

POLICY BRIEF - LIGHT

Briefing – March 2020





Government policy, legislative announcements and news

Headlines

- [£1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments](#)
 - The Government and NHS England have committed at least an additional £1.5 billion in total for general practice over the next four years for additional staff, a key step towards delivering 50 million more appointments in general practice by 2024.
- [Government announces that Veterans will be guaranteed interviews for government jobs](#)
 - Guaranteed interviews for veterans will start from spring this year with pilots in the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence, the Cabinet Office and the Home Office, including UK Border Force,
- [Boost to successful government rough sleeping programme](#)
 - £112 million funding for councils to help get people off the streets and into accommodation.
- [Government sets out new measures to end rough sleeping](#)
 - Confirmation of an extra £236 million to help get rough sleepers off the street.
- [Full Universal Credit rollout delayed until 2024](#)
 - Universal Credit was initially expected to be rolled out in 2017. This deadline was then revised to December 2023 and has now been extended to 2024.
- [Strict new measures to protect vulnerable children in care](#)
 - Ban on under-16s being placed in unregulated accommodation, consultation proposes
- [Guide to national funding formula](#)
 - How the schools national funding formula (NFF) is used to calculate core funding allocations to mainstream, state-funded schools in England.

Date of publication	Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
13 January	Armed Forces Covenant - Have your say in our new consultation: help us shape a great new Local Grants programme! Closes 6 March 2020	Open consultation
28 January	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Boost to successful government rough sleeping programme	Announcement
6 February	Cabinet Office Government delivers on promise to veterans announcing guaranteed interviews for government jobs	Announcement
17 February	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Housing Secretary confirms new support for survivors of domestic violence	Announcement
25 February	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Government confirms multi-billion pound spending increase for councils	Announcement
27 February	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Prime Minister sets out new measures to end rough sleeping	Announcement
Date of publication	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
5 February	Department for Education Multi-million pound support package to boost the FE workforce £24 million package will strengthen the FE workforce and help to level up skills and opportunities up and down the country.	Announcement
7 February	Department for Education T Level providers to benefit from £110 million boost	Announcement
7 February	Department for Transport Every child in England to be offered cycle training	Announcement
12 February	Department for Education Strict new measures to protect vulnerable children in care Ban on under-16s being placed in unregulated accommodation, consultation proposes	Announcement
12 February	Department for Education Unregulated provision for children in care and care leavers Consultation closes 8 April 2020	Open Consultation
13 February	Department for Education Plans to remove funding for courses with low student numbers	Announcement

14 February	Department for Education Further crackdown on illegal schools	Announcement
21 February	Department for Education Early years apps approved to help families kick start learning at home	Announcement
25 February	Department for Education New push to improve outcomes for vulnerable children	Announcement
25 February	Department for Education Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions 2020 Closes 21 April	Open Consultation
27 February	Department for Education Teachers' pension grant: supplementary fund	Policy paper
27 February	Department for Education Multi-million-pound fund to boost standards across the FE sector	Announcement
27 February	Department for Education Guide to national funding formula	Funding
28 February	Department for Education Experts to help tackle poor behaviour in schools	Announcement
Date of publication	Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
14 January	Marine Management Organisation Have your say on Marine Planning in England Closes April 2020	Open consultation
29 January	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government A coastal concordat for England	Guidance
29 January	Natural England New £2.5 million project launched to restore fragile marine habitats	Funding
29 January	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Housing Secretary: beautiful homes should become 'norm'	Announcement
30 January	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Environment Bill sets out vision for a greener future	Announcement
6 February	Department for Transport Britain's first all-electric bus town to pave the way for green communities of the future	Expression of interest
8 February	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Thousands of trees to be planted in England's towns and cities	Announcement
10 February	Department for International Trade Freeports consultation Closes 20 April 2020 Press release	Open consultation
10 February	Department for Transport Major boost for bus services as PM outlines new vision for local transport	Announcement
Date of publication	Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
19 January	Department of Health and Social Care Paramedic students will get £5,000 support payment each year	Announcement
6 February	Department of Health and Social Care £1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments	Announcement
13 February	Department of Health and Social Care New bill gives hospitals power to develop personalised treatment	Announcement
23 February	Department of Health and Social Care New pharmacy referral service to help patients avoid hospital readmission	Announcement
3 March	Ministry of Justice Enhanced Domestic Abuse Bill introduced to Parliament	Announcement



Parliamentary Legislation

- [Devolution in England Bill \[HL\] 2019-20](#)
- [Environment Bill 2019-20](#)
- [Local Authorities \(Transport Powers\) Bill \[HL\] 2019-20](#)
- [Rented Homes Bill \[HL\] 2019-20](#)
- [Local Government \(Governance\) Bill 2019-20](#)
- [Local Authorities \(Borrowing and Investment\) Bill 2019-20](#)
- [Local Authorities \(Removal of Council Tax Restrictions\) Bill 2019-20](#)



Parliamentary Calls for Evidence [\(Link\)](#)

Committee	Topic
Economic Affairs Committee	The economics of Universal Credit inquiry
Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 Committee	Key issues and challenges arising from the 2019 UK General Election in relation to electoral registration
Public Bill Committee	Environment Bill



Consultation Outcomes

Department	Consultation Response	Outcome
Regulator of Social Housing	Consultation on a new Rent Standard from 2020	Decision statement
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Single use plastic: banning the distribution and/or sale of plastic straws, stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in England	Summary of consultation responses and government's response.
Department for Education	Implementing mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels	Summary of consultation responses and government's response.
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage: government response to the Low Pay Commission's Autumn 2019 recommendations	Government accepts commission's recommendations
Ministry of Defence	Strategy for our veterans: UK government consultation paper	Summary of the responses received Summary of what UK Government already does to support veterans Government's plans in response to the consultation
Department for Education	Extending the academies risk protection arrangement to LA schools	Summary of the responses received, along with the government's response outlining the next steps.
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Provisional local government finance settlement 2020 to 2021: consultation	Summary of responses received to the consultation on the provisional local government finance settlement.

Plymouth City Council – Open Consultations

PCC LIVE Consultations	Closes	Link to Parliamentary or Government consultation	Department
PCC Draft Equalities Objectives 2020-24	4 March		