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Below is a list of the legislation included within the King's Speech which is of most relevance to the sector. The Government's full background briefing notes can be found [here](#).

National Wealth Fund Bill

Trailed in the manifesto, the National Wealth Fund (NWF) is designed to increase business investment in the UK economy as part of the drive for growth. As well as directly investing £7.3 billion, it will also facilitate additional private sector investment. The Bill will:

- Deploy funding through the UK Infrastructure Bank;
- Align institutions like the UK Infrastructure Bank and British Business Bank;

ukactive will engage with the Department for Business and Trade and HM Treasury on the scope of investment proposed under the NWF, to ensure the sector is considered as a target for investing in growth.

Planning and Infrastructure Bill

Having cited the existing planning system as a brake on economic growth, the new Government has made reform a key focus of the next year. The aims of the Bill with most relevance to the sector are:

- Improve local planning decision making by modernising planning committees;
- Increase local planning authorities' capacity to improve performance and decision making, providing a more predictable service to developers and investors;

While much of the Bill is focussed on increasing housebuilding, there will be wider implications of planning reform that will affect the sector. More broadly, we must ensure access to facilities and options to be active are considered and 'designed in' as part of the drive towards housebuilding, particularly where these are in new developments.

ukactive will engage fully with the Government on this legislation and wider planning reform.

Employment Rights Bill

As set out in the Labour Party manifesto, the Government will introduce a new Bill strengthening employee's rights and looking to eliminate what it determines as exploitative employment practices.

The details of the legislation are to be confirmed, with a consultation of businesses and unions promised in the manifesto, but we expect it will cover the following areas:

- 'exploitative' zero hours contracts;
- ending fire and rehire;
- introducing basic rights from day one to parental leave, sick pay, and protection from unfair dismissal;
- create a Single Enforcement Body to ensure employment rights are upheld.



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ukactive will contribute fully to the consultation process, and engage with the relevant Departments on the implementation of any legislation.

(Terrorism) Protection of Premises

Known as Martyn's Law, this legislation was proposed by the previous Government and Labour committed to reintroducing it if elected. We expect the new legislation will be very similar to the original version, and have been in contact with the Department to work with them on its implementation.

With this legislation, ukactive will renew communication with the Department and work with the wider sector to ensure its implementation will not place an undue burden on facilities.

English Devolution Bill

The Government has committed to enhancing devolution in England, expanding on the current devolution deals in various locations across the country. The new legislation commits to:

- Put a more ambitious standardised devolution framework into legislation to give local leaders greater powers over the levers of local growth;
- Make devolution the default setting, meaning places will be granted powers without the need to negotiate agreements where they meet the governance conditions;
- Make it easier to provide devolved powers quickly to more areas;
- Improving and unblocking local decision making through more effective governance arrangements.

Additional devolution provides opportunities for closer engagement with local decision makers on more issues for all members. This will range from planning decisions to integration within local health plans. ukactive will support members in how to increase their engagement with local decision makers, as well as ensure devolution deals have increasing physical activity as a key outcome.

Digital Information and Smart Data Bill

The Digital Information and Smart Data Bill aims to harness data for economic growth, enhance public services, and protect personal data.

Main Provisions:

- Promote economic growth: Establish statutory frameworks for three key data initiatives:
 - o Create secure digital identity solutions for tasks like moving house and age verification.
 - o Develop a digital map for managing buried infrastructure, providing instant access to necessary data.
 - o Facilitate secure sharing of customer data with authorised third parties upon request.



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- Improve public services:
 - o Amend the Digital Economy Act to enhance data sharing about businesses using public services.
 - o Transition to electronic registration for births and deaths.
 - o Implement information standards for health and social care IT suppliers.
- Strengthen data protection: Modernise the ICO with a new governance structure and empower it with stronger regulatory powers while maintaining high protection standards.
- Establish a Data Preservation Process: Enable coroners to access online information during investigations into child deaths to support their inquiries.

We will continue to communicate the requirements of this Bill to members and engage with the relevant Department around implementation of this Bill.

Children's Wellbeing Bill

The new Government has set out plans for a Children's Wellbeing Bill which includes creating a legal duty on councils to maintain "Children Not in School" registers. Another main provision of this Bill is to strengthen multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to keep children safe and rooted in their communities. We will continue to monitor this Bill and see how members can align their activity to this future legislation.

Skills England Bill

The Skills England Bill establishes Skills England to partner with employers and reform the apprenticeship levy, aiming to create a highly trained workforce. This aims to streamline and improve access to necessary skills for the economy. Skills England will take on roles from the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

Skills England will coordinate efforts among businesses, unions, and education providers to support economic growth and align with the national Industrial Strategy. One of the main functions of Skills England is to collaborate with industry and stakeholders to identify current and future skills requirements, so ukactive will be looking to engage with the organisation.

Apprenticeship levy

Skills England will be tasked with determining which non-levy training programmes qualify for funding under Labour's proposed "growth and skills levy," set to replace the apprenticeship levy. Although today's announcement lacked specifics on the mechanics of Labour's proposed levy, the party has previously indicated that up to 50 per cent of employer contributions could be allocated to non-apprenticeship training initiatives.

ukactive will actively participate in the consultation process and collaborate with the relevant departments on the implementation of the Skills England legislation.

Mental Health Bill



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The Bill amends the Mental Health Act 1983 to make it “fit for the 21st century”, addressing reforms previously shelved by the former Conservative government in the last King’s Speech (November 2023).

Key changes include:

- Revising criteria to detain only those posing a serious risk to themselves or others and where treatment is likely to be beneficial.
- Introducing a "nominated person," chosen by the patient, to replace the "nearest relative."
- Expanding access to Independent Mental Health Advocates.
- Eliminating police stations and prisons as places of safety.
- Expediting care for offenders with severe mental health issues.

ukactive will continue to monitor the progress of this Bill as further details emerge, and explore how members can align their efforts, lobbying to enhance referral pathways from primary care to physical activity prescriptions.