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On Tuesday, at the State Opening of Parliament, King Charles III delivered the King's Speech – setting out the legislative programme for the Government over the next Parliamentary term. As we head into a General Election year, this was the last chance for the Government to set out its priorities for the country. Below is ukactive's analysis of the King's Speech, and what it will mean for the sector.

What is the King's Speech

The King's Speech takes place each year at the State Opening of Parliament – the formal ceremony to begin a new Parliamentary year. During the King's Speech, the monarch reads out a speech prepared by the Government setting out their key priorities and the legislation they plan to bring forward over the next year.

The speech itself is accompanied by [background briefing notes](#), including remarks from the Prime Minister and further details of the legislation proposed.

It is important to note not everything included within the King's Speech will be put before the House of Commons, and legislation can be tabled even if it is not included within the speech.

What did this King's Speech include?

The King's Speech confirmed the key priorities of the Government, with one in particular being the focus: economic growth. The Government unveiled plans to boost trade with emerging economies, as well as interventions in key areas such as oil and gas, creative industries, and automated vehicles.

Also on the subject of economic growth was a commitment to welfare reform, and further incentivising those of working age into the workplace. Carried over from the previous year's legislative agenda was the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill and the Data Protection Bill.

On health, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to cutting waiting times in the NHS, and on delivering the NHS Long-term Workforce Plan.

Among the other legislation unveiled was a new Terror (Protection of Premises) Bill, which will deliver on the manifesto commitment to "improve the safety and security of public venues".

This edition of the King's Speech was relatively light on detail, including the fewest confirmed pieces of legislation since 2014.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact our Policy team at stephenmcloughlin@ukactive.org.uk



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ukactive analysis

This King's Speech reaffirmed the policy areas of focus from the Government, with little within it to indicate a major change of direction ahead of a General Election. This means the Government will continue to focus on boosting economic growth, including by tackling inflation and the cost-of-living crisis. The focus on economic growth will also mean it will need to look at boosting productivity, and should mean business friendly support over the next year.

Building further on the PM's pledges, reducing the pressure on the NHS continues to be a key priority. However, there is no further commitment for legislation from Government on this. Instead, the Government will need to use existing events such as the Autumn Statement to unveil its strategy to deal with the issue.

The Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill (DMCC) will continue its passage through the House, an area we know is of interest to the sector. While its stated aim of protecting consumers carries broad support, it will be important to ensure it does not prove overly burdensome for businesses.

The paucity of legislation announced also hints at disagreements within Government about the detail of some of the announcements made in recent weeks. With rumours of a reshuffle and the upcoming Autumn Statement, there will need to be more clarity from Government in the coming months on how it plans to use its final months.

What it means for the sector

The key area of interest for the sector is the DMCC, which ukactive will continue to engage closely with Government on. This includes upcoming meetings with the Department for Business and Trade to discuss its potential impact on the sector.

We will also conduct further analysis of the Data Protection Bill to determine what, if any, further impact this will have on businesses.

The Terror (Protection of Premises) Bill is also an area ukactive has been working with Government on given its impact on public spaces. This includes headline changes to the original draft Bill which was first laid in July.

With the Autumn Statement in two weeks' time, and a potential reshuffle, there will continue to be opportunities for the sector to make its voice heard.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Stephen McLoughlin at stephenmcloughlin@ukactive.org.uk.

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