

***Preparing Britain for the Future:*
the Government's Draft Legislative
Programme 2008/09**



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DLP

Making Britain's Laws
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What is the Draft Legislative Programme?

- Government's proposals for legislation for the next Parliamentary session, following the Queen's speech towards the end of the year
- Government's main related non-legislative plans to set legislative plans in the broader context
- Gives people the chance to look across the entire Programme and take a view as to whether the balance of priorities is right
- As a draft programme, the Government expects it to 'Change over the course of the year, in light of the consultation and changing priorities which may arise

Why is the Government publishing the Draft Legislative Programme now?

- In July last year, the Government published its first DLP - the innovation was widely welcomed
- As announced at the end of last year, the DLP is being published two months earlier than in 2007 to give more opportunity for people to comment
- Part of the Government's objectives to modernise and open up government — and make active public engagement an established part of the annual legislative cycle
- Through consultation Government can improve the quality of the legislation which it introduces to Parliament.

The Draft Programme — Preparing Britain for the Future

- The DLP proposes 18 bills and a number of non legislative actions to address the key challenges facing the country today.
- The DLP is focussed around four themes which are:
 - Economic stability;
 - Making the most of your potential;
 - Personalisation and improvement of public services; and
 - Handing power back to people.

Economic Stability

• Ensuring that we steer the economy and our people through the global downturn and that we are well prepared for future opportunities and challenges.

• This means:

- More help for first time buyers through f-2oom for shared ownership
- A bill to provide matched funding for low income saver accounts
- A bill to provide more effective ways to deal with banks in trouble and improving customer protection.'
- A bill to provide local supplements on bu8iness rates for economic development
- First 3 years Carbon Budgets
- A bill to provide a new planning system for the coasts and seas
- A bill to streamline the protection for historic sites and buildings

Making the most of your potential

*Building a fairer and more equal Britain and ensure people make the most of their abilities so that the benefits of economic growth are available to all, not just some.

•This means:

- Consulting on the right for employees to have the time off to train
- Extending right to flexible working to parents with older children
- Equal treatment for agency workers
- A bill to bring together law against all forms of discrimination
- A bill to provide further welfare reform for those who face barriers to work

Personalised and improved public services

- Proposing changes to further put patients, parents, tenants and citizens in control of what services they receive with further reforms to our health, education and police services.

This means:

- Housing: 3 million homes by 2020 and more tenants' rights
- Education: A bill to ensure every school is a good school; the power of parents to have information on their children is strengthened; and the right to apprenticeships for suitably qualified young people
- Crime/policing: A bill to provide for locally accountable policing; reduced bureaucracy; and tougher measures to tackle binge and underage drinking
- Migration: A bill to ensure new citizens speak English, pay tax and obey the law, empower new Borders Agency and simplify the immigration system
- Health: patients' rights — more say, more info about care, patient budgets; new powers to tackle healthcare providers not meeting standard; NHS constitution setting out patients rights and responsibilities

Handing power back to the people

• People want to work with and direct Government to do things for them, not just have their Government do things to them. We propose to give people and local communities more voice in how their services and neighbourhoods are run.

• This means:

- Consulting on transferring power to citizens, eg on local public spending priorities
- Proposals to take forward Governance of Britain Green Paper
- Proposals to reform the House of Lords and party finance
- Consulting on a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities
- Greater role for Parliament in ratifying treaties and going to War

What are the immediate next steps?

Consultation with the public:

- Regional events throughout the UK until 6 August
- Opportunities for the general public as well as the public, private and third sectors to respond to the consultation through the online response form, through a web chat or providing written comments

Consultation with Parliament:

- A day will be offered in each House to debate the Programme
- The House of Commons Liaison Committee (consisting of the Chairs of all select committees) has been invited to take evidence.

What are the next steps after the consultation?

- The 3 month consultation closes on 6 August 2008
- The Government will consider the responses over the Summer and amend the programme to take account of the consultation or priority issues which may have arisen
- A summary of the consultation responses will be published in the Autumn
- The Government will produce the legislative programme for 2008-09, which will be set out in the Queen's Speech towards the end of this year.

How can I get involved?

- You can register your comments by:
 - filling in the online response form
 - taking part in interactive online question and answer sessions with the Leader of the House of Commons and other Cabinet Ministers
 - sending your comments free of charge to:
The Draft Legislative Programme Consultation
Freepost SCE 7543
Hayes
Middlesex
U133 1BR
- Please note that the deadline for your responses is 6 August 2008

A more detailed overview of the... Programme, including details on each
Bill... and the territorial extent can be found at:
www.commodis.leader.gov.uk/draftprogramme

Questions to consider

- Overall, would you say the themes, bills and other action outlined match your own priorities for what you think the Government should be doing?
- Are the themes the right priorities for the Government to introduce new legislation for the greater good? - -
- Are there important issues which are not covered that you would like to see included? If so what are they?
- Are there proposals which you think are unnecessary'?