UK is proud of its world-leading standards, including in food safety, environmental protection, animal health and welfare. We will not compromise these standards as we negotiate new trade deals.
- The UK is also committed to ensuring developing countries can reduce poverty through trading opportunities and leave aid dependency behind to become our trading partners of the future.
- We support developing countries through bilateral development-focused Economic Partnership Agreements, our Generalised Scheme of Preferences which reduces tariffs on imports from 70 eligible developing countries, and our Aid for Trade programmes, which supports and provides expertise for developing countries to remove barriers to trade.

Key facts

- The UK is the world's fifth biggest economy, sixth largest exporter and second largest exporter of services.
- This year we will spend more than £10 billion on development and have an uplift of £45 billion to our defence budget, strengthening our work in everything from peacekeeping to cybersecurity.
- On Hong Kong, the UK has taken three decisive actions in response to the National Security Law:
 - Opening a new immigration path for British Nationals (Overseas).
 - Suspending our extradition treaty with Hong Kong.

- Extending our arms embargo on mainland China to Hong Kong.
- On Xinjiang, we have implemented targeted sanctions against those responsible for human rights abuses and introduced measures to help ensure UK organisations are not complicit in these violations.
- The UK stood with 57 other countries across the globe to endorse Canada's Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention and condemn this unacceptable practice.
- In 2020, approximately £1.4 billion of UK aid was spent in supporting the global effort to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The UK's commitment to COVAX mobilised \$1 billion from other donors in 2020 alone. This will contribute to the supply of at least 1.3 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines in 2021. These will be distributed to up to 117 countries and territories, including 92 developing countries.
- In 2021, the UK is also offering our world-leading genomics expertise to identify new variants of COVID-19 in countries who do not have the resources to do so.
- The UK hosted the Africa Investment Summit in January 2020, where UK support helped secure £6.5 billion of commercial deals.
- Since 2015, the UK has supported 15.6 million children, including over 8 million girls, to gain a decent education.
- In 2020, UK aid helped millions of girls to continue learning safely during school closures. This included:
 - Helping 4 million girls at risk of leaving education permanently because of COVID-19.
 - Providing crucial support to partners like UNHCR so 5500 teachers could continue teaching in refugee camps in 10 different countries.
 - Helping 8.5 million students in Pakistan, including 4.3 million girls, continue learning thanks to a COVID-19 toolkit designed to make up for missed lessons. We also helped children with disabilities in Pakistan access online learning.
- So far we have secured free trade agreements with countries that made up 63 per cent of UK total trade in 2019. We have agreed trade deals with 67 countries, plus the EU, that together accounted for £891 billion of UK bilateral trade in 2019.
- Trade supports 6.5 million jobs across the UK.

CONTACT DETAILS

Brief	Lead Department	Press Office Contact
Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Animal Welfare Plan and Legislation	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	0330 041 6560
Armed Forces Bill	Ministry of Defence	020 721 87907
Benefiting from Brexit	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions	Cabinet Office	020 7276 7545
Building Safety Bill	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	0303 444 1209
Charities Bill	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7211 2210
Climate Change & Net Zero (COP26)	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities	Cabinet Office (Race Disparity Unit)	020 7276 7545
Conversion Therapy	Cabinet Office	020 7276 7545
Counter-State Threats Bill	Home Office	0300 123 3535
Criminal Justice Catch-up and Recovery Plan	Ministry of Justice	020 3334 3536
Defence Spending	Ministry of Defence	020 721 87907

Brief	Lead Department	Press Office Contact
Developing the Life Sciences Sector	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill	Cabinet Office	020 7276 7545
Dormant Assets Bill	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7211 2210
Downstream Oil Resilience Bill (Draft)	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Early Years Strategy	Department of Health & Social Care	020 7972 3272
Education Recovery Plan	Department for Education	020 7783 8300
Electoral Integrity Bill	Cabinet Office	020 7276 7545
Environment Bill	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	0330 041 6560
Foreign Affairs	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	020 7008 3100
Health and Care Bill	Department of Health and Social Care	020 7972 3272
High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill	Department for Transport	0300 777 7878
Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill	Department for Education	020 7783 8300
Integrated Review	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	020 7008 3100
Judicial Review Bill	Ministry of Justice	020 3334 3536

Brief	Lead Department	Press Office Contact
Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	0303 444 1209
Levelling Up	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
Mental Health Act Reform	Department of Health & Social Care	020 7972 3272
National Infrastructure Plan	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
National Insurance Contributions Bill	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
New Plan for Immigration Legislation	Home Office	0300 123 3535
NHS Catch-up and Recovery Plan	Department of Health & Social Care	020 7972 3272
Online Safety Bill (Draft)	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7211 2210
Planning Bill	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	0303 444 1209
Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill	Home Office	0300 123 3535
Prevention	Department of Health & Social Care	020 7972 3272
Procurement Bill	Cabinet Office	020 7276 7545
Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7211 2210

Brief	Lead Department	Press Office Contact
Professional Qualifications Bill	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Public Finances	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
Rail and Bus Reform	Department for Transport	0300 777 7878
Renters' Reforms	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	0303 444 1209
Research and Development	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Skills and Post-16 Education Bill	Department for Education	020 7783 8300
Social Care Reform	Department of Health & Social Care	020 7972 3272
Subsidy Control Bill	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	020 7215 1000
Support for Businesses	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
Support for Living Standards and Plan for Jobs	HM Treasury	020 7270 5238
Telecommunications (Security) Bill	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	020 7211 2210
The Union	Cabinet Office	020 7276 7545

Brief	Lead Department	Press Office Contact
Turing Scheme	Department for Education	020 7783 8300
Vaccines Programme	Department of Health & Social Care	020 7972 3272
Victims Bill (Draft)	Ministry of Justice	020 3334 3536
Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy	Home Office	0300 123 3535