



Key announcements from the Queen's Speech 2022

Economic Growth and Support for Businesses

"My Government will drive economic growth to improve living standards and fund sustainable investment in public services. This will be underpinned by a responsible approach to the public finances, reducing debt while reforming and cutting taxes. My Ministers will support the Bank of England to return inflation to its target."

- The Government is improving the skills system to make technical education more attractive and easier to obtain through apprenticeships, T-Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications and the Lifelong Loan Entitlement. The Government's ambition is to encourage greater levels of private sector investment in employee training, both for apprentices and for employees more generally. The Government will consider whether further intervention is needed to encourage employers to offer the high-quality employee training the UK needs. This will include examining whether the current tax system – including the operation of the Apprenticeship Levy – is doing enough to incentivise businesses to invest in the right kinds of training.
- The Government is increasing investment in infrastructure through the establishment of the UK Infrastructure Bank and delivering on its ambitious capital plans. We will invest over £600 billion in public sector gross investment over the next five years, reaching the highest sustained levels of public sector net investment as a proportion of GDP since the late 1970s.

Trade and Investment

- The Government are using our Brexit freedoms to deliver an independent trade policy and strengthen our links with the world's largest and fastest-growing economies.
- Our Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU is the world's biggest zero-tariff, zero-quota free trade deal, allowing businesses in Britain to trade freely with Europe while allowing us to seize new opportunities around the world.
- As an independent trading nation, The Government have established a new, simpler tariff regime and already secured trade deals with 70 countries plus the EU, partners which accounted for over £808 billion of bilateral trade in 2021.
- The Government are putting the UK at the centre of a network of modern trade deals spanning the Americas and Pacific. Our Japan deal went further on digital trade supporting future-facing industries where the UK prospers, like services and tech. Our deals with Australia and New Zealand reduce tariffs so British consumers enjoy lower costs and more choice while making British exporters more competitive.
- The Government are on track to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership this year – a free trade area of over 500 million people, with a combined GDP of £9 trillion, covering some of the world's fastest-growing economies and most reliable supply chains.

- The Government have resolved costly frictions in our trade relationship with the United States, eliminating unjustified tariffs on Scotch Whisky and other products as well as reaching a resolution for the expansive removal of tariffs on UK steel and aluminium exports. And The Government are working on further collaboration to strengthen the transatlantic trade relationship.
- The Government has launched a new Export Strategy to address the barriers to exporting, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, and to transform the way we deliver support to exporters through the Export Support Service, a one-stop-shop for exporting guidance. The Government has also expanded UK Export Finance support to help UK exporters to sell overseas
- The UK remains a top destination for foreign direct investment. By the end of 2020, the UK's inward foreign direct investment stock levels reached \$2.2 trillion, the third highest in the world. The Government are intent on building on this, including through the Office for Investment which supports attracting high value investment into the UK, such as the recent £10 billion Sovereign Investment Partnership with the United Arab Emirates.
- The Government have established Freeports as national hubs for international trade, innovation and commerce, regenerating communities across the UK, attracting new businesses, spreading jobs, investment and opportunity to towns and cities across the country. Eight have been announced in England. Two Freeports have been announced for Scotland with the Government committed to deliver at least one in each of Wales and Northern Ireland.

Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill

“A bill will be brought forward to drive local growth, empowering local leaders to regenerate their areas, and ensuring everyone can share in the United Kingdom’s success. The planning system will be reformed to give residents more involvement in local development.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Level up the UK, grow the economy in the places that need it most and regenerate our towns and cities – giving people the opportunities they want, where they live.
- Improve the planning system to give communities a louder voice, making sure developments are beautiful, green and accompanied by new infrastructure and affordable housing

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Laying the foundations for all of England to have the opportunity to benefit from a devolution deal by 2030 – giving local leaders the powers they need to drive real improvement in their communities.
- Improving outcomes for our natural environment by introducing a new approach to environmental assessment in our planning system. This benefit of Brexit will mean the environment is further prioritised in planning decisions.
- Capturing more of the financial value created by development with a locally set, non-negotiable levy to deliver the infrastructure that communities need, such as housing, schools, GPs and new roads.

- Simplifying and standardising the process for local plans so that they are produced more quickly and are easier for communities to influence.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Placing a duty on the Government to set Levelling Up missions and produce an annual report updating the country on delivery of these missions.
- Creating a new model of combined authority: the 'County Deal' which will provide local leaders with powers to enhance local accountability, join up services and provide transparent decision making to rejuvenate their communities, increase their ability to reflect local preferences in arrangements including directly elected leaders' titles.
- Unlocking new powers for local authorities to bring empty premises back into use and instigate rental auctions of vacant commercial properties in town centres and on high streets.
- Giving residents more of a say over changing street names and ensuring everyone can continue to benefit from al fresco dining.
- Strengthening neighbourhood planning and digitalising the system to make local plans easier to find, understand and engage with; by making it easier for local authorities to get local plans in place, we will limit speculative development.

Brexit Freedoms Bill

"My Government will continue to seize the opportunities of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, to support economic growth. Regulations on businesses will be repealed and reformed. A bill will enable law inherited from the European Union to be more easily amended."

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Fulfil the manifesto commitment to end the supremacy of European law and seize the benefits of Brexit by ensuring regulation fits the needs of the UK, which in turn will enable economic growth.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Ensuring that retained EU law can be amended, repealed or replaced with legislation which better suits the UK, without this taking decades of parliamentary time to achieve.
- Modernising the UK's approach to making regulations, improving the nimbleness and competitiveness of the UK economy whilst maintaining high standards.
- Enabling the UK to be the best regulated economy in the world and creating a regulatory environment that encourages prosperity, innovation, entrepreneurship and the cutting of £1 billion of burdensome EU red tape for businesses.
- Asserting the sovereignty of Parliament by removing the supremacy of retained EU law over UK law in our legal system.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Creating new powers to strengthen the ability to amend, repeal or replace the large amounts of retained EU law by reducing the need to always use primary legislation to do so.

- Removing the supremacy of retained EU law as it still applies in the UK.
- Clarifying the status of retained EU law in UK domestic law to reflect the fact that much of it became law without going through full democratic scrutiny in the UK Parliament.

Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill

“My Government will continue to champion international trade, delivering jobs across the country and growing the economy. Legislation will be introduced to enable the implementation of the United Kingdom’s first new Free Trade Agreements since leaving the European Union.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Ensure the UK can comply with the obligations in the Free Trade Agreements with both Australia and New Zealand when they come into force by making the necessary changes to the UK’s domestic procurement regulations

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Delivering the key Brexit benefit of our own independent trade policy by enabling the UK to implement its first ‘from scratch’ Free Trade Agreements in over 50 years to boost the UK economy. The Australia and New Zealand deals will each remove tariffs on 100 per cent of UK goods exports to those countries, benefiting UK businesses.
- Supporting the Government’s levelling up agenda. The UK-Australia and UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreements will benefit all parts of the UK, delivering economic opportunities across a range of sectors and businesses including for financial services in Scotland, distillers in Northern Ireland, aerospace manufacturers in the West Midlands, fintech in Wales and carmakers in the North East.
- Driving economic growth across the UK. These agreements will help boost the UK’s economy and provide significant opportunities for UK businesses to grow and take advantage of the preferential market access which we have secured.

The main element of the Bill is to:

- Provide a power to make changes to UK procurement regulations to implement the obligations in the Government Procurement chapters of the Australia and New Zealand Free Trade Agreements.

Energy Security Bill

“My Ministers will bring forward an Energy Bill to deliver the transition to cheaper, cleaner, and more secure energy. This will build on the success of the COP26 Summit in Glasgow last year.”

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Simplify the railways to ensure a better and more reliable service for passengers, to support economic growth across the country and ensure the survival of the railways.
- Keep the UK at the forefront of transport innovation, helping deliver the reforms we have promised to decarbonise transport, transform the way we travel, and better connect communities.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Maintaining a safe and secure energy supply and helping to protect consumers against global price fluctuations. We will increase our energy security by supporting a low-carbon energy system and reducing our dependence on gas over the long term.
- Protecting consumers from unfair pricing. The energy price cap is the best safety net for millions, preventing suppliers from overcharging consumers. The Bill will enable the extension of the price cap beyond 2023, and it will regulate the heat networks sector.
- Attracting billions in private investment and supporting tens of thousands of new, skilled jobs across the UK. Developing Carbon Capture Usage and Storage and low carbon hydrogen will create new industries, transforming our former industrial heartlands.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Introducing state-of-the-art business models for Carbon Capture Usage and Storage transport and storage, low carbon hydrogen and industrial carbon capture which will fire the starting gun on new, low-carbon technologies.
- Reducing the risk of fuel supply disruption by giving Government the power to give directions to, require information from, and provide financial assistance to core fuel sector businesses to ensure resilience and continuity of fuel supply.
- Supporting industry to step up investment in growing the consumer market for electric heat pumps by providing for a new market standard and trading scheme. This will support innovation and help to lower the costs of heat pumps over time.
- Appointing Ofgem as the new regulator for heat networks, ensuring consumers get a fair price and a reliable supply of heat.
- Extending the energy price cap, preventing suppliers from overcharging consumers.
- Enabling the first ever large-scale hydrogen heating trial, allowing us to inform the role of hydrogen in heat decarbonisation in 2026.
- Introducing competition in Britain's onshore electricity networks, encouraging investment and innovation, and enabling savings.
- Creating a new pro-innovation regulatory environment for fusion energy.
- Establishing a new Future System Operator, providing strategic oversight across electricity and gas systems. It will drive progress towards net zero, energy security and minimising consumer costs.
- Facilitating the safe, and cost-effective clean-up of the UK's legacy nuclear sites, ensuring the UK is a responsible nuclear state.