

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Research paper

# The Queen's Speech 2014

June 2014

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## The Queen's Speech 2014

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Alys Thomas and Gareth England

This paper provides a short summary of all the Bills and draft Bills contained in the 2014 Queen's Speech, along with details of the Bills carried over from the previous Session, with a particular emphasis on those proposals that affect Wales in devolved areas.

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## **Summary**

The 2014 Queen's Speech was delivered to Parliament on 3 June 2014. It included details of the UK Government's intention to bring forward eleven Bills and three draft Bills during the 2014-15 Parliamentary Session.

This paper provides a short summary of all the Bills and draft Bills contained in the 2014 Queen's Speech, along with details of the Bills carried over from the previous Session, with a particular emphasis on those proposals that affect Wales in devolved areas.

This paper is prepared for Assembly Members ahead of the appearance in plenary of the Secretary of State for Wales, the Rt. Hon David Jones MP, on 11 June 2014.



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# Queen's Speech 2014

## 1. Introduction

The 2014 Queen's Speech was delivered to Parliament on **4 June 2014**. The Speech outlines the UK Government's intention to introduce **eleven Bills** and a further **three draft Bills** during the 2014-15 Parliamentary Session. These Bills are in addition to **six Bills which were subject to carry-over motions** in the previous 2013-14 Session. The 2014-15 session is the last session of the current Parliament, ahead of the next UK General Election on 7 May 2015.

This paper provides a short summary of all the Bills and draft Bills contained in the 2014 Queen's Speech, along with details of the Bills carried over from the previous Session, with a particular emphasis on those proposals that affect Wales in devolved areas.

## 2. Bills to be introduced in the 2014-15 Session

Bills are summarised in turn below:

### *2.1. Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill*

The Bill contains a variety of measures relating to support for small businesses, employment law, support for pub landlords, childcare regulations and redundancy payments to public sector employees.

In particular, the Bill aims to introduce provisions which will:

- Make it easier for small businesses to access finance; improve payment practices between small businesses and their customers; provide small firms with fair access to the £230 billion spent each year in the form of public procurement contracts; and increase the availability and sources of finance for businesses that want to invest;
- Ensure that the red tape affecting small businesses is frequently reviewed to ensure regulations are either cut or remain effective, and to place that requirement into law;
- Increase transparency around who owns and controls UK companies with a register of beneficial ownership, strengthen rules on director disqualifications and remove unnecessary costs from insolvency law;
- Strengthen UK Employment Law by tackling National Minimum Wage abuses and taking measures to address abuse in zero hours contracts;
- Introduce a new Statutory Code and independent Adjudicator to ensure that publicans who are tied to a pub owning company are treated fairly;
- Make some childcare regulations more flexible to meet the needs of working families;
- Stop highly paid public sector employees keeping redundancy payments when they come back to the same part of the public sector within a short period of time.

**The Bill applies mainly to England and Wales**, with certain provisions also extending to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

## 2.2. *National Insurance Contributions Bill*

The Bill contains a number of measures relating to the collection of National Insurance Contributions (NICs). The main purpose of the Bill is to address avoidance and simplify the collection of Class 2 National Insurance Contributions (NICs) paid by the self-employed.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- The Bill would simplify the collection of NICs for the self-employed, who currently have to navigate two different processes for two separate classes of NICs.
- The Bill would move the collection of Class 2 NICs into self-assessment, so that it could be collected alongside Class 4 NICs, with effect from 6 April 2016 (for the 2015-16 tax year onwards).
- The Bill would allow HMRC to issue a notice to taxpayers who had used avoidance schemes that had failed before the courts in another party's litigation ("a follower notice").
- The Bill would allow the follower notice to set out HMRC's view that the judicial decision also determined these taxpayers' cases and that they should therefore settle their cases.
- The Bill would allow HMRC to seek an accelerated payment of the NICs in dispute where a follower notice had been issued and the taxpayer had decided not to settle the dispute.
- The Bill would allow accelerated payments also to be sought from taxpayers involved in schemes that had to be disclosed under the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes (DOTAS) rules (as applied to NICs), and under the General Anti-Abuse Rule (GAAR) (also as applied to NICs) where the Advisory Panel had given its opinion that the arrangements were not reasonable.
- The Bill would mirror the tax provisions in the current Finance Bill, allowing HMRC to issue conduct notices to promoters of tax avoidance schemes and to monitor promoters who breached a conduct notice.
- The Bill would mean that monitored promoters would be subject to new information powers and penalties, which will also apply to intermediaries that continued to represent them after the monitoring began.
- The Bill would mean that clients of monitored promoters would be subject to certain obligations (which would have a penalty for non-compliance) and extended time limits for assessments.
- The Bill would introduce a Targeted Anti Avoidance Rule focusing on whether arrangements have been set up to avoid or to pay less NICs.

National Insurance Contributions and HMRC are UK-wide, so the Bill will extend to **England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland** (although separate provision in the Bill will be required for Northern Ireland). The UK Government have stated that ‘The devolved administrations will be advised of the proposals in due course’.

### 2.3. *Infrastructure Bill*

The Queen’s Speech states that the aim of the *Infrastructure Bill* is to:

[...] bolster investment in infrastructure and reform planning law to improve economic competitiveness. The Bill will enhance the United Kingdom’s energy independence and security by opening up access to shale and geothermal sites and maximising North Sea resources. Legislation will allow for the creation of an allowable solutions scheme to enable all new homes to be built to a zero carbon standard and will guarantee long-term investment in the road network.<sup>1</sup>

The Bill will contain a number of measures in wide-ranging areas including transport, infrastructure, the environment, energy and planning. Many of the areas in which the Bill will legislate are fully or partly devolved to Wales.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- The Bill would turn the Highways Agency for England into a UK Government owned company. It would also create units within Passenger Focus and the Office of Rail Regulation to represent the interests of road users and to monitor the company’s performance.
- The Bill would allow for Species Control Orders to control invasive, non-native species;
- The Bill would simplify the process for making changes to Development Consent Orders (DCO) for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) by speeding up non-material changes to a DCO, and allowing simplified processes for material changes;
- The Bill would also allow the Examining Authority for NSIPs to be appointed immediately after an application has been accepted and for the panel to comprise two inspectors;
- The Bill would allow certain types of planning conditions to be discharged upon application if a local planning authority in England has not notified the developer of their decision within a prescribed time period;.

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<sup>1</sup> GOV.UK, [Queen’s Speech 2014](#), 4 June 2014 [checked 5 June 2014]

- The Bill would transfer statutory responsibility for the local land charges register and delivery of local land charges searches to the Land Registry supporting the delivery of digital services and extend Land Registry's powers to enable it to provide information and register services relating to land and other property. Further details are available from the Land Registry website<sup>2</sup>;
- The Bill would enable the Secretary of State to give communities the right to buy a stake in their local renewable electricity scheme so that they can gain a greater share in the associated financial benefits;
- Subject to consultation, the Bill would support the development of gas and oil from shale and geothermal energy by clarifying and streamlining the underground access regime. The UK Government is currently running a full consultation on this policy and it states that subsequent legislation is entirely dependent on the outcome of that consultation. The proposals would change access rights for petroleum exploration licence holders to make it easier from them to drill and frack for shale gas and oil beneath other people's land<sup>3</sup>;
- The Government will also introduce a levy making power so that the costs of funding a larger, better resourced energy regulator can be paid for by industry rather than by the taxpayer as is currently the case;
- The Government would set a minimum energy performance standard for new homes through the building regulations. The Zero Carbon Home standard will be set at Level 5 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, but the legislation will allow developers to build to Level 4 as long as they offset through the allowable solutions scheme to achieve Code 5;

The UK Government background briefing notes state that the provisions relating to roads, NSIPs and planning consents for local projects would **apply only to England**. The changes to Building Regulations would also only apply to England. However the provisions relating to NSIPs **would apply in Wales** for some projects where consenting arrangements are non-devolved, such as large energy projects.

The provisions relating to the local land charge aspects of the Land Registry and invasive non-native species would apply to **England and Wales**.

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<sup>2</sup> Land Registry: [Wider Powers and Local Land Charges](#) [checked 5 June 2014]

<sup>3</sup> GOV.UK: [Government proposals to simplify deep underground access for shale gas and geothermal industries](#) [checked 5 June 2014]

The provisions relating to energy regulation and communities' right to buy into renewable projects would apply to **England, Wales and Scotland**.

They state that:

Where the Bill deals with devolved matters, we are engaging with the Devolved Administrations as needed.<sup>4</sup>

## 2.4. *Pensions Tax Bill*

The Queen's Speech stated that the UK Government intends to bring forward legislation 'to give those who have saved discretion over the use of their retirement funds'<sup>5</sup>.

The main purpose of the *Pensions Tax Bill* will give effect to changes to the pension tax rules which were announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget statement in March 2014.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Introducing a new tax framework that removes restrictions to the way individuals can access their defined contribution pension savings, and allows them to access their savings subject to their marginal tax rate;
- Removing the previous restrictions the Government placed on how people are able to access their money, and give individuals the freedom and choice to access their pension as they see fit;
- Introducing anti-avoidance measures to prevent individuals from using the new arrangements for tax avoidance purposes;

The areas covered by the Bill are **wholly reserved to the UK** and the bill would apply **UK-wide**.

## 2.5. *Private Pensions Bill*

In addition to the measures on pension tax, the UK Government intend to introduce a Bill which will allow for increased innovation in the private pensions market.

The main elements of the Bill include:

- Making provisions for a new legislative framework in relation to the different categories of pension schemes. It would establish three mutually exclusive definitions for scheme type based on degrees of certainty in the benefits that schemes offer to members.

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<sup>4</sup> GOV.UK, [Queen's Speech 2014: background briefing notes](#), 4 June 2014 [checked 5 June 2014]

<sup>5</sup> GOV.UK, [Queen's Speech 2014](#), 4 June 2014 [checked 5 June 2014]

- Defining schemes in terms of the type of ‘pensions promise’ they offer to the individual as they are paying in. A scheme would be categorised as a Defined Benefit (DB) scheme, a Defined Ambition (shared risk pension scheme) scheme or a Defined Contribution scheme, corresponding to the different types of promise – full promise about retirement income, a promise on part of the pot or income, or offering no promise at all.
- Enabling ‘collective schemes’ that pool risk between members and potentially allow for greater stability around pension outcomes. It would also contain a number of measures relating to the valuation and reporting requirements for collective schemes.
- Legislating so that all individuals with a Defined Contribution pension in the UK approaching retirement will be offered guidance;
- Depending on the outcome of the HM Treasury *Freedom and Choice in Pensions* consultation, allowing the Department of Work and Pensions to either bring forward legislation to implement a ban on all transfers out of private sector DB schemes or not;
- Allowing the UK Government to bring forward legislation to ban transfers out of unfunded public sector DB schemes as announced in the Budget.

The Bill would apply to **England, Wales and Scotland**. Pensions in Great Britain are a reserved matter and therefore the provisions in the Bill would fully extend to England, Wales and Scotland. Pensions in Northern Ireland are a devolved matter. The Bill would extend to Northern Ireland for the purposes of amendment to legislation with UK-wide extent but otherwise will be transferred and the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

## 2.6. *Childcare Payments Bill*

The purpose of the Bill is to introduce a new scheme that will give support equivalent to basic rate tax relief on money spent on childcare, up to a maximum of £2,000 per year for each child.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- The Bill would entitle those with responsibilities for a child to access government support with their childcare costs in the form of effective tax relief. For every £8 that a parent pays for childcare, the UK Government will contribute £2. The value of UK Government support would be capped at a maximum of £2,000 per child each year, although there will be no restriction on the number of children for whom support would be available.

- The scheme would repeal an existing UK Government system that currently provides financial assistance for parents with their childcare costs, known as Employer-Supported Childcare, or ESC. This is operated on a voluntary basis by an employer through the tax and payroll systems. It is not available to the self employed or those on a minimum wage.
- Tax-Free Childcare will be launched in autumn 2015 and rolled out to all eligible families with children under 12 within the first year of the scheme's operation, instead of just to under five in the first year. This will deliver support to around 1.9 million working families within the first year.

The Bill would set out the conditions that a parent must meet in order to qualify for UK Government top-up payments. These are that:

- the person is at least 16 years old;
- the person normally lives with and is responsible for the child (whether or not they are the child's biological or legal parent);
- the person lives or works in the UK;
- the person, and their partner if they have one, is in paid work, either as an employee or self-employed, and must earn more than the amount earned working eight hours a week at national minimum wage (there are grace periods for those setting up a small business);
- the person's income, and that of their partner if they have one, does not exceed the level at which they become liable to pay income tax at the additional rate (currently £150,000 per year); and
- the person, and their partner if they have one, is not claiming Universal Credit, or in receipt of other publicly-funded support for their childcare costs.

The Bill would introduce suitable penalties to ensure that the new scheme is not open to fraud and abuse, together with appropriate mechanisms for reviews and appeals where such penalties have been imposed.

The Bill extends to the **whole of the UK**.

### *2.7. Modern Slavery Bill*

The purpose of the Bill is to provide law enforcement with stronger tools to stamp out modern slavery, ensure slave drivers receive suitably severe punishments and enhance protection of and support for victims.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- The Bill would consolidate and simplify existing modern slavery offences into one Act to provide clarity and focus when prosecuting slave drivers and traffickers.

- The Bill would increase the maximum sentence available for offenders to life imprisonment, with those who have a previous conviction for a serious sexual or violent offence facing an automatic life sentence.
- The Bill would ensure that perpetrators convicted of slavery or trafficking face the toughest asset confiscation regime.
- The Bill would give the courts new powers to order perpetrators of slavery and trafficking to pay financial redress to their victims.
- The Bill would introduce Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders to restrict the activity of individuals who have been convicted of modern slavery offences, where they pose a risk of causing harm.
- The Bill would introduce Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders, to restrict the activity of individuals who have not been convicted of a modern slavery offence, where they pose a risk of causing harm.
- The Bill would create a new Anti-Slavery Commissioner to ensure law enforcement is doing all it can to tackle this crime.
- The Bill would create a statutory defence for victims of modern slavery so that those who are forced to commit an offence are not treated as criminals by the criminal justice system. The defence will not apply to serious sexual and violent offences.
- The Bill would extend special measures so that all victims of modern slavery are supported through the criminal justice process.
- The Bill would provide statutory guidance on victim identification and victim services.
- The Bill would provide an enabling power for child advocates to support child victims of trafficking.
- The Bill would create a statutory duty for public bodies including the police, local authorities and immigration personnel to notify the National Crime Agency about potential victims of modern slavery.
- The Bill would close loopholes which prevent the police and Border Force being able to act where it is suspected that human trafficking or forced labour is taking place on board vessels at sea.

The Bill will extend to **England and Wales**.

## 2.8. *Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill*

The UK Government states that purpose of the Bill is to

create peace of mind by reassuring those who are acting for the benefit of society, demonstrating a generally responsible approach towards protecting the safety of others or intervening in an emergency, that the courts will consider the context of their actions in the event that something goes wrong and they are sued for negligence or breach of statutory duty.<sup>6</sup>

The main elements of the Bill are that in any negligence/breach of statutory duty claim that is brought where the court is determining the steps a defendant should have taken to meet the applicable standard of care, it would be required to consider whether:

- The alleged negligence/breach of duty occurred when the defendant was acting for the benefit of society or any of its members (clause 2);
- In carrying out the activity in the course of which the negligence/breach of statutory duty occurred, the defendant had demonstrated a generally responsible approach towards protecting the safety or other interests of others (clause 3); and
- The alleged negligence/breach of duty occurred when the defendant took heroic action by intervening in an emergency to assist an individual in danger and without regard to his own safety or other interests (clause 4).

The Bill does not tell the court what conclusion it should reach and does not prevent a person from being found negligent if the circumstances of the case warrant it. However, it would send a strong signal to the courts to ensure that they consider, in all cases, the wider context of the defendant's actions prior to reaching a conclusion on liability.

The provisions would apply in **England and Wales only**. The civil law in Scotland and Northern Ireland is devolved.

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<sup>6</sup> GOV.UK, [Queen's Speech 2014: background briefing notes](#), 4 June 2014 [checked 5 June 2014]

## 2.9. *Service Complaints Bill*

The purpose of the Bill is to improve and strengthen the Service complaints system and enable payments to be made to charities and other organisations that support the Armed Forces across the UK.

The main element of the Bill is that the existing Service Complaints Commissioner would become an Ombudsman and be given increased powers which would strengthen the way complaints are handled. The new powers would include:

- The ability to investigate whether an individual complaint has been handled properly during the internal process.
- The power to recommend action to the Defence Council to put matters right.
- The power to overturn, at the outset, a decision by the chain of command to exclude a complaint.

The Bill includes a power to make payments to charities and other organisations that support our armed forces across the United Kingdom.

In respect of devolution, the UK Government states that “ ***Defence is a reserved matter (UK wide)***. Where the bill deals with devolved matters we will engage with the Devolved Administrations as needed”.<sup>7</sup>

## 2.10. *Serious Crime Bill*

The purpose of the Bill is to build on current criminal and civil law to pursue, disrupt and bring to justice serious and organised criminals, guard against the threat of terrorism and protect vulnerable women and children.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- The Bill would improve the ability to recover criminal assets by amending the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002*.
- The Bill would extend the scope of Serious Crime Prevention Orders and gang injunctions.
- The Bill would create a new offence targeting people who knowingly participate in an organised crime group.
- The Bill would create a new offence of possessing paedophilic manuals.
- The Bill would amend the *Computer Misuse Act 1990* to ensure sentences for attacks on computer systems fully reflect the damage they cause.
- The Bill would establish new powers to seize, detain and destroy chemical substances suspected of being used as cutting agents for illegal drugs.

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<sup>7</sup> GOV.UK, [Queen's Speech 2014: background briefing notes](#), 4 June 2014 [checked 5 June 2014]

- The Bill would clarify the *Children and Young Persons Act 1933* to make it explicit that cruelty which is likely to cause psychological harm to a child is an offence. This is carrying forward proposals made in a [Private Member's Bill](#) introduced by Mark Williams MP.
- The Bill would extend the extra-territorial reach of the offences in the *Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003* so that they apply to habitual as well as permanent UK residents.
- The Bill would allow people suspected of committing an offence overseas under sections 5 (acts preparatory to terrorism) or 6 (training for terrorism) of the *Terrorism Act 2006* to be prosecuted in the UK.

**All the provisions of the Bill apply to England and Wales**, with certain provisions also extending to Scotland and Northern Ireland. In relation to Scotland, the provisions cover a mixture of reserved and devolved matters. In respect of Northern Ireland, the provisions relate to a mixture of excepted, reserved and devolved matters.

### *2.11. Recall of MPs Bill*

The aim of the Bill is to allow voters to trigger a by-election where an MP is found to have engaged in serious wrongdoing and has had a petition calling for a by-election signed by 10 per cent of his or her constituents. A [draft Bill](#) was published in 2011.

The Bill would establish a recall mechanism giving constituents the opportunity to sign a petition to trigger a by-election where:

- An MP is convicted in the UK of an offence and receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or less (for more than 12 months an MP is automatically expelled); or
- The House of Commons resolves that an MP should face a recall petition.

A recall petition would be successful if signed by at least 10 per cent of the registered voters in the constituency over an eight week period.

The recall mechanism would add to the House of Commons' own suite of disciplinary measures and would give constituents a say over their MPs conduct.

The proposals are for recall of members of Parliament, and would not apply to the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales or Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Bill extends to the **whole of the UK**.

### 3. Bills carried over from the 2013-14 Session<sup>8</sup>

The House of Commons has agreed to carry-over the following bills in the 2013-14 Session.

#### 3.1. *Wales Bill*

The *Wales Bill* was the subject of a carry-over motion on 31 March 2014, which was agreed without division.

The draft Wales Bill was published in December 2013.

The draft bill was scrutinised by the Welsh Affairs Committee. The UK Government's response to the Welsh Affairs Committee was deposited in the Library on 20 March 2014, the day that the Wales Bill was introduced in the House of Commons, and has been published by the Welsh Affairs Committee.

#### 3.2. *Consumer Rights Bill*

The *Consumer Rights Bill* was the subject of a carry-over motion on 28 January 2014, which was agreed without division.

The draft Consumer Rights Bill was published in June 2013.

The draft bill was scrutinised by the House of Commons Business, Innovation and Skills Committee. The Committee's report was published on 23 December 2013 and the UK Government's response in January 2014.

The Bill extends to **England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**.

#### 3.3. *Criminal Justice and Courts Bill*

The *Criminal Justice and Courts Bill* was the subject of a carry-over motion on 24 February 2014.

In a statement on the Ellison review which examined "allegations of corruption surrounding the initial, deeply flawed, investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence" the Home Secretary announced that:

The current law on police corruption relies on the outdated common-law offence of misconduct in public office. It is untenable that we should be relying on such a legal basis to deal with serious issues of corruption in modern policing, so I shall table amendments to the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill to introduce a new offence of police corruption, supplementing the existing offence of misconduct in public office and focusing clearly on those who hold police powers.<sup>9</sup>

The majority of the Bill extends to **England and Wales** but some provisions apply to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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<sup>8</sup> [HC Library, The Queen's Speech 2014, Standard Note SV/PC/6870, 23 May 2014 \[checked 5 June 2014\]](#)

<sup>9</sup> [HC Debates, 6 March 2014 c1065](#)

### 3.4. *Deregulation Bill*

The *Deregulation Bill* was the subject of a carry-over motion on 3 February 2014, which was agreed without division.

The draft Deregulation Bill was published in July 2013. The draft bill was scrutinised by a joint committee. The Committee's report was published on 19 December 2013 and the UK Government's response in January 2014.

Clause 79 sets out the territorial extent of the Bill. The Bill makes a large number of repeals, revocations and other amendments of legislation. Clause 79(1) provides that, except where specified, any repeal, revocation or other amendment made by the Bill has the same extent as the original legislation.<sup>10</sup>

### 3.5. *Finance (No. 2) Bill*

The *Finance (No. 2) Bill* was the subject of a carry-over motion on 1 April 2014, which was agreed on a division, by 273 votes to 223. *Finance Bills* are introduced following the Budget. **The Bill extends to the United Kingdom**

### 3.6. *High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Bill*

The *High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Bill* was introduced on 25 November 2013 and was the subject of a carry-over motion on 29 April 2014.

The provision made by the Bill for the acquisition of land and the authorisation of works is local in nature. The new high speed rail lines forming Phase One of High Speed 2 are to be situated wholly in England.

However, as with the *Crossrail Act 2008*, the *Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996* and other hybrid Bills, this Bill does not expressly limit its territorial extent. This means that **the Bill extends to the United Kingdom**.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> [Deregulation Bill: Explanatory Notes](#) [checked 5 June 2014]

<sup>11</sup> [High Speed Rail \(London-West Midlands\) Bill: Explanatory Notes](#) [checked 5 June 2014]

## 4. Draft Bills

The Queen's Speech 2014 makes reference to three draft Bills.

### 4.1. *Draft Governance of National Parks (England) and the Broads Bill*

The purpose of the draft Bill is to enable the composition of National Parks' authorities and the Broads Authority in England to be broadened in the future, by an order of the Secretary of State. The main purpose of the draft Bill would be to provide for the holding of local elections to the authorities.

The proposed changes apply to **England only** and there are no devolution implications. In Scotland direct elections are held for a proportion of National Park Authority members with others appointed by the Scottish Government and the constituent local authorities. In Wales members are appointed by the Welsh Government and the constituent local authorities. There are no National Parks in Northern Ireland.

### 4.2. *Draft Riot (Damages) Act Bill*

The Bill would reform the existing *Riot (Damages) Act*, improving and modernising the way compensation is paid to individuals and businesses who experience losses or damage to property during riots.

The main points of the Bill are:

- The Bill would provide limited coverage for vehicles, where the owner only has third party insurance.
- The Bill would change compensation from an indemnity basis (replacing old items with old items) to a replacement value basis (replacing items with an equivalent new item).
- The Bill would place a cap on payments to very large businesses and their insurers.
- The Bill would establish a Riot Claims Bureau to handle claims, unifying the way claims are dealt with following any future rioting.
- The Bill would extend the application period to give claimants the time needed to gather evidence of damage and rioting.

The draft *Riot (Damages) Act* covers damages in **England and Wales only**. Scotland and Northern Ireland have separate legislation on damages caused during rioting.

### *4.3. Draft Protection of Charities Bill*

The purpose of the draft Bill is to better protect charities in England and Wales from abuse and equipping the Charity Commission to tackle abuse more effectively and efficiently.

The draft bill would extend to **England and Wales**. Charity law and regulation is a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland.