



Wales Office Swyddfa Cymru

Written Statement to the National Assembly for Wales – 11 June 2014

The Queen's Speech took place on 4 June 2014, setting out the UK Government's legislative programme for the year ahead. In this, the fourth and final session of this Parliament, we continue the work started in 2010 to deliver our long-term plan to build a stronger economy and a fairer society.

The UK Government's three main priorities for the fourth session legislative programme are economic growth and deficit reduction, social reform, and justice and prevention of crime. This legislative programme contains 11 Bills and 3 draft Bills. It also includes five Bills introduced in the last session, one of which is the **Wales Bill** which will devolve new powers to the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh Ministers over taxation and investment.

As a Government we have shown that we are not afraid to take difficult decisions when it comes to reducing the deficit and growing the economy, and in this session we will continue to tackle the economic legacy that was left to us by delivering sustainable growth driven by the private sector.

Our **Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill** will allow small businesses to access the finance they need to grow while making the UK a more attractive place to start, and develop, a business. The **Infrastructure Bill** will guarantee long-term investment in infrastructure and improve economic competitiveness.

We are also bringing forward legislation to implement important social reforms. The **Pensions Tax Bill** will give those who have saved throughout their life the freedom to choose how they use their retirement funds and the **Private Pensions Bill** will allow for innovation in the private pensions market. The **Childcare Payments Bill** will help working families with childcare costs. The **Armed Forces (Service Complaints and Financial Assistance) Bill** will improve the complaints system in the Armed Forces through the creation of an ombudsman. The **Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill** provides that where a person acts heroically, responsibly or for the benefit of others, this will be taken into account by the courts.

We have also introduced legislation to tackle and bring to justice those who commit the most serious of crimes. The **Modern Slavery Bill** will strengthen the existing powers to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking, while improving support for victims of such crimes. The **Serious Crime Bill** will strengthen the powers of the police to prevent serious and organised crime, as well as enhanced powers to tackle child neglect.

All of these Bills will bring direct benefits to Wales. At the start of this Parliament in May 2010, we promised to govern in the national interest, and since then we have legislated to deliver benefits across the whole of the United Kingdom.

During this last parliamentary session, our determination to deliver real and lasting economic and social reforms is undiminished. The content of this legislative programme reaffirms our commitment to work to improve the lives of people in Wales and across the United Kingdom by providing the reforms necessary to ensure a fairer society, while continuing to provide for a stronger, more prosperous economy.