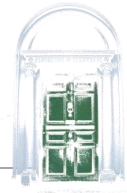


The Queen's Speech – 21st June 2017



Summary

It is clear that the major task of this Conservative Government, be it composed through a DUP alliance, or acting in minority, will be to steer the United Kingdom through the Brexit negotiations as effectively as possible. The speech reiterated the election rhetoric of working towards the best possible deal, however a softer tone was shown through talk of consultation and building a consensus on approaching the issue. The overarching message is one that promotes Britain's role in the world, through bilateral relations, trade and influence, through this the Government will hope to deliver success outside of the European Union.

Commitments to NATO and the UN foreign aid target, as well as a pledge to continue with HS2 and Trident plans are unsurprising given their support within Parliament. The controversial language surrounding school reform has been rolled back through dropped manifesto policies on grammar schools and free school meals. Additionally, there were no mention of pensions, the winter fuel allowance or what has been dubbed 'dementia tax', reflecting an electorally weakened Conservative party and substantial opposition to the proposals.

Despite the watered-down nature of the speech when compared to the Tory manifesto published just over a month ago, it is clear that Britain is not finished with austerity. A reaffirmed belief in low taxes, carefully managed public finances and social care paid through budget rather than borrowing leaves the fiscal direction of the next Government abundantly clear.

Exiting the European Union

- Conservative government proposes to work towards the best possible deal for Britain as the UK leaves the EU – trying to consult broadly and build a consensus.
- Introduction of a bill to repeal EU Communities Act 1972 and convert EU regulations into UK Law.
- Legislation will be introduced on immigration, international sanctions, the nuclear deterrent, agriculture and fisheries.
- A new relationship will be forged with EU allies and on a global basis.
- Bills on trade and customs, with new policies to facilitate exports to global markets, will be introduced.

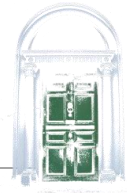
Education

- Pledge that every child will go to a good, fairly funded school.
- Reform of technical education provision.

The Economy

- Economy to support jobs and therefore create taxes for NHS, schools, and public services.
- Taxes will be kept low and public finance will be carefully managed.
- A modern industrial strategy will move the economy forward.
- The Government will work to attract infrastructure investment and introduce legislation to make the UK a world leader in new industries such as electric cars and commercial satellites.
- New bill to continue investment in high speed rail.

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Employment

- National Living Wage will be increased to help lowest paid keep up with highest paid in society.
- New legislation to guarantee workers' rights
- Progress will be made towards reducing gender pay gap and fighting discrimination based on race, gender, disability, faith or sexuality.

Social Policy

- Legislation for victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- Mental health to be prioritised in NHS in England.
- Ban unfair tenant fees, promote fairness and transparency in the housing market.
- There will be a consultation on social care funding.
- Removal of unfair practices in energy market and reduction of bills.
- More united country, strengthening economic, culture and social bonds between the home nations.

Justice and Defence

- Law to protect personal data – proposals to be introduced for a new digital charter.
- Modernisation of the courts system.
- Full public inquiry into Grenfell Tower fire.
- An independent public body will be introduced to help bereaved families after disasters.
- The UK will continue to meet NATO's 2% of GDP target for military spending.

- A commission on extremism will be created to stamp out extremism in society and on the internet.
- A review of counter terrorism strategy and a pledge to give police all the powers they need – the length of custodial sentences will be sufficient to protect the public.
- The role on world stage for Britain will be maintained and enhanced, with a more global outlook once Brexit concludes.

International Policy

- This includes the UN Security Council position and the 0.7% of GDP international development commitment – the government will continue to help efforts to project British values around world.
- Solutions for conflicts in Middle East with Britain taking a leading role in international military action to destroy Daesh in Syria.
- Decisive action against climate change - Paris agreement's conditions will be met.
- The Commonwealth summit in October will be used to cement its position in the world.

For further information about our services and expertise, please contact Anna Wolffe on 020 3642 2754 or by email at anna.wolffe@ranelaghuk.com