

C/M/S/ Cameron McKenna



# The tracker

A guide to the progress of Bills in the  
UK Parliament

February 2010

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## Bills in E&W

### Tracking draft legislation through Parliament.

Bill	Description	Status
Bribery Bill	<p>To make provision about offences relating to bribery.</p> <p><i>Law-Now (8 February 2010):</i></p> <p>"On 8 February, the Bribery Bill (the "Bill") completed its Third Reading in the House of Lords. The Bill will now make its passage through the House of Commons and it is anticipated that it will receive Royal Assent before the next General Election. On its passage through the Lords, a small number of changes to the text of the Bill were debated and agreed. At Third Reading, an amendment was approved by the House concerning the defence provided to the security and intelligence services and armed forces to commit activities that would otherwise amount to bribery offences. However, the only significant change to the Bill as originally laid before the House, from the perspective of the business community, is the inclusion of a new clause 9 requiring the Secretary of State to publish guidance on the "adequate procedures" that businesses will be required to put in place to meet the defence to the proposed new corporate offence of failing to prevent bribery."</p> <p>Click here for a fuller bulletin on the Bill's status:  <a href="http://www.law-now.com/dmemails/briberybillupdatefeb2010.htm">http://www.law-now.com/dmemails/briberybillupdatefeb2010.htm</a></p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 9 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage 7 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage 2 February.</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> reading 8 March.</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading House of Commons 9 March.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading to be fixed.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
<p>Building Regulations (Amendment) Bill</p>	<p>To provide for the amendment of the Building Regulations 2000 to make it a requirement to install an automatic fire suppression system in new residential premises.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 15 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Committed to a Committee of the Whole House; date to be announced.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
<p>Child Poverty Bill</p>	<p>To provide a statutory basis to the commitment made by the Government in 1999 to eradicate child poverty by 2020.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 5 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Committee Stage 19 January – 8 February.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Children, Schools and Families Bill	To reform school curriculum and introduce a licensing scheme for teachers and guarantees for parents and pupils.	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 11 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Committee Stage 19 January.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage 23 February .</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
Children's Rights Bill	To give further effect to rights and freedoms guaranteed under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading on a date to be announced.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
Climate Change (Sectoral Targets) Bill	To set targets relating to energy generation and consumption; to make provision for sectoral targets to be met.	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading House of Commons 9 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading 12 March.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill	To make provision for giving effect to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd Reading 8 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee 6 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage 20 January.</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> reading 8 February.</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading in the House of Commons 8 February.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
Compensation Act 2006 (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Compensation Act 2006 to ensure that courts considering a claim of negligence or breach of statutory duty apply a presumption that defendants undertaking a desirable activity have satisfied the relevant standard of care.	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading 2 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading 5 March.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Constitutional Reform Bill	To repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and the Human Rights Act 1998; to introduce binding referendum powers at national and local level; to require the approval of Parliament to enter into international treaties and to declare war; to make provision about the work of Parliament; to devolve legislative responsibility for certain policy areas to local authorities	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 5 February.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage on date to be announced.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill	To cover a number of different policy areas including the civil service, peers and House of Lords, treaties, the removal of the Prime Minister's role in the process of appointing Supreme Court judges and the National Audit Office.	<p><b>1st and 2nd reading House of Commons 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>Committee Stage 19 January – 9 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
Consumer Emissions (Climate Change) Bill	To make provision, with regard to greenhouse gases, for the setting of a United Kingdom consumer emissions target and for the reporting of United Kingdom consumer emissions.	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 15 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Committed to a Committee of the Whole House.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
<p>Contaminated Blood (Support for Infected and Bereaved Persons) Bill</p>	<p>To make provision in relation to blood donations; to establish a compensation scheme for people infected by contaminated blood and their dependants.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 11 December.</b></p> <p><b>Third reading 21 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>First reading House of Commons 21 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading 26 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
<p>Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Bill</p>	<p>To make provision for societies to be registered as co-operative or community benefit societies and to re-name the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts; to apply to registered societies the provisions relating to directors' disqualification and to make provision for the application of certain other enactments relating to companies; to confer power to make provision for credit unions corresponding to any provision applying to building societies.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 11 December.</b></p> <p><b>3rd reading 14 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>1st reading House of Commons 14 January.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 29 January.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage to be announced.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
<p>Corporation Tax Bill</p>	<p>To restate, with minor changes, certain enactments relating to corporation tax and certain enactments relating to corporation tax and certain enactments relating to company distributions.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 15 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee Stage 11 January – 4 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> reading 4 February.</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading House of Lords 4 February.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading 2 March.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
<p>Crime and Security Bill</p>	<p>To make provision for police powers of stop and search; the taking, retention, destruction and use of evidential material; for the private security industry; for possession of mobile telephones in prison; and related matters.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 18 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage 9-23 February.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Damages (Asbestos-related Conditions) Bill	To treat certain asbestos-related conditions as actionable personal injuries.	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading to be set.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
Damages (Asbestos-related Conditions) (no 2) Bill	<p>To treat certain asbestos-related conditions as actionable personal injuries.</p> <p>The relationship between this Bill and the one below is not clear – I suspect an administrative error.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 6 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 5 February .</b></p>
Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill	To make provision for or in connection with the relief of debts of certain developing countries.	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 16 December 2009.</b></p> <p><b>Second reading 26 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
Department for Work and Pensions (Electronic File Retention) Bill	To exempt the Department for Work and Pensions from statutory requirements to retain files in written form where it holds electronic files of the information in an approved form.	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading House of Commons 10 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
<p>Development on Flood Plains (Environment Agency Powers) Bill</p>	<p>To empower the Environment Agency to prevent development on flood plains to which the Agency objects and to require planning authorities to comply with Environment Agency advice when considering development on flood plains.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 16 December 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading (delayed to) 26 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
<p>Digital Economy Bill</p>	<p>To make provision about the functions of the Office of Communications; to make provision about the online infringement of copyright, about licensing of copyright and performers' rights and about penalties for infringement; to make provision about internet domain registries; to make provision about the functions of the Channel Four Television Corporation; to make provision about the regulation of television and radio services; to make provision about the regulation of the use of the electromagnetic spectrum; to amend the Video Recordings Act 1984; to make provision about public lending right in relation to electronic publications.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 2 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee Stage 6 January – 8 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage 1 March.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
<p>Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau Bill</p>	<p>To make provision for the creation of an employers' liability insurance bureau comprising an electronic database and a fund of last resort; and to make provision about employers' liability insurance.</p>	<p><b>1st reading: House of Commons 6 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 5 &amp; 26 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Energy Bill	<p>The Bill follows on from the low carbon transition plan, published in July 2009 to substantially reduce emissions cuts by 2050. Key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ a carbon capture and storage incentive</li> <li>▶ social price support to reduce energy bills</li> <li>▶ increases the powers of the regulator, Ofgem, to deal with exploitation of electricity distribution constraints by generators</li> <li>▶ increases Ofgem’s power to fine companies</li> <li>▶ clarifies Ofgem’s objectives on tackling climate change</li> <li>▶ power to ban cross-subsidy between gas and electricity accounts</li> </ul>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 7 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage 5 to the 21 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage 24 February.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
Environmental Protection (Fly-Tipping Reporting) Bill	<p>To require local authorities to supply regular data to the Environment Agency on their response time to incidents of fly-tipping.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 9 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 4 April.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
<p>Equality Bill</p>	<p>To harmonise and extend existing discrimination law.</p> <p>The Bill has the benefit of a carry-over provision so that it can continue its progress in a subsequent session of Parliament.</p>	<p><b>The Bill has passed through the Commons.</b></p> <p><b>1st reading in the House of Lords 3 December.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 15 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee Stage 11 January – 9 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage 2 March.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
<p>Financial Services Bill</p>	<p>Key areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ creates a Council for Financial Stability;</li> <li>➤ maintain recovery and resolution plans;</li> <li>➤ remuneration policies of regulated firms;</li> <li>➤ expands the company law disclosure regime;</li> <li>➤ gives the Financial Services Authority a wider authority to prohibit short selling;</li> <li>➤ requires the FSA to co-operate to develop international standards of regulation and supervision</li> <li>➤ increases the FSA’s powers of information gathering and punishment as part of the supervisory enhancement programme</li> <li>➤ enables the FSA to implement some recommendations of the Walker Review on corporate governance</li> </ul>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 30 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage started 8 December - 14 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading 25 January.</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading House of Lords 26 January.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading 23 February.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▀ establishes collective court actions</li> <li>▀ prohibits the issuance of unsolicited credit card cheques to individuals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
<p>Flood and Water Management Bill</p>	<p>To make provision about water, including provision about the management of risks in connection with flooding and coastal erosion.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 3 December 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 15 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee Stage 7-21 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage 2 February.</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> reading House of Commons 2 February.</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading House of Lords 3 February.</b></p> <p><b>2 reading 24 February.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
<p>Grocery Market Ombudsman Bill</p>	<p>To make provision for the appointment, functions and powers of a Grocery Market Ombudsman.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 16 December 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 5 March 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Health and Safety (Company Director Liability) Bill	To amend the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 in respect of the liability of company directors.	<p><b>1st reading in the House of Commons 19 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2nd Reading 5 March.</b></p>
Health and Social Care (Independent Living) Bill	To impose duties upon certain persons and bodies in respect of disabled persons and other purposes.	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 23 November.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading to be set.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
Illegally Logged Timber (Prohibition of Sale) Bill	To prohibit the sale in the United Kingdom of timber and wood products that were obtained or produced illegally in their country of origin.	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 6 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 12 March.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members Bill.</b></p>
Land Use (Gardens Protection Etc.) Bill	To require planning authorities to have special regard to the desirability of preserving gardens and urban green spaces. Current planning guidance provides some protection for public open space but not for private gardens. The Bill has been drafted in response to concerns that too many private gardens are used to provide for house building.	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading House of Commons 1 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading 26 February.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Live Music Bill	To amend the Licensing Act 2003 with respect to the performance of live music entertainment.	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 15 January 2010. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House.</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> reading in House of Lords and 1<sup>st</sup> reading in House of Commons 9 February.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading on a date to be fixed.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
Marine Accident Investigation Branch (Reports) Bill	To make provision to oblige shipping companies, port operators and other bodies to comply with recommendations made in reports of the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents and of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch.	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 16 December 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 5 March 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
<p>Marine Navigation Aids Bill</p>	<p>To establish a Marine Navigation Aids Commission and Office to administer Regulation and to amend the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 5 February.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
<p>Mortgage Repossessions (Protection of Tenants Etc.) Bill</p>	<p>To protect persons whose tenancies are not binding on mortgages and to require mortgagees to give notice of the proposed execution of possession orders.</p>	<p><b>1st reading: House of Commons 16 December.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading and committed to a Public Bill Committee 29 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage 10 February.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage 26 February.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
<p>National Health Service Public Interest Disclosure Support Bill</p>	<p>To make provision for the appointment, functions and powers of independent Support Officers for NHS employees who wish to make certain disclosures in the public interest; to place a duty on NHS trusts and others to co-operate with such Support Officers; to make consequential amendments to the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 16 December 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 12 March 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Patient Transport Bill	To make provision in respect of transport for patients.	<p><b>1st reading</b> House of Lords 23 November 2009.</p> <p><b>2nd reading</b> 5 February.</p> <p><b>Private Member's Bill.</b></p>
Pedicabs Bill	A Bill to make provision for the control of pedicabs.	<p><b>Introduced into the House of Commons and received 1st reading on 18 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2nd Reading 5 March 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members Bill.</b></p>
Personal Care at Home Bill	To provide for those with the greatest care needs to be offered free personal care at home.	<p><b>The Bill started in the Commons.</b></p> <p><b>1st reading</b> House of Lords 13 January 2010.</p> <p><b>2nd reading</b> 1 February.</p> <p><b>Committee stage</b> 22 February.</p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Powers of Entry etc. Bill	To regulate powers of entry and powers in relation to documents.	<p><b>1st reading</b>  <b>House of Lords</b>  <b>19 November.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading</b> 15  <b>January 2010.</b>  <b>Committed to a</b>  <b>Committee of</b>  <b>the Whole</b>  <b>House.</b></p> <p><b>Private</b>  <b>Members' Bill</b></p>
Rehabilitation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.	<p><b>1st reading</b>  <b>House of Lords</b>  <b>19 November.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading</b> 11  <b>December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee</b>  <b>stage 21</b>  <b>January.</b></p> <p><b>Private</b>  <b>Members' Bill.</b></p>
Safety and Conservation (Byelaws) Bill	To empower the Secretary of State to delegate certain powers in respect of safety and conservation to conservators.	<p><b>1st reading</b>  <b>House of</b>  <b>Commons</b> 16  <b>December 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading</b> 23  <b>April 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private</b>  <b>Members' Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Sunbeds (Regulation) Bill	To make provision about the use or supply of tanning devices that use artificial ultra-violet radiation.	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 16 December 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 29 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage 10 February.</b></p> <p><b>Report stage 26 February.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill.</b></p>
Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 to make provision regarding town and parish councils, local decision-making and expenditure and the consideration of proposals.	<p><b>1st reading House of Commons 16 December.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 26 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill.</b></p>
Sustainable Energy (Local Action) Bill	To promote energy efficiency; to require specified bodies to publish sustainable energy plans and to make provision for the transfer of functions to principal councils.	<p><b>1st reading: House of Commons 12 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 30 April.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
<p>Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Bill</p>	<p>To restate, with minor changes, certain enactments relating to tax.</p>	<p><b>1st reading Commons 19 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 15 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage 11 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> reading 4 February.</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> reading in the Lords 4 February.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading 24 February.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>
<p>Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Bill</p>	<p>To make provision about the rights of third parties against insurers of liabilities to third parties in the case where the insured is insolvent</p>	<p><b>1st reading House of Lords 23 November 2009.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 9 December.</b></p> <p><b>Committee stage 12 January – 9 February.</b></p> <p><b>Third reading 22 February.</b></p> <p><b>Government Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to enable local planning authorities to use sums received under section 106 of the Act for the building and improvement of housing.	<p><b>1st reading: House of Commons 16 December.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 29 January and 26 February 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill.</b></p>
Video Recordings (Exemption from Classification) Bill	To extend the criteria under which music and sports video works and documentaries lose their exemption from classification.	<p><b>1st reading: House of Commons 12 January 2010.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 26 February 2010 .</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill</b></p>
Warsaw Convention (Carrier Liability) Bill	To require the Secretary of State to propose amendments to Article 17 of the Warsaw Convention for the purpose of extending carrier liability to cases of detriment to health or psychological well-being	<p><b>1st reading: House of Commons 16 December.</b></p> <p><b>2nd reading 5 March 2010.</b></p> <p><b>Private Members' Bill.</b></p>

Bill	Description	Status
Water Tariffs Bill	To require the Secretary of State to review and report to Parliament on the current level of water poverty by local government area; to require water and sewerage companies to offer a social tariff to all customers within the water poverty threshold; to require the Office of Water Services to set common tariff levels for all water and sewerage companies; to require water and sewerage companies to contribute to an Infrastructure Investment Fund.	<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading in House of Commons 10 February 2010.</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading 26 March.</b> <b>Private Members' Bill</b>

## Bills granted Royal Assent

Fiscal Responsibility Bill	To make provision for the imposition of duties for securing sound public finances.	<b>Royal Assent 10 February 2010.</b> <b>Government Bill.</b>
Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Temporary Provisions) Bill	<p>To reinstate the Government's terrorist asset-freezing regime, after the Supreme Court quashed the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006 and provisions in the Al-Qaida and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006.</p> <p>The Court found that the Treasury was acting outside its powers in using the United Nations Act to give effect to United Nations Security Council Resolutions on freezing terrorists' assets. The Bill, which will be put through Parliament using the fast-track procedure, will make the provisions of the two Orders in Council valid again.</p>	<b>Royal Assent 10 February.</b> <b>Government Bill</b>
Video Recordings Bill	To repeal and revive provisions of the Video Recordings Act 1984.	<b>Royal Assent 21 January 2010.</b> <b>Government Bill.</b>

## Bills (Scotland)

There is an excellent source of information on Scottish Bills at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/billsInProgress/index.htm>

Note in particular:

Home Owner and Debtor Protection (Scotland) Bill

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to amend the law regarding the enforcement of standard securities over residential property; to amend the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985 as regards the grounds on which a debtor may apply for sequestration, the types of voluntary trust deed to which the Act applies, the sale or disposal of a debtor's family home and requirements to publish notices about sequestration in the Edinburgh Gazette; and for connected purposes.

**Stage 1 Meeting of Parliament completed 17 December 2009.**

**Received 2nd Stage 27 January 2010.**

## Statutory Instruments

If you have a question about a specific SI or subject area, please do not hesitate to ask me for details.

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## The parliamentary life of a Bill

### The stages as it makes its way through Parliament are:

Parliamentary jargon explained:

[http://www.parliament.uk/about/glossary.cfm?ref=woolsac\\_4660](http://www.parliament.uk/about/glossary.cfm?ref=woolsac_4660)

- ▶ First Reading
  - An MP sponsoring the Bill reads out its title and distributes copies.
  - The House will often refuse to send Private Members' Bills to second reading at this stage, but the MP will have drawn public and governmental attention to the matter.
- ▶ Second Reading
  - The House debates the general principles contained in the Bill.
  - It is rare for a Public Bill to be denied a second reading. This is the first time that a Public Bill might be defeated.
  - Programme Motions
    - A timetable setting out specific dates for the various stages of the Bill.
  - Guillotine motions
    - Used to limit debate on a Bill so that it can be quickly enacted.
- ▶ Committee Stage
  - The Bill passes to a **Standing Committee** created to deal with the particular Bill.
  - There will be about 18 MPs drawn from all parties in the Committee.
  - The Committee subjects the Bill to a line-by-line examination and makes amendments where necessary.
  - **Select Committees** are different. They take evidence rather than just debate issues. Any recommendations or findings emerging from these Committees are then passed to the Commons as command papers.
- ▶ Report Stage
  - Here, the Bill that has been amended during the Committee Stage is reviewed. All members of the House have an opportunity to speak and vote at this stage, making it distinct from the Standing Committee Stage, where the scope for debate is rather limited.
  - Known as the Consideration Stage in the Scottish Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly
- ▶ Third Reading
  - The House looks at the final version of the Bill in its entirety.

- This stage is usually quite brief, as no amendments can be made.
- If substantial amendments are demanded, the Bill has to be sent back to the Standing Committee for further consideration.

➤ Lords Stages

- Similar to the various stages of the Commons except that after Second Reading, bills are committed to a Committee of the whole House; debate is unrestricted and amendments can be made at Third Reading.

➤ Lords Amendments Considered

- The Commons have to consider, approve or disapprove of any amendments made by the Lords.
- The Commons accepts around 90% of these Amendments because they are generally not controversial.
- The Lords may delay a Bill if, for example, it feels that there is no popular mandate for it. An example is the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill (now the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 Chapter 44).
- The Parliament Acts of 1911 and 1949 limit the delaying power of the Lords to thirty days in the case of **Money Bills** (contain only provisions relating to taxation or expenditure) and up to one year in the case of other Bills.
- Unless the House of Commons invokes the Parliament Act, both Houses of Parliament must agree on the final text of the Bill.

➤ Royal Assent

- The Crown formally assents to the Bill in order for it to pass into law.
- The Sovereign, as the third pillar of Parliament's composition, must give consent to a Bill for it formally to become an Act.
- The last time Royal Assent was given by the Sovereign in person was in 1854.
- Since the UK is a constitutional Monarchy, the Sovereign is bound to Assent to any Bill, except in extraordinary circumstances. Assent has not been withheld since 1707, when Queen Anne refused a Bill for settling the militia in Scotland.

➤ Commencement Orders

- Some Acts are brought into force immediately, others by Commencement Orders.
- The Orders are statutory instruments, made by a Minister. Parliament is not involved.

➤ Sessional Cycle

A Public Bill must complete all its stages in one Session of Parliament. If it fails to, it can be re-presented the following Session, but has to begin the cycle again.



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