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It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

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For information

On 10 May, the Prince of Wales delivered the Queen's Speech at the State Opening of Parliament, setting out the Government's upcoming legislative agenda.

The Government outlined its intention to introduce 38 bills in the upcoming session. A full list of the announcements can be read [here](#) and some of the key announcements that may be of particular interest to members of CLAS are outlined below – the territorial extent of each bill is in brackets.

- A **Data Reform Bill** to replace EU rules on data protection [mostly UK].
- The **Electronic Trade Documents Bill** to put electronic trade documents on the same legal footing as paper documents [UK].
- A **Brexit Freedoms Bill** to give ministers new powers to overhaul the EU laws that were copied over into UK law after we left the EU [UK].
- A new **Bill of Rights** to replace provisions in the Human Rights Act 2010 [UK].
- A **Levelling up and Regeneration Bill** will give councils new planning powers, including 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. It will also introduce a new approach to environmental assessment in the planning system and simplify and standardise the process for local plans so that they are produced faster and are easier for communities to influence [mostly England].

Included in the note on the Bill is the intention capture more of the financial value created by development with a locally-set, non-negotiable levy to deliver local infrastructure projects. *This looks remarkably like a refresh of the Community Infrastructure Levy introduced by the Planning Act 2008. CLAS, among others, fought very hard and, as it turned out, successfully against its imposition on developments by charities: we may have to go over the same ground again.*

- A **Non-Domestic Rating Bill** will “review and create a fairer, more accurate business rates system” and “support businesses and employees to enhance productivity and energy efficiency by making improvements to their place of work.” [mostly England].
- A **Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill** to extend 5G mobile coverage and introduce new safety standards for digital devices [UK].
- An **Energy Security Bill** with new powers aimed at increasing renewable energy and promoting a market in electric heat pumps [mainly GB].
- A **Procurement Bill** to replace current EU rules on how the Government buys services from the private sector. The Background Notes state that part of its purpose is ‘Stopping public bodies from taking a different approach to the UK Government on sanctions and foreign

relations. This includes preventing public institutions carrying out independent boycotts, divestments and sanctions' *We wonder to what extent it might affect charities tendering for the provision of public sector services.*

- A **Social Housing Regulation Bill** to increase regulation of the social housing sector and give tenants new rights to information.
- A **Renters Reform Bill** to end so-called "no fault" evictions after tenancies end [England].
- A **Modern Slavery Bill** to oblige companies with an annual turnover of more than £36m to publish a statement every year on the steps that they are taking to prevent modern slavery among their suppliers [mostly England & Wales].
- A **Financial Services and Markets Bill** which, *inter alia*, will protect access to cash by ensuring continued access to withdrawal and deposit facilities across the UK [UK].
- A **Harbours (Seafarers' Remuneration) Bill** which will secure an equivalent to the UK national minimum wage for seafarers regularly entering UK ports [UK]. This will no doubt be of interest to the Mission for Seafarers and Stella Maris.
- A **Conversion Therapy Bill** to ban conversion therapy practices intended to change sexual orientation [E&W].
- An **Online Safety Bill** better to regulate content appearing on the internet [UK].

The Speech also included a proposal for UK-wide legal duties to consider the risk of terror attacks in public places, to be included in a **draft Protect Duty Bill**. The proposal is to require those in control of certain public locations and venues to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. There will also be an inspection and enforcement regime which will seek to educate, advise and ensure compliance with the Duty.

There has already been a consultation on the Protect Duty, to which CLAS responded: we expect that there will be a further consultation on the draft Bill [UK].

[Source: Prime Minister's Office, 10 May]