

## **The Government's Legislative Programme 2009/2010:** **A look ahead to the Queen's Speech**

### **Briefing**

#### **Introduction**

The final session of the current Parliament will begin with the traditional annual Queen's Speech and State Opening of Parliament on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009**.

As a General Election must be held by June 2010, this will be the last opportunity for the Government to set out its legislative priorities before facing the electorate.

As most sessions of Parliament last for at least twelve months, there will be limited time for the Government to get its legislation onto the statute book. With Parliament likely to be dissolved at the end of March/start of April, ready for a General Election expected on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010, it is likely to be less than half the length of a normal session and the time available for legislation will therefore be significantly reduced.

For the third year in a row, the Government has published its legislative programme in draft for consultation. This relatively new innovation means that the Queen's Speech has fewer surprises than in the past and makes it possible to look ahead at what the forthcoming legislative programme is likely to contain. Although the Queen's Speech does not list every bill to be brought forward in the session, it is usual for between 20 and 30 to be revealed. The fact that only 11 bills have been revealed in the draft programme hints at the thin content of the session to come.

During the recent Labour Party conference, the Prime Minister made commitments to further legislation in their speeches, although it remains to be seen if these will be ready for introduction before the election, or merely used as 'dividing lines' with the opposition in their respective manifestos.

*Last year's Queen's Speech is at Annex B.*

#### **The current session of Parliament**

With the new session of Parliament due to begin on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, and with the customary short break between sessions, there is little time remaining of the current session for the Government to complete the passage of the legislation introduced during the past year.

*The following table shows the status of each of the bills introduced during the current session:*

<b>Parliamentary Session 2008/09</b>
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State of Play at the start of the Autumn Term (from Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October).
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Antarctica Bill									
1st Reading	2nd Reading			3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
		Committee	Report				Committee	Report	
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill									
1st Reading	2nd Reading			3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
4 Feb 09	23 Feb 09	Committee	Report	5 May 09	6 May 09	2 Jun 09	Committee	Report	
		3 Mar 09	5 May 09	5 May 09	6 May 09	2 Jun 09			
Banking Act									
	2nd Reading		Report	3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
1st Reading	14 Oct 08	Committee	26 Nov 08	17 Dec 08	18 Dec 08	18 Dec 08	Committee	Report	12 Feb 09
7 Oct 08	08	21 Oct 08	08	08	08	08	13 Jan 09	2 Feb 09	09
Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Act									
1st Reading	2nd Reading			3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
14 Jan 09	11 Feb 09	Committee	Report	22 Apr 09	23 Apr 09	2 Jun 09	Committee	Report	21 Jul 09
		25 Feb 09	25 Mar 09	22 Apr 09	23 Apr 09	2 Jun 09	9 Jun 09	14 Jul 09	09
Bribery Bill									
1st Reading	2nd Reading			3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
		Committee	Report				Committee	Report	
Business Rate Supplements Act									
1st Reading	2nd Reading			3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
4 Dec 08	12 Jan 09	Committee	Report	11 Mar 09	12 Mar 09	22 Apr 09	Committee	Report	2 Jul 09
		20 Jan 09	11 Mar 09	11 Mar 09	12 Mar 09	22 Apr 09	11 May 09	8 Jun 09	09
Child Poverty Bill									
1st Reading	2nd Reading								Royal Assent
11 Jun 09	20 Jul 09	Committee	Report	3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Committee	Report	
Civil Law Reform Bill									
1st	2nd	Committee	Report	3rd	1st	2nd	Committee	Report	Royal

Reading	Reading			Reading	Reading	Reading			Assent
<b>Communications Data Bill</b>									
	2nd Reading			3rd Reading	1st Reading				Royal Assent
1st Reading		Committee Report				2nd Reading	Committee Report		

Community Empowerment Bill									
1st Reading	2nd Reading			3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
		Committee	Report				Committee	Report	
Coroners and Justice Bill									
1st Reading 14 Jan 09	2nd Reading 26 Jan 09			3rd Reading 24 Mar 09	1st Reading 25 Mar 09	2nd Reading 18 May 09			Royal Assent
		Committee 3 Feb 09	Report 23 Mar 09				Committee 9 Jun 09	Report	
Equality Bill									
1st Reading 24 Apr 09	2nd Reading 11 May 09			3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
		Committee 2 Jun 09	Report				Committee	Report	
Floods and Water Bill									
1st Reading	2nd Reading			3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
		Committee	Report				Committee	Report	
Health Bill									
1st Reading 15 Jan 09	2nd Reading 4 Feb 09			3rd Reading 12 May 09	1st Reading 13 May 09	2nd Reading 8 Jun 09			Royal Assent
		Committee 23 Feb 09	Report 28 Apr 09				Committee 16 Jun 09	Report	
Immigration Simplification Bill									
1st Reading	2nd Reading			3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading			Royal Assent
		Committee	Report				Committee	Report	
Industry and Exports (Financial Services) Act									
1st Reading 4 Mar 09	2nd Reading 16 Mar 09			3rd Reading 21 Apr 09	1st Reading 22 Apr 09	2nd Reading 19 May 09			Royal Assent 21 May 09
		Committee 21 Apr 09	Report 21 Apr 09				Committee 19 May 09	Report 19 May 09	
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill									
1st Reading	2nd Reading	Committee	Report	3rd Reading	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Committee	Report	Royal Assent
		19 Jan 09	17 Mar				9 Jun 09		

4 Dec 08	17 Dec 08		09	29 Apr 09	30 Apr 09	1 Jun 09			
<b>Marine and Coastal Access Bill</b>									
1st Reading 4 Dec 08	2nd Reading 15 Dec 08	Committee 12 Jan 09	Report 5 May 09	3rd Reading 8 Jun 09	1st Reading 9 Jun 09	2nd Reading 23 Jun 09	Committee 30 Jun 09	Report	Royal Assent
<b>Northern Ireland Act</b>									
1st Reading 23 Feb 09	2nd Reading 4 Mar 09	Committee 4 Mar 09	Report 4 Mar 09	3rd Reading 4 Mar 09	1st Reading 9 Mar 09	2nd Reading 9 Mar 09	Committee 11 Mar 09	Report 11 Mar 09	Royal Assent 12 Mar 09
<b>Parliamentary Standards Act</b>									
1st Reading 23 Jun 09	2nd Reading 29 Jun 09	Committee 30 Jun 09	Report 2 Jul 09	3rd Reading 2 Jul 09	1st Reading 7 Jul 09	2nd Reading 8 Jul 09	Committee 14 Jul 09	Report 20 Jul 09	Royal Assent 21 Jul 09
<b>Policing and Crime Bill</b>									
1st Reading 18 Dec 08	2nd Reading 19 Jan 09	Committee 27 Jan 09	Report 19 May 09	3rd Reading 19 May 09	1st Reading 20 May 09	2nd Reading 3 Jun 09	Committee	Report	Royal Assent
<b>Political Parties and Elections Act</b>									
1st Reading 17 Jul 08	2nd Reading 20 Oct 08	Committee 4 Nov 08	Report 9 Feb 09	3rd Reading 2 Mar 09	1st Reading 3 Mar 09	2nd Reading 18 Mar 09	Committee 29 Apr 09	Report 15 Jun 09	Royal Assent 21 Jul 09
<b>Postal Services Bill</b>									
1st Reading 25 Feb 09	2nd Reading 10 Mar 09	Committee 24 Mar 09	Report 11 May 09	3rd Reading 20 May 09	1st Reading 21 May 09	2nd Reading	Committee	Report	Royal Assent
<b>Saving Gateway Accounts Act</b>									
1st Reading 4 Dec	2nd Reading 13 Jan	Committee 27 Jan 09	Report 25 Feb 09	3rd Reading 25 Feb	1st Reading 26 Feb	2nd Reading 17 Mar	Committee 2 Apr 09	Report 10 Jun 09	Royal Assent 2 Jul

08	09			09	09	09			09
<b>Welfare Reform Bill</b>									
1st Reading 14 Jan 09	2nd Reading 27 Jan 09	Committee 10 Feb 09	Report 17 Mar 09	3rd Reading 17 Mar 09	1st Reading 18 Mar 09	2nd Reading 29 Apr 09	Committee 9 Jun 09	Report	Royal Assent
<p><b>Key:</b> Green = Commons stages; Red = Lords stages.</p>									

In recent years the Government has introduced the ability for Parliament to ‘carry over’ pieces of legislation between two separate sessions of Parliament. This means that some pieces of legislation are introduced in one session, completing their passage in the next.

With only a matter of weeks to go, it is clear that some pieces of legislation currently before Parliament will be **carried over into the final session** (further reducing the time available for new legislation). The flagship pieces of legislation that look set to be carried over include the **Equality, Child Poverty** and **Constitutional Renewal** bills.

### The next session of Parliament

In addition to these ‘carried over’ pieces of legislation, the legislative programme to be set out on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009 is likely to include the **eleven bills that were set out in the Government’s draft programme**.

The Government has set out these bills under the themes it wishes to get across for its programme of legislation:

#### Rebuilding trust in a modern, democratic Britain

- **Constitutional Renewal Bill** - To remove the final hereditary Peers, enable Peers to be disqualified for serious criminal offences and enable Peers to resign (to stand for the Commons for example).
- **Bribery Bill** - To provide a new, modern and comprehensive scheme of bribery offences and create a new corporate offence where a business fails to prevent bribery being committed by those working on its behalf.

## Real help now that builds a stronger Britain

- **Financial Services and Business bill** - To toughen regulation of the financial system (with stronger powers for the FSA). extend it to a wider set of institutions and provide powers to suspend individuals or firms for misconduct; strengthen consumer protection; create a national money guidance service and ban unsolicited credit card cheques.

## Investing for the future: Building tomorrow's economy today

- **Digital Economy Bill** - To deliver a universally available broadband in the UK by 2012 through a public fund, including funds released from the digital television switchover help scheme; ensure competition in the delivery of regional news; new laws to combat illegal file sharing and put age ratings of computer games on a statutory footing for ratings of 12 years and above. T
- **Energy Bill** - To introducing a financial incentive, funded by electricity suppliers, to support up to four Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) commercial-scale demonstration projects.
- **Flood and Water Management Bill** - To implement the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's report 'Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods' and protect homes and businesses from flooding and coastal erosion.

## Fair chances for all: Building the next generation of public services

- **Improving Schools and Safeguarding Children Bill** - To guarantee an individually tailored education for each child and their parents; back head teachers to enforce good behaviour with measures to clarify parental responsibility; introduce a new School Report Card (replacing league tables in their current form); and expand Youth Offending Teams' powers of intervention.
- **Equality Bill** - To ban age discrimination in the provision of goods and services; require private sector employers with more than 250 employees to report on the gender pay gap; ban secrecy clauses that prevent employees discussing their pay with colleagues; and extend the scope to use positive action, by giving employers the choice to make their workforce more diverse when selecting between two job candidates who are equally suitable.

## Fair rules: Building a strong society

- **Policing, Crime and Private Security Bill** - To reduce the reporting requirements on stop and search forms; retrospectively adding to the DNA database those convicted of serious violent or sexual offences before the 2004 change in the law which made it routine procedure to collect the DNA of offenders; providing the police with powers to compel sexual and violent offenders who have been convicted and imprisoned abroad to provide a DNA sample on their return to the UK; new measures to protect women from violence and carrying out a parenting assessment on every child aged 10 to 15 who is considered for an ASBO and, for the same age group, will make a Parenting Order automatic upon breach of a child's ASBO.

### **Strengthening family and community life**

- **Child Poverty Bill** - To put into law the Government's commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

### **Britain in a fairer and safer world**

- **Cluster Munitions Prohibitions Bill** - To put into effect in the UK the agreement to ban the use, development, production, acquisition, retention, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions.

In addition to the bills carried over from the 2008/09 session and these eleven bills already trailed by the Government, the Prime Minister made a number of commitments that would require legislation in his **speech to the Labour Party Conference** on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Many of these are likely to be manifesto commitments, with legislation following the General Election should the present government be re-elected. *A Tribe briefing covering policy commitments made during both the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences is available separately.*

**The following commitments to legislation do appear likely to feature in the forthcoming session of Parliament (Quotes are from the Prime Minister's speech):**

- **Banking legislation**  
*“So we will pass a new law to intervene on bankers’ bonuses whenever they put the economy at risk. And any director of any of our banks who is negligent will be disqualified from holding any such post”.*
- **Fiscal Responsibility legislation**  
*“Our deficit reduction plan to cut the deficit in half over four years, will be made law in a new fiscal responsibility act.”*
- **International Aid legislation**  
*“And let me say what was once an aspiration – 0.7% of national income spent on international development aid, has become ..... a promise, and will in future become a law. We will pass legislation that the British government is obliged to raise spending on aid to the poorest countries to 0.7% of our national income”.*
- **MP Recall legislation**  
*“And so where there is proven financial corruption by an MP and in cases where wrong-doing has been demonstrated but Parliament fails to act we will give constituents the right to recall their Member of Parliament.”*

Finally, the Government has in recent years also published **bills in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny** during one session, and passage through Parliament in the next. So far, the Government has committed to publishing a draft **House of Lords Reform Bill** which will legislate for a smaller and democratically constituted second chamber. However, as this is only to be a draft bill in the forthcoming session, there is no prospect of it being introduced as an ‘actual bill’ before the 2010 General Election.

### **Further Reading**

[www.commonleader.gov.uk](http://www.commonleader.gov.uk)

[www.labour.org.uk](http://www.labour.org.uk)

### **October 2009**

- **Annex A: Legislative Programme 2009/20 A-Z**
- **Annex B: Queen’s Speech 2008**

## **Annex A: Legislative Programme 2009/20: A-Z**

*This is the proposed content of each of the eleven bills set out in the draft programme in the Government's own words.*

### **Bribery Bill**

Modernising the law on bribery to support the highest ethical standards across business and public life and to equip prosecutors and courts to deal effectively with bribery by:

- Providing a new, modern and comprehensive scheme of bribery offences enabling a more effective response to bribery in the public and private sector, at home and abroad;
- Enabling the courts to consider evidence from proceedings in Parliament in the event of a prosecution for bribery of a Member of Parliament or Peer;
- Creating an offence of bribery of foreign public officials in order to obtain or retain business;
- Creating a new corporate offence where a business fails to prevent bribery being committed by those working on its behalf;
- Guaranteeing that foreign nationals who are resident in the UK are liable to prosecution for bribery committed abroad in the same way that UK nationals are already liable; and
- Removing the existing requirement for the consent of the Attorney General to a prosecution for bribery.

### **Child Poverty Bill**

Meeting the ambition to abolish child poverty and breaking the cycle of poverty for future generations by:

- Enshrining in law the Government's commitment to **eradicate child poverty by 2020**;
- Defining success in eradicating child poverty based on four targets that aim to:
  - reduce the proportion of children who are poor compared to the rest of society;
  - ensure that no child experiences poverty for long periods of time. Families can often cope with a temporary period when their incomes fall, but research shows that long periods of poverty have a damaging effect on a child's life chances;
  - measure whether the poorest families see their real incomes increase over time to ensure that no family lives in absolute poverty; and
  - improve living standards to ensure that all families are able to afford the necessities that others may take for granted, such as adequate housing or a space to play or study.
- Establishing an accountability framework to drive progress at national and local level through requiring the Government to publish a **child poverty strategy** every three years until 2020, setting out the steps it will take to end child poverty. The Bill would also ensure that the Government is held to account by Parliament and the public for progress made, through an annual report; and
- Creating a **commission of experts** in the field of child poverty to provide advice to the Government to inform the child poverty strategy

### **Cluster Munitions Prohibitions Bill**

Put into effect in the UK the most significant new arms control agreement in recent years by:

- Banning the use, development, production, acquisition, retention, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions;
- Making possible the UK's ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions<sup>10</sup> which the Government signed on 3 December 2008.

### Constitutional Renewal Bill

Rebuilding trust in our democratic and constitutional settlement by ensuring openness, transparency, and accountability by:

- completing the process of **removing the hereditary principle** from the second chamber;
- providing for the **disqualification** of Peers convicted of a serious criminal offence;
- allowing Peers to resign;
- placing the **Civil Service Code**, recruitment into the Civil Service and the role of the Civil Service Commissioners on a statutory footing;
- creating a statutory basis for the **Parliamentary scrutiny of Treaties**, prior to their ratification;
- limiting the circumstances in which the **Attorney General** can intervene in cases and requiring her to publish a protocol on how the Attorney General would work with the Directors of the prosecution services that she oversees;
- removing the Prime Minister from involvement in all **judicial appointments** in England and Wales;
- repealing legislation that limits **protests around Parliament**; and
- standardising the time limit within which legal action can be brought under the **Human Rights Act** across the UK.

### Digital Economy Bill

Ensuring a world-class digital future following the **Digital Britain White Paper**<sup>3</sup>, published on 16 June 2009. The White Paper sets out the Government's ambition to secure the UK's position as one of the world's leading digital knowledge economies and take forward a new, more active industrial policy to maximise the benefits from the digital revolution by:

- Delivering a **universally available broadband in the UK by 2012** through a public fund, including funds released from the digital television switchover help scheme;
- Giving the sectoral regulator, Ofcom, two new duties: first, to **promote investment in infrastructure and content** alongside its duties to promote competition; and second, to carry out a **full assessment of the UK's communications infrastructure** every two years; to ensure that the UK has a first class and resilient communications infrastructure;
- Establishing the necessary enabling powers for **new commissioning bodies providing strong multimedia news** in the Nations, regionally and locally and update the Channel 4 Corporation's remit. This would help create the environment for continued investment in, and creation of, high quality and innovative content, including necessary changes in relation to public service broadcasting;
- Ensuring that all national broadcast radio stations are digital from the end of 2015, by making changes to the existing **radio licensing regime** to enable digital coverage to be extended, encourage investment by the commercial sector, alongside the BBC, in new digital content, and revise the existing regulatory and multiplex licences;
- Creating a robust legal and regulatory framework to combat **illegal file sharing** and

other forms of online copyright infringement and give Ofcom a specific new responsibility to significantly reduce this practice, including two specific obligations on Internet Service Providers: the notification of unlawful activity and, for alleged serial-infringers, collation of data to allow rights holders to obtain court orders to force the release of personal details, enabling legal action to be taken against them; and

- Implementing the recommendations of the Byron Review<sup>4</sup> published in June 2008, to put **age ratings of computer games on a statutory footing** for ratings of 12 years and above. This will be achieved through the adoption of a new and strengthened system of classification for boxed video games with a strong UK based statutory layer of regulation, ensuring protection for children.

## Equality Bill

Strengthening equality law and fighting discrimination by:

- **Banning age discrimination** by those providing services and public functions. The Bill would ban harmful discrimination but would not affect products or services for older people where age based treatment is justified or beneficial e.g. priority flu vaccinations for over age 65s;
- Placing a new duty on Ministers, departments and key public bodies such as local authorities and NHS bodies to consider what action they could take to reduce the **socio-economic inequalities** people face;
- Placing a new Equality Duty on public bodies which would require them to **consider the needs of diverse groups** in the community when designing and delivering public services so that people can get fairer opportunities and better public services;
- Using the power of **public procurement** to help achieve the Government's public policy objectives on equality. A common approach could reduce burdens on business applying for public sector contracts;
- Including a power to require **reporting on the gender pay gap** by private sector employers with more than 250 employees. This power would not be used before 2013 and would only be used if sufficient progress on reporting had not been made. The Bill also includes powers to require public authorities to report on equality issues. The Government is consulting on requiring public authorities with more than 150 employees to report annually on their gender pay gap and their ethnic minority and disability employment rates. The Bill would ban secrecy clauses that prevent employees discussing their pay with colleagues; and
- Extending the scope to use **positive action**, by giving employers the choice to make their workforce more diverse when selecting between two job candidates who are equally suitable. It would also allow political parties to do more to increase diversity, for example by extending the use of all-women shortlists.

## Energy Bill

Moving decisively to a low carbon economy while maintaining the security and diversity of electricity supplies by:

- Introducing a financial incentive, funded by electricity suppliers, to support up to four **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) commercial-scale demonstration projects**.

## Financial Services and Business Bill

Promoting stability, efficiency and competition in financial markets, taking action to reduce the frequency and impact of systemic financial crises and promoting efficiency and competition by:

- **Renewing financial regulation** including strengthening regulation (including to cover all important institutions) to reduce the systemic risk of markets and to enable a wider approach to regulation;
- **Protecting and supporting consumers** to boost financial capability and tighten up consumer-focused regulation. In particular to enable spending on a national **money guidance service**;
- **Improving efficiency and competition in financial markets** including considering ways to strengthen the diversity of market participants, as well as action to maintain the competitive position of the UK as the leading global financial centre;
- **Toughening regulation of the financial system** to ensure that the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has sufficient powers to do its job. For example, the Government is examining powers to:
  - suspend individuals or firms for misconduct or to penalise individuals who should have sought approval to perform a controlled function but did not do so;
  - freestanding powers to take certain emergency actions for the purposes of financial stability, including placing restrictions on short selling and requiring disclosure of short selling;
  - strengthen the FSA’s statutory objective and governance in respect of consumer education;
- **Banning unsolicited credit card cheques** – these cheques contribute to drawing people further into debt than they intended to go by making accessible a form of credit which often attracts higher interest rates than card purchases; can carry a handling fee and can come without the protections available when using credit cards themselves. The Government will be consulting on the proposed framework of a ban shortly in the context of the upcoming Consumer White Paper.

## Flood and Water Management Bill

Helping to address the immediate effects of climate change by strengthening the UK’s resilience to the threat of flooding and drought, and reducing the risk of disruption to householders, businesses and the economy that flooding and drought can cause, by:

- Implementing the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt’s report ‘Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods’<sup>5</sup> through the **Flood and Water Management Bill** which was published in draft for consultation on 21 April.
- **Protecting homes and businesses from flooding and coastal erosion** by improving the Government’s ability to manage the risk of flooding through clearly defining the **roles and responsibilities** of everyone involved in flood risk management and giving the **lead to local authorities** in managing the risk of all local causes of floods;
- Placing a duty on all relevant bodies to **co-operate and share information** in support of flood risk management;
- Introducing an improved, risk-based approach to **reservoir safety**, extending to all reservoirs which could pose a risk to public safety if they were to fail;
- Encouraging sustainability by requiring developers to include **sustainable drainage**

wherever practicable in new housing and business developments, built to standards which would help to reduce flood damage and improve water quality;

- Updating existing protection against drought, increasing the scope and flexibility of water companies to **restrict non-essential domestic uses of water during droughts**; and
- Protecting against the threat to continuation of water supplies posed by a **water company** becoming insolvent.

### **Improving Schools and Safeguarding Children Bill**

Creating world class standards in schools, listening to parents, giving them more information and acting to protect vulnerable children by delivering the commitments in the forthcoming **Schools White Paper** including:

- A new set of **guarantees to an individually tailored education** for each child and their parents;
- Backing head teachers to **enforce good behaviour** with measures to clarify parents responsibilities to sit alongside their entitlements;
- An accountability framework and school improvement strategies for all schools, underpinned by a new **School Report Card**;
- Giving **parents** a greater say over the range of schools in their local area;
- Clarifying the role of Ofsted and other inspectorates in inspecting **Local Safeguarding Children Boards** (LSCBs) and enable information sharing for LSCB purposes;
- Improving **monitoring arrangements for children educated at home**;
- Helping to tackle anti-social behaviour through powers of intervention with **Youth Offending Teams** that are considered to be failing – otherwise putting young people and/or local communities at risk;
- Putting in place a new framework, based on the position in youth courts, to **enable the media to report the substance of family proceedings** whilst protecting the identities of families and providing the courts with discretion to disapply this safeguard where it is in the public interest and safe to do so.

### **Policing, Crime and Private Security Bill**

Backing communities in setting fair rules to tackle crime and anti social behaviour through increasing protection against a range of threats, including violence, anti social behaviour and financial exploitation by:

- **Further cutting police officer red tape** by reducing the reporting requirements on stop and search forms (whilst retaining important ethnicity monitoring oversight) so police officers can spend more time tackling the crime and less completing forms;
- Retrospectively adding to the DNA database those **convicted of serious violent or sexual offences before the 2004 change in the law** which made it routine procedure to collect the DNA of offenders. Many of those offenders who were arrested before 2004 will now be back in the community. This new power, which is currently being consulted upon, would enable the police to take their DNA and continue to be able to tackle so-called 'cold' cases;
- Providing the police with powers to compel sexual & violent offenders who have been **convicted and imprisoned abroad** to provide a DNA sample on return to UK;
- **Protecting women from violence** through considering any recommendations for

legislation from the response to the Violence Against Women and Girls consultation to be published in the Autumn;

- Providing **greater support to struggling parents** who cannot cope with a child's antisocial behaviour through ensuring that a parenting assessment is carried out on every child aged 10 to 15 who is considered for an ASBO and, for the same age group, will make a Parenting Order automatic upon breach of a child's ASBO;
- Introducing a **compulsory licensing requirement for private wheel clamping businesses**. The ongoing consultation proposes bringing clamping businesses under the regulation of the Security Industry Authority, which already vets and licences individuals, to ensure that known criminals are prevented from abusing positions of trust.

## **Annex B: Queen's Speech 2008**

### MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government's overriding priority is to ensure the stability of the British economy during the global economic downturn. My Government is committed to helping families and businesses through difficult times.

The strength of the financial sector is vital to the future vibrancy of the economy.

Therefore, legislation will continue to be taken forward to ensure fairer and more secure protection for bank depositors and to improve the resilience of the financial sector.

My Government will also bring forward proposals to create Saving Gateway Accounts to encourage people on lower incomes to save more by offering financial incentives.

My Government will bring forward legislation to promote local economic development and to create greater opportunities for community and individual involvement in local decision-making.

A bill will be brought forward to reform the welfare system, to improve incentives for people to move from benefits into sustained employment and to provide greater support, choice and control for disabled people.

My Government is committed to protecting the public and ensuring the nation's safety.

A bill will be brought forward to increase the effectiveness and public accountability of policing, to reduce crime and disorder and to enhance airport security.

My Government will also bring forward a bill to deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive justice system for victims, witnesses and the wider public. The bill would also improve the coroners service and the process of death certification and provide increased support for bereaved families, including the families of servicemen and women.

A bill will be brought forward to strengthen border controls, by bringing together customs and immigration powers. The bill would also ensure that newcomers to the United Kingdom earn the right to stay.

My Government is committed to ensuring everyone has a fair chance in life. My Government will bring forward a bill to promote equality, fight discrimination and introduce transparency in the workplace to help address the difference in pay between men and women.

My Government will enshrine in law its commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Because the health of the nation is vital to its success and well-being, a bill will be brought forward to strengthen the National Health Service. The bill would create a duty to take account of the new National Health Service Constitution that will set out the core principles of

the Service and the rights and responsibilities of patients and staff. The bill would also introduce measures to improve the quality of health care and public health.

My Government will bring forward a bill to reform education, training and apprenticeships, to promote excellence in all schools, to improve local services for children and parents and to provide a right to those in work to request time for training.

My Government will continue to take forward proposals on constitutional renewal, including strengthening the role of Parliament and other measures.

My Government will bring forward measures to protect the environment for future generations. A bill will be introduced to manage marine resources and to create a new right of public access to the coastline.

My Government will continue to work closely with the devolved administrations in the interests of all the people of the United Kingdom. My Government is committed to the Northern Ireland political process and will bring forward further measures to facilitate sustainable, devolved government.

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

My Government will work towards effective European action on economic stability, on climate change, on energy, enlargement and security.

My Government will work for an effective international response to the global downturn, including by hosting the next G20 Summit on financial markets and the world economy on 2nd April next year, and effective international institutions, including reforming financial institutions and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation at its sixtieth anniversary summit.

My Government will press for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, for continued progress in Iraq and for effective measures to address concerns over Iran's nuclear programme.

My Government will work with the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan for security, stability and prosperity.

The Duke of Edinburgh and I look forward to receiving the President of Mexico. Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS: I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.