

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview+

*MEMO+ is an occasional series of briefing papers on topics of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland. It is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS – empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**, and is supported by the **Scottish Government**.*

Briefing

The New UK Government Programme

The New Government's Legislative Programme

The Queen's Speech on 21 June 2017 set out details of the UK Government's plans for new laws to be introduced in this session of Parliament. This includes the introduction of 26 Bills (proposed laws), and unusually, covers the next two years so there will not be another Queen's Speech next year. The Government has explained that this is because the parliament will spend much of the next two years scrutinising legislation that sets out the details of Britain's exit from the European Union ("Brexit").

Reserved and Devolved issues

Not everything that the UK Parliament does is directly relevant in Scotland. The UK Parliament in Westminster has powers over **Reserved** matters such as foreign affairs, employment and national security. Laws about these subjects apply throughout the whole of the UK.

The Scottish Parliament has full power over **Devolved** matters. These include education, the NHS, the police, justice, local government and tourism. The UK Parliament can only pass laws that affect devolved matters in Scotland if the Scottish Parliament gives permission by means of a Legislative Consent or "Sewel" Motion.

Two of the Bills announced in the Queen's Speech deal with devolved matters, and will therefore need Scottish Parliament consent in order to apply in Scotland. These are the Repeal Bill and the Financial Guidance and Claims Bill. It is possible that some other Bills may also need Scottish Parliament consent once more details are known, especially as many of the law-making powers currently exercised by the European Union (EU) related to matters that are Devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

Bills announced in the Queen's Speech

"Brexit"

Repeal Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Repeal the European Communities Act 1972 (by which the UK joined the European Union)
- Convert European law into UK law and create the necessary structures to do so
- Enable the devolved Parliaments to continue to make and change laws after leaving the European Union

Customs Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Enable the UK to have a independent UK customs regime
- Provide flexibility to accommodate future trade agreements with the European Union

Trade Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Enable the UK to operate an independent trade policy after leaving the European Union

Immigration Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Allow for the repeal of European Union law on immigration
- Make the migration of European Union nationals and their family members subject to relevant UK law after leaving the European Union

Fisheries Bill

International aspects will apply throughout the UK; the Devolved parliaments will be consulted about other aspects

- Enable the UK to control access to fisheries and management of its waters

Agriculture Bill

The Devolved parliaments will be consulted about whether this will apply in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland

- Support farmers and protect the natural environment.

Nuclear Safeguards Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Enable the Office for Nuclear Regulation to take on the role and responsibilities required to meet international safeguards and nuclear non-proliferation obligations

International Sanctions Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Establish a new UK framework to implement international sanctions on a multilateral or unilateral basis.

The Economy

Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Provide for the installation of charging points for electric and hydrogen vehicles
- Extend the requirement for motor vehicle insurance to include automated vehicles

Space Industry Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Create new powers to license a wide range of commercial space flight
- Create a regulatory framework for space flight

High Speed 2 Phase 2A Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Provide the powers to build and operate the next stage of the HS2 rail network, from Birmingham to Crewe

Smart Meter Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Extend powers to make changes to smart meter regulations
- Introduce a Special Administration Regime in case a provider becomes insolvent

National Insurance Contributions Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Implement changes to National Insurance contributions announced in the 2016 Budget and Autumn Statement

Travel Protection Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Update the Air Travel Organisers' Licence (ATOL) scheme

Making Britain fairer

Draft Tenants' Fees Bill

Will apply only in England

- Propose banning landlords and agents from requiring tenants to make payments as a condition of their tenancy with the exception of rent, a capped refundable security deposit, a capped refundable holding deposit and tenant default fees

Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill

Will apply in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland

- Propose establishing a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner
- Define domestic abuse
- Create a consolidated domestic abuse civil prevention and protection order
- Ensure that sentencing for abusive behaviour involving a child reflects the devastating life-long impact that abuse has on the child

Civil Liability Bill

Will apply in England and Wales

- Ban offers by insurers to settle claims for whiplash injuries without the support of medical evidence
- Introduce a new fixed tariff of compensation for whiplash injuries.

Courts Bill

Will apply in England and Wales

- End direct cross examination of domestic violence victims by their alleged perpetrators
- Introduce digital services which will allow businesses to recover debts more easily
- Provide a better working environment for judges

Financial Guidance and Claims Bill

Most of the Bill will apply throughout the UK; some sections will apply only in England

- Establish a new statutory body with responsibility for coordinating the provision of debt advice, money guidance, and pension guidance,
- Transfer the regulation of claims management services to the Financial Conduct Authority
- Transfer complaints-handling responsibility to the Financial Ombudsman Service

Goods Mortgage Bill

Will apply in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland

- Increase protections to borrowers who take out a mortgage on goods that they own

Making Britain safer and more united

Armed Forces Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Permit members of the Regular Armed Forces to serve part-time or in specific geographic areas
- Provide Service personnel returning from special leave with an easier transition back into duty

Data Protection Bill

Will apply throughout the UK

- Ensure that data protection law is up to date
- Strengthen rights and empower individuals to have more control over their personal data including a right to be forgotten

Draft Patient Safety Bill

Will apply only in England

- Create the Health Service Safety Investigation Body
- Prohibit the disclosure of information held in connection with an investigation conducted by the Health Service Safety Investigation Body, except when there is an ongoing risk to the safety of patients or evidence of criminal activity

There will also be three **Finance Bills** to implement Budget decisions. These will apply throughout the UK.

Useful Links

- **The Queen's Speech and full list of proposed Bills**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/queens-speech-2017>
- **Queen's Speech 2017: background briefing notes**
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/620838/Queens_speech_2017_background_notes.pdf
- **Policy Paper: Queen's Speech 2017: what it means for you**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/queens-speech-2017-what-it-means-for-you/queens-speech-2017-what-it-means-for-you>



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>