

Summary of the Progress of Bills through Parliament

Recess	House of Commons rises	House of Commons returns
Conferences	13 September 2013	8 October 2013
November	12 November 2013	18 November 2013

Immigration Bill

WWIE – The Immigration Bill erodes the rights of national minorities through facilitating deportations, restricting the right of appeal and giving more powers to immigration officers. This bill further entrenches the position of national minorities as second class members of society.

Not currently before Parliament

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill

To make provision about anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder, including provision about recovery of possession of dwelling houses; to make provision amending the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Schedules 7 and 8 to the Terrorism Act 2000 and the Extradition Act 2003; to make provision about firearms and about forced marriage; to make provision about the police, the Independent Police Complaints Commission and the Serious Fraud Office; to make provision about criminal justice and court fees; and for connected purposes.

WWIE – This catch-all bill lumps together “anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder, including provision about recovery of possession of dwelling houses; to make provision amending the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 ... the Terrorism Act 2000 and the Extradition Act 2003; to make provision about firearms and about forced marriage”, with an increase in police powers. This furthers the trend of treating the problems and deteriorating conditions faced by the youth, deprived sections of society and national minorities as issues of law and order to be dealt with by crackdown measures and swift justice, as well as connecting this with “terrorism”.

Included in the same bill is a structural change to policing, replacing the Police Negotiating Board with a new Police Remuneration Review Body.

Introduced into Commons – awaiting Commons report stage and third reading

This Bill is scheduled to have its report stage on 14 and 15 October 2013. Its third reading is also scheduled to take place on 15 October 2013.

The Public Bill Committee reported on 16 July 2013.

This Government Bill was presented to Parliament on 9 May 2013.

Pensions Bill

A Bill to make provision about pensions and about benefits payable to people in connection with bereavement; and for connected purposes.

WWIE – The Pensions Bill enforces private and monopoly right by further attacking the right to a livelihood and the claims of retired workers on the added value produced in the economy. The planned increase in the retirement age to 67 will be brought forward by eight years by this bill, as well as introducing a continual review of the retirement age.

Bound to the notion that pensions and other claims of workers on added value are a cost, the bill seeks to reduce the “costs” of pension provision to businesses, making it law for the pensions regulator to make such “cost” minimisation a consideration.

Introduced into Commons – awaiting Commons report stage and third reading

The Bill is due to have its report stage and third reading on a date yet to be announced.

The Public Bill Committee reported to the House on 11 July 2013.

The Bill had its second reading debate on 17 June 2013. This Government Bill was presented to Parliament on 9 May 2013.

National Insurance Contributions Bill

WWIE – This bill also starts from the capital-centred position that workers’ claims on added value are a cost. Taking this as a given, it seeks to provide small businesses with an incentive to employ people through a £2,000 allowance to mitigate their “cost”.

Not currently before Parliament

Care Bill

A Bill to reform the law relating to care and support for adults and the law relating to support for carers, to make provision about safeguarding adults from abuse or neglect, to make provision about care standards, to establish and make provision about Health Education England, to establish and make provision about the Health Research Authority, and for connected purposes.

WWIE – This bill entrenches the status of care being an individual rather than a social matter, while dressed up with measures that purport to mitigate the worst effects of this situation, such as introducing a cap on the cost of care and entitling people to a personal care budget.

At the same time, it attempts to further introduce market forces into the health and social care system by rating hospitals and care homes similarly to the notorious Ofsted rating of schools. Related to this, the bill will provide the chief inspector of hospitals with new powers to intervene.

Two new bodies, Health Education England and a Health Research Authority, will also be set up.

Introduced into Commons – awaiting Commons report stage

Line by line examination of the Bill took place during the final day of committee stage on 29 July.

Amendments discussed covered clause 66, 68-72, 109, 111 and 112 of the Bill.

Report stage – further line by line examination of the Bill - is scheduled for 9 October.

Intellectual Property Bill

A Bill to make provision about intellectual property.

WWIE – Monopoly right over lucrative “intellectual property” will be strengthened with changes to be introduced by this bill to simplify and speed up the patent application process. This is part of implementing the Unified Patent Court, to create patents with EU-wide validity. The bill will also make violation of British patents a criminal offence.

Introduced into Lords – awaiting Commons second reading

This Bill is expected to have its second reading debate on a date yet to be announced.

The Bill completed its House of Lords stages on 30 July 2013 and was presented to the House of Commons on 29 August 2013.

This is known as the first reading and there was no debate on the Bill at this stage.

Local Audit and Accountability Bill

A Bill to make provision for, and in connection with, the abolition of the Audit Commission for local authorities and the National Health Service in England; to make provision about the accounts of local and certain other public authorities and the auditing of those accounts; to make provision about the appointment, functions and regulation of local auditors; to make provision about data matching; to make provision about examinations by the Comptroller and Auditor-General relating to English local and other public authorities; to make provision about the publication of information by smaller authorities; to make provision for directions to comply with codes of practice on local authority publicity; to make provision about council tax referendums; and for connected purposes.

WWIE – This bill will abolish the Audit Commission for local authorities and the National Health Service in England and replace it with a new framework of local auditors. It will also introduce council tax referendums if a council wishes to raise tax above a defined level, using the banner of localism and accountability to divide people on the basis of whether to agree to improved services versus increased tax and spending.

Introduced into Lords – awaiting Commons second reading

This Bill is expected to have its second reading debate on a date yet to be announced.

The Bill completed its House of Lords stages on 24 July 2013 and was presented to the House of Commons on 29 August 2013.

This is known as the first reading and there was no debate on the Bill at this stage.

Water Bill and Energy Bill

Water Bill: To make provision about the water industry; about compensation for modification of licences to abstract water; about main river maps; about records of waterworks; for the regulation of the water environment; about the provision of flood insurance for household premises; about internal drainage boards; about Regional Flood and Coastal Committees; and for connected purposes.

Energy Bill: To make provision for or in connection with reforming the electricity market for purposes of encouraging low carbon electricity generation or ensuring security of supply; for the establishment and functions of the Office for Nuclear Regulation; about the government pipe-line and storage system and rights exercisable in relation to it; about the designation of a strategy and policy statement; for the making of orders requiring regulated persons to provide redress to consumers of gas or electricity; about offshore transmission of electricity during a commissioning period; for imposing further fees in respect of nuclear decommissioning costs; and for connected purposes.

WWIE – These two bills are yet another attempt to bolster monopoly right through increasing competition in the utilities industry.

The Water Bill will allow all customers, including those in the public sector, to switch supplier. The intention is for an enlarged and more liberal market, where it is easier for new water companies to enter and compete, as well as collude through easier water trading between suppliers.

The Energy Bill, though dressed in “green” terms, has the same aims, facilitating switching between companies.

Water Bill

Introduced into Commons – awaiting Commons second reading

This Bill is expected to have its second reading debate on a date yet to be announced.

This Government Bill was presented to Parliament on 27 June 2013. This is known as the first reading and there was no debate on the Bill at this stage.

Energy Bill

Introduced into Commons – awaiting Lords report stage

Line by line examination of the Bill took place during the final day of committee stage on 30 July.

Amendments discussed covered clause 38, 39, 53 and 139-141 of the Bill.

Report stage – further line by line examination of the Bill - is yet to be scheduled.

Northern Ireland Bill and Wales Bill

No summary

WWIE – Issues of governance, sovereignty and the national question will be stirred by the Northern Ireland and Wales Bills. The former of these constitution-changing bills will prevent members of the Northern Ireland Assembly also being members of the parliaments of Britain or the Irish Republic. Similarly, the latter will prevent MPs in the House of Commons from standing either in Welsh regional lists or in a constituency. It will also fix the terms of the Welsh assembly to five years.

Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

Introduced into Commons – awaiting Commons report stage

The Bill is due to have its report stage and third reading on a date yet to be announced.

This Government Bill was presented to Parliament on 9 May 2013.

The Bill has completed its Committee Stage. Clauses 1 to 9 were committed to a Committee of the whole House. The remainder of the Bill was committed to a Public Bill Committee.

The Committee of the whole House took place on 9 July 2013. The Public Bill Committee met on 16 July 2013.

Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on Thursday 18 July 2013.

Wales Bill

Not currently before Parliament

Defence Reform Bill

No summary

WWIE – In accordance with the Strategic Defence Review 2010, this bill seeks to ensure that Britain can maintain its interventionist and war-mongering role in the world, in the present conditions, through an increase in the size of the reserve forces.

Introduced into Commons – in Commons committee stage

The Defence Reform Bill Public Bill Committee is now accepting written evidence.

The Public Bill Committee is scheduled to next meet on 8 and 10 October 2013.

The Public Bill Committee will scrutinise the Bill line by line and is expected to report to the House by 24 October 2013.

This Government Bill was presented to Parliament on 3 July 2013.

ADDITIONAL

Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill

The Bill:

- Introduces a statutory register of consultant lobbyists and establishes a Registrar to enforce the registration requirements
- Regulates more closely election campaign spending by those not standing for election or registered as political parties
- Strengthens the legal requirements placed on trade unions in relation to their obligation to keep their list of members up to date.

Introduced into Commons – awaiting Commons report stage and third reading

This Bill is due to have its report stage on 8 and 9 of October 2013. Its third reading is also scheduled to take place on 9 October 2013.

The Bill completed its committee stage on 11 September 2013. It had its second reading debate on 3 September 2013.

This Government Bill was presented to Parliament on 17 July 2013.

List of all Government Bills before Parliament

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill
Care Bill [HL]
Children and Families Bill
Defence Reform Bill
Energy Bill
European Union (Approvals) Bill [HL]
Financial Services (Banking Reform) Bill
Gambling (Licensing and Advertising) Bill
High Speed Rail (Preparation) Bill
Inheritance and Trustees' Powers Bill [HL]
Intellectual Property Bill [HL]
Local Audit and Accountability Bill [HL]
Mesothelioma Bill [HL]
Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill
Offender Rehabilitation Bill [HL]
Pensions Bill
Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill
Water Bill

Royal Assent

Finance Act 2013
Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013
Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2013