



(c) crown copyright

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

C(79) 18

COPY NO 76

11 June 1979

CABINET

SUMMARY OF BILLS FOR LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1979-80

Note by the Secretary of State for the Home Department

1. I attach a summary of the Bills which The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) recommend for the Legislative Programme 1979-80.
2. The summary describes the main provision of each Bill and the considerations affecting their timing and handling. It is based on notes contributed by the sponsoring Departments but also reflects subsequent correspondence and discussion with the Ministers concerned. With each category the Bills are listed in alphabetical order of the sponsoring Department and in the order of priority proposed by the Department.
3. Colleagues may wish to refer to this summary in considering the recommendations set out in C(79) 17.

W W

Home Office

11 June 1979

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|-----------|--|------------|--|
| 1. DES | Education | To repeal sections 1-3 of the Education Act 1976 and so end the compulsion on local education authorities to re-organise their schools on comprehensive lines. | Very Short | Arises from a manifesto commitment. Promised in the Queen's speech. Recommended for immediate introduction by QL and introduced on 17 May in the Commons. Controversial: will be opposed by Opposition and some outside pressure groups. |
| 2. FCO | Kiribati | To provide for the independence of the Gilbert Islands on 12 July 1979. | Short | A commitment to Independence was given by the United Kingdom Government at the Constitutional Conference in November/December 1978. Recommended by QL for immediate introduction and introduced in Commons on 17 May: Second Reading 24 May. Royal Assent needed by Privy Council meeting in June. Previous Kiribati Bill fell at dissolution. Faces a degree of cross-party opposition on the future status of Banaba (Ocean Island). |

Bills already introduced - Sheet 2

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|---------------|--|--|--------|--|
| 3.Home Office | European Assembly (Salaries and Pensions) | To make provision for the payment of salaries and pensions to or in respect of Representatives of the European Assembly. | Short | Under treaty obligations, directly elected representatives, who will take up their duties on 17 July 1979, must be paid from national funds. There is at present no provision for payment. Royal Assent is required by 30 July 1979 if first payments of salaries are to be paid on 31 July. Recommended by QL for immediate Introduction and introduced on 2 ⁴ May. Likely to be strongly opposed by anti-marketeters in Parliament. Cost £600,000 in a full year. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|------------------------------------|---|--------|--|
| 4. Energy | Coal Industry (Finance) | <p>(i) To increase the financial limits in s 5 and 8 of the Coal Industry Act 1977;</p> <p>(ii) possibly to provide for additional methods of financing the coal industry.</p> | Short | <p>On present forecasts limits on the payment of operating grants and regional grants will be reached before the end of the current financial year. Essential to have Royal Assent for (i) by February 1980 if limits are to be increased. (ii) dependent on wide review of nationalised industry financing now starting. Policy decisions on (i) should be made by the summer. (i) probably uncontroversial; (ii) may raise important issues. Expenditure implications, but none for public service manpower.</p> |
| 5. Energy | Energy, Efficiency and Safety etc. | <p>(i) To set and enforce performance standards for heating appliances as required by EEC Directive;</p> <p>(ii) to take enabling powers to set up approval procedures for ensuring the safety of gas appliances and to introduce mandatory labelling of domestic appliances with their energy consumption;</p> <p>(iii) to take powers to make regulations to increase the efficiency of energy use; to remove anomalies in giving financial incentives and to close a loophole in the British Gas Corporation's obligation to supply gas on demand.</p> | Medium | <p>(i) essential to implement an EEC directive coming into force on 1 July 1981</p> <p>(ii) not essential, but would implement two other EEC directives either approved or in prospect. (iii) is a reserve measure and dependent on a review of policy. Policy approval will be sought in June; instructions to Counsel by September. Bill ready for Introduction January 1980. Generally uncontroversial, except perhaps for efficiency regulations under (iii). Minor staffing implications.</p> |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|--------------------------|---|------------|--|
| 6. DOE | Wildlife and Countryside | <p>(i) To integrate and extend legislation relating to the protection of wildlife and habitats to embrace International obligations, including -</p> <p>(a) bringing United Kingdom into line with EEC Directive on bird conservation and extending controls;</p> <p>(b) amending legislation on endangered species if relevant EEC Directive is adopted shortly;</p> <p>(c) bringing United Kingdom into line with Council of Europe convention on flora and fauna and their habitats.</p> <p>(ii) To amend the law relating to the conversion into agricultural land of moor and heath in National Parks and related matters.</p> | Long | <p>(i)(a) required by April 1981 to meet EEC directive. (i)(b) only required if negotiations on the directive end quickly (which is unlikely). (i)(c) and (ii) desirable, but not essential. Whole Bill unlikely to be ready for introduction before December 1979. General welcome to (i) from conservation groups, but may be criticised by anti-interference lobby. (ii) draws on agreed provisions in last session's Countryside Bill which fell at dissolution and should be uncontroversial, although some Government supporters may still criticise the compensation provisions. Cost of (i)(a) £150,000 a year; (i)(c) not fixed; (ii) £64,000 a year. No significant manpower implications.</p> |
| 7. DOE | New Towns Money | To raise the borrowing limit for New Town Development Corporations and for the Commission for the New Towns. | Very Short | Existing borrowing limits expected to be reached by mid-1980, but the Bill might be avoided if realisation of assets proves a viable alternative to further borrowing. If required, policy approval would be sought by the end of the year; instructions to Counsel early 1980; introduction March 1980; Royal Assent by July 1980. The Bill would continue central government expenditure. No implications for local government expenditure or manpower. |

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|--|---|--------|--|
| 8. FCO | European Communities (Enlargement) | To ratify the treaty providing for the accession of Greece to the European Communities. | Short | Ratification of treaty likely to be required within one year of signature. Policy approval for a bill will be sought in June and the Bill should be ready for introduction in November. Subject to the terms of the treaty, Royal Assent likely to be required by 1 June 1980. The Bill is likely to be controversial. No expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 9. DHSS | Health Services (Miscellaneous Provisions) | <p>(i) To remove restrictions on private medical practice in NHS hospitals and to abolish the connected duties of the Health Services Board;</p> <p>(ii) to make new provision for the Health Services Board to exercise certain functions in relation to new private hospital developments;</p> <p>(iii) to increase from £25m to £100m the total the General Practice Finance Corporation can borrow on the market;</p> <p>(iv) to empower the Corporation to lease premises as well as money and land to general practitioners;</p> <p>(v) to make minor amendments to the NHS Acts.</p> | Short | <p>(iii) is essential as the Corporation is likely to run out of money to lend. (i) and (ii) promised in The Queen's Speech. Consultations still required - policy approval should be sought in October, with Instructions to Counsel shortly after. (iii) needed by the end of the Session; early implementation of (i) and (ii) highly desirable. (i) and (ii) will be opposed in House and by health service trade unions, but welcomed by medical profession. (iii) not controversial, but (iv) might be! Medical profession will want (iii) and (iv). Minor expenditure and manpower implications from (i), (ii) and (v) - should be some reductions.</p> |

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|-----------------|---|--|-------------|--|
| 10. Home Office | Broadcasting | <p>(i) To extend the life of the Independent Broadcasting Authority;</p> <p>(ii) to make provision for the organisation and structure of the fourth television channel;</p> <p>(iii) to transfer the supervision of cable services to the IBA;</p> <p>(iv) to establish machinery for complaints against the broadcasting authorities;</p> <p>(v) to make detailed amendments to the IBA Act 1973 including provision on the contracts for programme companies and the financial provisions for independent local radio.</p> | Substantial | <p>Policy approval expected to be sought by mid-June; instructions to Counsel by September; introduction by the end of the year; Royal Assent is necessary by summer 1980 so that new ITV contracts can be negotiated and brought into operation on 1 January 1982. The Bill was promised in The Queen's Speech. (ii) is established party policy and likely to be controversial. The Bill will remove a minor conflict between existing legislation and EEC obligations. Initial loss through reduction in ITV levy of £30m a year, but yield should increase as 4th channel becomes fully operational. Cost of Welsh language programmes should be met by ITV companies and through the BBC licence fee.</p> |
| 11. Industry | British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers) | <p>(i) To increase British Shipbuilders' (BS) borrowing powers from present limit of £300m;</p> <p>(ii) possibly to provide for the financing of BS by grants;</p> <p>(iii) possibly to extend the scope of the Shipbuilding (Redundancy Payments) Act 1978 to private sector firms;</p> <p>(iv) possibly to enable guarantees to be provided for conversions of ships by United Kingdom owners in United Kingdom yards.</p> | Short | <p>(i) essential to avoid BS reaching current borrowing limit. (ii)-(iv) could be added if Ministers so wished. (i) and (ii) would be controversial; the Government pressed for (iii) when in Opposition; (iv) relatively uncontroversial. Timing of Bill related to the Government's consideration of shipbuilding policy, but Royal Assent desirable by Christmas recess. Expenditure implications of (i) a matter for policy decisions; (iii) would cost £7m over 5 years; (iv) £2m a year. Minimal staffing increase for (iii).</p> |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|-----------|--|-------------|---|
| 12. Trade | Companies | To amend the Companies Acts in order to implement the 2nd EEC Directive on company law relating to the formation of public companies, the subscription and maintenance of their capital, and the payment of dividends. | Long | Essential: the EEC Directive should have been implemented by December 1978. Bill ready for introduction: Royal Assent desirable by December 1979. Companies legislation promised in The Queen's Speech. Recommended by QL for early introduction in Lords. Will compromise many of the provisions of the Companies Bill which fell at dissolution. Very small staffing and expenditure implications - continuing commitment of 5 extra staff costing £20,000 per year. |
| 13. Trade | Companies | To revise the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies Acts to: (i) implement the 4th EEC Directive on Company Accounts and certain other proposals on disclosure published in the 1977 Green Paper "The Future of Company Reports". It would provide a 3 tier system of disclosure related to company size and correct some anomalies in the present law; (ii) make provisions relating to the duties of directors, insider dealing, and increased penalties following the Companies Bill which fell at the end of last session. | Substantial | (i) essential since 4th Directive must be implemented by July 1980. A consultative document will be published in June for comment by end November. Policy approval should be sought by January 1980 and the bill should be ready for introduction by April 1980. Royal Assent by end July 1980. Companies legislation was promised in The Queen's Speech. The bill is generally recognised to be necessary and desirable, but may be differences with the Opposition on the details. Public expenditure and manpower implications unlikely to be significant. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|---------------|---------------------|---|------------|---|
| 14. Trade | Insurance Companies | To extend the provisions of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 and Regulations to Northern Ireland and to repeal similar Northern Ireland legislation in accordance with EEC obligations. | Short | The Bill is necessary to fulfill an undertaking in the European Council of Ministers that the United Kingdom would introduce a single regime for the authorisation and supervision of insurance companies throughout the United Kingdom. Functions will be transferred from the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce to the Department of Trade. Policy approval being sought; drafting well advanced. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland proposes introduction after the summer recess. Uncontroversial: suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . Negligible expenditure and manpower implications. |
| 15. Transport | Ports (Finance) | To authorise the Government to assist financially a port authority where there is a danger that port facilities of national importance will be disabled by financial collapse. In particular assistance may be given for the severance of surplus manpower, but not to subsidise the continuing operation of uneconomic facilities. | Very Short | Bill in general terms to avoid hybridity, but intended for the Port of London Authority to whom payments are already being made under the Estimates and Consolidated Fund Act. These cannot appropriately continue beyond the present financial year. Once policy is decided, the Bill could be prepared for introduction within about 3 weeks. Royal Assent required by 31 March 1980 but introduction after the summer recess highly desirable. The Bill is likely to be seen as meeting commitments already entered into. It is likely to be certified as a Money Bill so streamlining Lords procedure. Severance costs which are the main purpose of the Bill currently £35m over the PESC period. No public service manpower implications. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|---------------------|--|--------|---|
| 16. MAFF | Importation of Bees | To prevent the introduction of bee diseases through the importation of bees. | Short | <p>Policy approval should be obtained shortly; instructions to counsel in June; introduction by July. Royal Assent needed as soon as possible to enable order to be made by early 1980 before bee importing season begins.</p> <p>Temporary measures under present inadequate legislation being taken for 1979 season.</p> <p>Bill needed to prevent spread of parasitic bee disease to United Kingdom from other parts of Europe.</p> <p>Uncontroversial; suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u>. No EEC requirements affecting bees. No expenditure or manpower implications.</p> |

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|---|---|--------|---|
| 17. MOD | International Military Services (Financial Provision) | To provide specific statutory authority for expenditure arising from the continuing functions of the Secretary of State for Defence in relation to International Military Services Ltd. | Short | S of S assumed responsibility for IMS on 1 April 1977: shares transferred on 24 January 1979. Undertaking then given to introduce this legislation in accordance with policy commitment given by the Treasury to the PAC in 1932 to seek specific statutory cover when functions extended beyond a given financial year. Subject to policy approval, Instructions could be sent to Counsel shortly. Early enactment desirable. May be controversial if MPs use opportunity to discuss defence exports or Iran (a major IMS customer). The Bill would not affect existing financial liabilities. No manpower implications. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--------|---|
| 18. Chancellor of the Duchy | National Heritage Fund | <p>i) To establish the National Heritage Fund with independent trustees;</p> <p>ii) to wind up the National Land Fund;</p> <p>iii) to make any consequential amendments to the existing provisions for acceptance in lieu of capital transfer tax;</p> <p>iv) to extend the present scheme of Government indemnities on loans of works of art.</p> | Short | <p>Policy approval will be sought in July; instructions for Counsel ready soon after; introduction in the autumn; with a view to Royal Assent by 1 April 1980.</p> <p>Not generally controversial, although some details may be.</p> <p>Size of Fund yet to be determined - provisional net PLES addition of £10m for 1980/81 to the existing National Land Fund of £5.5m a year. Small increase in manpower to establish Fund secretariat.</p> |
| | Employment Protection (Amendment) Bill | To amend the employment protection legislation on employers and other employees | Medium | |
| | Employment Protection (Amendment) Bill | To amend the employment protection legislation on employers and other employees | Medium | |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|--|--|--------|--|
| 19. DES | Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) | <p>To amend the law on education relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the taking of places in independent schools; ii) the provision of an assisted places scheme for secondary pupils; iii) parental choice and related matters; iv) publication of information about schools, including exam. results; v) school government, particularly elected places for parents and teachers; vi) the employment of teachers in day nurseries; vii) industrial scholarships; viii) the extension of the mandatory grant system, particularly to cover vocational and professional courses; ix) grants for education in Welsh; x) the pooling of educational expenditure; xi) possibly the planning and co-ordination of maintained higher education. | Medium | <p>Should seek policy approval by July; instructions to Counsel by the end of the summer recess; enactment by July 1980 desirable. i), ii) and iii) promised in The Queen's Speech. iv) is a manifesto commitment referred to in the Debate on the Address. (i), (ii) and iv) will be controversial. Many of the other provisions would reintroduce, with appropriate modifications, provisions in the Education Bill which fell at the end of the last session. They are not particularly partisan, although there are conflicting views from pressure groups. Limited implications for expenditure and manpower.</p> |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|----------------|--|---|--------|---|
| 20. Employment | Trade Union | <p>(i) To provide new legal rights for individuals who are excluded or expelled from union membership;</p> <p>(ii) to give new rights to compensation for employees who are dismissed for non-union membership in a union closed shop;</p> <p>(iii) to amend the law on picketing and possibly on trade union immunities;</p> <p>(iv) to make provision for the payment out of public funds of expenses connected with postal ballots held by unions.</p> | Medium | <p>Major manifesto commitments and promised in The Queen's Speech. Consultations necessary; policy approval should be sought by mid-September; instructions to Counsel shortly after; ready for introduction towards the end of 1979; Royal Assent summer 1980. Highly controversial - will be opposed by the Opposition and criticism by the TUC and individual unions can be expected. Expenditure and manpower implications of (i)-(iii) small. (iv) expected to start at £1m and rise to £5m.</p> |
| 21. Employment | Employment Protection Acts (Amendment) | <p>To ease the burden of the employment protection legislation on employers and other matters.</p> | Medium | <p>Manifesto commitment; generalised reference in The Queen's Speech. Policy approval should be sought by December 1979; Instructions to Counsel by February 1980; Bill ready for introduction by April 1980. Controversial: will be opposed by Opposition and the Trade Unions. There is advantage in enacting all legislation which will be opposed by the trade unions in the first session. Expenditure and manpower implications not likely to be significant.</p> |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|---|--|--------|---|
| 22. Energy | Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Act (Amendment) | To implement as necessary the outcome of the review of the finances of the British National Oil Corporation including the establishment of a new financial regime. | Medium | Manifesto commitment; generalised reference in The Queen's Speech. Policy approval by July: Instructions to Counsel early October: introduction by Christmas. Implementation this session highly desirable. The bill will be highly controversial. Expenditure and manpower implications not yet clear. |
| 23. Energy | Offshore Installations | To improve enforcement powers in relation to safety zones around offshore installations and related matters. | Short | Recommended by QL for early introduction in Commons. Politically uncontroversial, but United Kingdom shipping interests may be concerned about setting a precedent for arrest on the high seas. May be suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . No expenditure or manpower implications. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 24. DOE | Housing | <p>(i) To grant council and new town tenants a right to buy their homes at a discount;</p> <p>(ii) to introduce a 'Tenants' Charter for those who do not buy;</p> <p>(iii) to introduce a new short-hold tenure to encourage lettings in the private sector;</p> <p>(iv) to introduce a new system of housing subsidies for local authorities;</p> <p>(v) to make other amendments to housing legislation.</p> | Very long (over 100 clauses) | High priority manifesto commitment promised in The Queen's Speech. Early enactment highly desirable so that (iv) can come into effect by April 1980. Policy approval will be sought in June. Instructions to Counsel June-July with object of introduction in November. (i) and (ii) highly controversial, (ii) less so. Considerable financial and local authority manpower implications in (i) depending on take-up. Considerable expenditure implications in (iv) if <u>not</u> introduced. |
| 25. DOE | Local Government, Planning and Land | <p>Some, but not all, of the following:</p> <p>(i) to regulate local authority direct labour organisations;</p> <p>(ii) to rescind various Ministerial controls over local authorities;</p> <p>(iii) to transfer some powers from county to district councils;</p> <p>(iv) to require publication of information on local authority costs;</p> <p>(v) to repeal the main provisions at least of the Community Land Act 1975;</p> <p>(vi) to encourage the reduction of local authority land stocks;</p> <p>(vii) to amend the Land Compensation Act 1973 to delete time limits;</p> | Short | The Bill was promised in The Queen's Speech. (i)-(vi) and part of (xi) are manifesto commitments or established party policy. Policy approval will be sought by July; introduction in November. Lower priority items not ready within that timescale will be dropped. Some minor expenditure implications, but the Bill is intended to save money and manpower. (viii) would cost £30m over 6 years, offset by some savings in RSG. |

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|-----------------|---|---|------------|---|
| DOE (Continued) | Local Government, Planning and Land (continued) | <p>(viii) to make grants and other provisions for gypsy caravan sites;</p> <p>(ix) to make minor amendments to the rating and grants system;</p> <p>(x) to make amendments relating to local authority members subsistence allowances, the powers of the local government Ombudsman and to implement the recommendations of the Commission for Local Administration in England;</p> <p>(xi) to speed up planning procedures, including implementing some of the recommendations of the Stevens Committee on planning control;</p> <p>(xii) to make other miscellaneous provisions on planning, cemeteries, urban conservation, historic buildings and nuisance.</p> | | |
| 26. FCO | Consular Fees (Amendment) | To authorise the collection of fees by certain additional categories of public service officers. | Very Short | No particular timing considerations. Uncontroversial: possibly suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . Should increase yield from consular fees. |
| | | | | |

| Department | Title | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|--|---|--------|--|
| 27. FCO | International Organisations (Amendment) | <p>(i) To enable privileges and immunities to be granted to international organisations and for conferment of purely Commonwealth membership;</p> <p>(ii) to enable additional privileges to be accorded to international commodity organisations of which the UK is not a member; <i>make other minor changes</i></p> <p>(iii) to rectify minor anomalies in the 1968 Act.</p> | Short | <p>If approved, bill could be introduced early in the session. Royal Assent for (i) desirable by early 1980 (or sooner) to meet pressure from Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation. (i) would remove discrimination against Commonwealth countries; (ii) would enhance London's standing as a world commodity centre and bring benefits to the UK. Generally uncontroversial, but there may be some Parliamentary criticism of the extension of immunity and privileges. Suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u>. Might be some slight loss of revenue. No manpower implications.</p> |
| 28. FCO | Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Miscellaneous Provisions) | To make consequential provisions chiefly in respect of nationality, following conferment of independence by Australia and New Zealand. | Short | <p>If approved, bill could be introduced early in the session. Without the Bill there may be doubts about the national status of children born in these countries to citizens of the UK and Colonies. No particular target for enactment. Uncontroversial: suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u>. Expenditure and manpower implications are negligible.</p> |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|---|---|--------|---|
| 29. DHSS | Social Security (Pensioners' Payments) | <p>(i) To provide a Christmas bonus for pensioners;</p> <p>(ii) to make urgent amendments of social security law relating to the annual uprating of benefits.</p> | Short | <p>Policy approval has been secured. Ready for introduction. Royal Assent by summer recess desirable.</p> <p>(i) is a manifesto commitment and is referred to in The Queen's Speech. Unlikely to be controversial, except possibly on size of bonus. Cost £105m in 1979/80 for £10 bonus plus £3m administration costs. No provision in PESC or Estimates.</p> <p>(ii) highly controversial. Will lead to substantial public expenditure savings.</p> |
| | | | | |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--------|---|
| 30. DHSS | Social Security | <p>(i) to implement EEC directive on equal treatment of men and women in social security;</p> <p>(ii) to make changes to simplify and clarify the supplement benefits scheme following the recent review;</p> <p>(iii) to make other minor changes.</p> | Medium | <p>Policy approval will be sought before the summer recess; instructions soon after; introduction in November. Royal Assent by June 1980.</p> <p>The Bill will be generally welcomed, although there may be some opposition on particular points. (i) would need extra expenditure of £13m by 1984; (ii) and (iii) would have negligible expenditure and manpower implications, and perhaps some savings.</p> |
| 39. Law Chancellor Department | British Nationality Act 1980 | To replace the British Nationality Act 1948-65 | Long | <p>Policy approval still to be sought; instructions to Counsel by September; introduction by January 1980. Manifesto commitment and promised in The Queen's Speech. Need for Bill recognized by Opposition, but may be cross-party disagreements on the details. Will</p> |
| 40. Law Chancellor Department | | | | <p>the Bill could cause significant in</p> |
| 41. Law Chancellor Department | Official Information Bill | To replace section 2 of the Official Information Act 1981 | Medium | <p>the Bill could cause significant in</p> |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|--------|---|
| 31. Home Office | Official Information | To replace section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 | Medium | <p>Instructions could be ready by mid-July, given high priority. Legislation was promised in the Queen's Speech. All major parties wish to bring section 2 up-to-date. The bill could raise interest in open government, but it would be drafted so that amendments on open government would not be admissible. No expenditure or manpower implications</p> |
| | | | | |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|-----------------|-------------|---|--------|--|
| 32. Home Office | Isle of Man | <p>(i) To repeal and replace the 1978 Act and enable the IOM Government to run its own Custom and Excise Service from 1 April 1980;</p> <p>(ii) to make such other amendments to IOM legislation as are agreed.</p> | Short | Content depends on further study of the legal implications and on the formal negotiations now under way with the IOM Government. Should be enacted toward the end of 1979. The previous Government gave a commitment to (i). Uncontroversial: might be suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . No new costs for United Kingdom, some staff savings. No EEC implications. |
| 33. Home Office | Nationality | To replace the British Nationality Acts 1948-65 | Long | Policy approval still to be sought; instructions to Counsel by September; introduction by January 1980. Manifesto commitment and promised in The Queen's Speech. Need for Bill recognised by Opposition, but may be cross-party disagreements on the details. Will require renegotiation of definition of United Kingdom national for EEC purposes. Up to 50 extra staff required for transitional period. |

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|------------|--|
| 34. Home Office | Police (Negotiating Machinery) | To establish on a statutory basis a new police negotiating body to replace the Police Council following the recommendations of the Edmund Davies Committee | Very Short | Policy approval should be sought and instructions for Counsel prepared by the summer recess. Early enactment desirable. Need for new machinery accepted by all those concerned. Should be uncontroversial: suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . Will involve minor expenditure and manpower increases. |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|--------------|---|--|--------|--|
| 35. Industry | Aircraft and Shipbuilding (Denationalisation) | <p>(i) To create powers to sell to private owners parts or the whole of British Aerospace and British Shipbuilders.</p> <p>(ii) to make consequential adjustments to the duties of the corporations.</p> | Medium | Policy approval will be sought by the summer recess; the Bill should be ready for introduction in November. Royal Assent by summer 1980. Based on manifesto commitment and general reference in The Queen's Speech. Highly controversial; likely to be opposed by the trade unions. Sales of assets should reduce public expenditure; negligible manpower implications. |
| 36. Industry | Industry | To amend the Industry Acts 1975 and 1979 in respect of the National Enterprise Board (NEB), and the 1975 Act in respect of planning agreements and disclosure of information. | Medium | Policy approval will be sought by mid-July; instructions to Counsel by mid-August; introduction by November (but it might be possible to bring the timetable forward and introduce before the summer recess). Royal Assent desirable by end January 1980. Manifesto commitment and promised in The Queen's Speech. Consultation necessary. Highly controversial; TUC opposition expected. Substantial reduction in Government expenditure in later years and eventual reduction of up to 100 posts in NEB. |

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|--------------|--|---|--------|---|
| 37. Industry | Cable and Wireless (Disposal of Shares) | To enable the shares of Cable and Wireless to be sold to the private sector <i>the Council following the recommendations of the Edmund Davis Committee</i> | Short | Consultations with Commonwealth Governments required, but assuming no delay, policy approval might be sought in June; instructions shortly thereafter; introduction July or November. Royal Assent required before start of financial year 1980/81. General reference to sale of shares in The Queen's Speech, but no specific commitment to Cable and Wireless. If ready in time could be incorporated in the Industry Bill. Would be strongly opposed by the Opposition. The Bill would increase revenue by the sale of shares. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------|---|
| 38. Lord Chancellor's Department | Contempt of Court | To implement, with some modifications the Phillimore Report of 1974, in the light of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the Sunday Times case: in particular to clarify, and at some points to relax, the law of contempt as it affects the press and other media. | Substantial | Policy approval to be sought in June; instructions to Counsel July/August. No particular target for enactment, but the sooner the better. Promised in The Queen's Speech. Not politically controversial, but will arouse considerable Parliamentary, press and legal interest. No significant expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 39. Lord Chancellor's Department | Limitation | To implement the Law Reform Committee's 21st Report by making detailed amendments to the law of Limitation of actions, other than for personal injury cases. It will also enable the law to be consolidated. | Medium | Policy approval obtained. Bill ready for introduction. Uncontroversial: suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . Recommended by QL for early introduction in the Lords. No expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 40. Lord Chancellor's Department | Charging Orders | To implement the Law Commission Report of 1976 by improving the legal machinery for enforcing judgments by charging land or securities. | Short | Policy approval obtained. Bill ready for introduction. No particular target date or priority. Uncontroversial: suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> or Private Member. Recommended by QL for early introduction in the Lords. No expenditure or manpower implications. |
| | | | | |

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|--|---|------------|--|
| 41. Trade | Competition and Prices (Disposal of Shares) | To strengthen competition and to abolish the Price Commission. | Medium | Bill should be ready shortly. Referred to in the Queen's Speech and in greater detail in the debate on the Address. Royal Assent before the summer recess desirable. Controversial: will be opposed by Opposition and TUC, welcomed by Industry. Saving of 460 posts, but these are not strictly civil servants. Recommended by QL. |
| 42. Trade | Shipping Contracts and Commercial Documents (Amendment) | (i) To amend or replace the 1964 Act in order to strengthen Government power to resist incursions into UK jurisdiction by agencies or authorities of other countries (eg for demands for information from UK persons); (ii) to amend for a related purpose the Evidence (Proceedings in other Jurisdictions) Act 1975. | Very Short | Early legislation is desirable to protect UK Sovereignty if an urgent case arose where powers under the 1964 Act were inadequate. Policy approval should be sought shortly; instructions to Counsel in June; ready for introduction in July. Could lead to representations from the USA and attempts to strengthen the measure to prevent British firms complying with the Arab boycott of Israel, but unlikely to be politically controversial: suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . No expenditure or manpower implications. |

| Department | Title | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|---------------|-----------|---|--------|---|
| 43. Transport | Transport | <p>(i) to provide for the sale to the public of shares in the National Freight Corporation;</p> <p>(ii) to relax bus licensing to encourage car sharing and bus experiments;</p> <p>(iii) to enable the basis of taxation for goods vehicles to be changed from unladen weight to gross weight and axle configuration (this could be incorporated in a Finance Bill).</p> | Medium | <p>Subject to policy approval, instructions to Counsel could be sent in the autumn and the Bill introduced before the Christmas recess. (i) and (ii) Manifesto commitments, for administrative reasons (iii) must be available early in 1981 and would give effect to a draft EEC directive. Capital receipts from sale of shares under (i), but may be offset by additional expenditure requirements. On other provisions expenditure and manpower implications generally neutral.</p> |

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|--|---|------------|---|
| 1. MAFF | Agriculture Act (Amendment) | To revise the support arrangements for potatoes. | Very Short | Decisions will be taken shortly on support arrangements for the 1979-80 potato crop. Following the decision of the European Court that part of the United Kingdom's current support arrangements are contrary to Community law, legislation may be needed early in the session. Depending on the decisions taken, the bill, if required, could be controversial. There are no manpower implications. One of its objects would be to save expenditure. |
| 3. Energy | Nuclear Installations (Amendment) | To increase the minimum insurance for operators under the Paris and Brussels Conventions for nuclear damage compensation (the bill does not cover the possibility of meeting all claims). | Short | |
| 5. Energy | Nuclear Industry (Miscellaneous Amendments) | To amend the provisions of the Nuclear Industry Act 1959 relating to the compensation of persons injured by nuclear accidents. | Short | |
| 3. CSD | | | | |

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|---|--|--------|--|
| 2. CSD | Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) | <p>(i) To place beyond doubt, following legal challenge, the practice in public service pension schemes of making any deductions due from preserved pensions and lump sums on the date of retirement and not when these sums are paid;</p> <p>(ii) to remove the existing statutory right of Board members of nationalised industries and other public sector bodies to remain in staff superannuation schemes on promotion to the Board;</p> <p>(iii) to amend the 1972 Act so that pension and compensation arrangements for staff in certain public services may, if required, be made under rules rather than regulations as at present;</p> <p>(iv) to provide powers where necessary to pay superannuation and compensation to certain Board members and office holders.</p> | Medium | <p>(i) Need for legislation dependent on advice of Law Officers. It could, depending on the outcome of a possible legal action, be required urgently to avoid significant additional expenditure and manpower in reviewing a very large number of old cases. It may require retro-spection and so could be controversial. If required and policy approval is obtained instructions could not be sent to Counsel before the end of the summer recess.</p> <p>(ii) Consultations necessary and policy approval required: instructions not before the end of the summer recess. Desirable but not urgent. Potentially controversial as it involves tightening Ministerial control over the pensions of Board members (some of whom sit in the Lords). May be some savings in the long run.</p> <p>(iii) Agreed with local government, NHS and Scottish teachers, but agreement from teachers in England and Wales is not expected in time available. Instructions could be sent to Counsel by the end of the summer recess. Desirable but not urgent. Uncontroversial. May be some savings in the long run.</p> |

CONFIDENTIAL

| CSD (cont'd) | Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) (cont'd) | | | (iv) Instructions to Counsel could be ready by the end of the summer recess. Desirable but not urgent. Not controversial in itself, but (ii) and (iv) may encourage criticism of fringe bodies in general. May be some savings in the long run. |
|-----------------|--|--|-------|---|
| 3. Energy | Nuclear Installations (Amendment) | To increase the minimum insurance for operators under the Paris and Brussels Conventions on Third Party Liability for Nuclear Damage and to provide from public funds any further sums necessary to meet all claims. | Short | Discussions in progress in OECD to increase the level of minimum insurance to take account of inflation. If agreement is reached, the Bill would be needed to enable the United Kingdom to ratify the amending protocols. May need to be introduced in the second half of the Session. Perhaps suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . No manpower implications; expenditure implications only if compensation claims outrun the insurance provision in the event of a major nuclear accident. |
| 4. Energy | Nuclear Industry | To assist reorganisation of the nuclear power station design and construction industry. | Short | Discussions currently continuing about the role and structure of the industry. The Bill is unlikely to be needed, but if it were it would be in the second half of the Session. Could be controversial depending on decisions yet to be taken. No manpower implications; financial implications uncertain. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------|--|
| 5. FCO | Rhodesia Independence (Provisions) | To make necessary provisions if there were a settlement of the Rhodesia problem. | Short | Some preliminary work has already been undertaken, but further preparation is dependent on a settlement being achieved. The Bill is likely to be controversial. No expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 6. FCO | Comprehensive Test Ban | To enable the United Kingdom to ratify the proposed Test Ban Treaty and the separate Verification Agreement. It would provide for verification inspections in the United Kingdom for the establishment of seismic stations. | Short | Timing cannot be assessed since it is dependent on the outcome of current negotiations. The Bill is unlikely to be politically controversial, but it will generate interest since it will cover diplomatic privileges and immunities and limited intrusions on private property. United Kingdom Governments are committed to securing an adequately verified Comprehensive Test Ban and the Bill would be a necessary consequence of agreement being reached. A ban would have substantial implications for expenditure. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|---------------------------|---|-------------|--|
| 7. FCO | Law of the Sea Convention | To permit ratification of a Law of the Sea Convention, including introduction of a 200 mile economic zone and an international regime for deep seabed mining. | Substantial | The need for the Bill could only be decided after the conclusion of negotiations at the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention and signature, perhaps in February 1980. The Bill could then be urgent to ensure that the United Kingdom is a party when the Convention comes into force. Enactment may therefore be needed by November 1980. The Bill would be substantially reduced in length if the Deep Sea Mining Bill (Contingent No 12) were enacted before this Bill was introduced. The Bill should be generally uncontroversial. A substantial financial contribution to a new organisation for deep sea mining would be required of the United Kingdom Government. Only minor manpower implications. |
| 8. FCO | Mauritius (Republic) | To maintain the present operation of United Kingdom law in relation to Mauritius notwithstanding that it has become a republic. | Very Short | Republic day not yet known, but unofficial indications suggest 12 March 1980. United Kingdom Bill would need Royal Assent before that date, but legislation cannot be introduced until Mauritius Parliament has enacted its own legislation which is unlikely to be before our summer recess. The Bill would be uncontroversial: suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . No expenditure or manpower implications. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|--|---|-----------|--|
| 9. FCO | British North America Acts 1867-1964 (Amendment) | To terminate the United Kingdom Parliament's powers of amendment to the British North America Acts 1867-1964 (the Canadian "constitution") and to confer powers of amendment on the Canadian authorities. | Not known | Timing cannot be assessed; could be controversial if the Federal Government were to exercise its right to request enactment without the agreement of all the Provinces and if it dealt with the secession of Quebec. Delay in meeting a request to introduce legislation would cause ill-feeling against the United Kingdom in Canada. No expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 10. FCO | New Hebrides Independence | To make provision for the independence of the New Hebrides and consequential provision with regard to nationality and the application of legislation. | Short | Legislation will be required before independence day which is likely to be in 1980. The Bill may follow the standard form for granting independence but co-ordination is needed with the French Government as New Hebrides is an Anglo-French Condominium. The Bill would be suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . No significant expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 11. FCO | Belize Independence | To make the necessary provisions if there were a settlement of the Belize/Guatemala question. | Short | Timing cannot be assessed. The Bill is unlikely to be controversial. No significant expenditure or manpower implications. |

CONFIDENTIAL

| | | | | |
|------------|------|---------|--------|--------------------|
| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|------|---------|--------|--------------------|

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|--------------|-----------------|---|-------------|---|
| 12. Industry | Deep Sea Mining | To promote the orderly development of the mineral resources of the deep seabed pending the adoption of an international regime. | Substantial | Needs to be introduced as soon as the United States Deep Sea Mining Bills are enacted. This could be autumn 1979, but early 1980 more likely. There is a slight possibility that the next session of the Law of the Sea Conference in July/August may reach decisions on a final treaty, but even if it does, interim legislation will probably still be needed pending ratification which will take a long time. It is highly desirable that United Kingdom companies should be enabled to engage in deep sea mining for security of supply and balance of payments reasons. There may, however, be some adverse reaction from the development lobby due to international repercussions which the Bill could have on the North South dialogue. Policy approval will be sought in June, instructions to Counsel by August; introduction in November; Royal Assent early 1980. No expenditure implementations; minor staff increase to administer the Act. |
| 16. Trade | Common Fund | To enable the United Kingdom to ratify a treaty establishing the Common Fund and to make a financial contribution to the Fund. | Short | |

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|--------------|--|---|------------|--|
| 13. Industry | Iron and Steel Act 1967-1968 (Amendment) | To reconstruct the British Steel Corporation's (BSC) finances by writing off previous loans and other advances of capital and by other changes in the financial structure. Consulting authorities. | Medium | Introduction depends on BSC's progress towards break-even and its subsequent profit prospects. Policy approval unlikely to be sought before October 1979. Aim to introduce before Christmas. On latest financial projections Royal Assent needed by May 1980 or alternative legislation (at least an affirmative Order) will be required to increase BSC's borrowing limit. Need for reconstruction referred to in March 1978 White Paper on BSC. The Bill would be controversial as it would involve writing off public loans and other advances totalling perhaps £2 billion. No other expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 14. Industry | Restrictive Trade Practices (Services) | To rectify retrospectively a fault in the Restrictive Trade Practices (Services) Order 1976 under which the intended exemption of certain agreements by building societies may be ineffective. | Very Short | Discussion required with Law Officers before policy approval is sought. Consultations then necessary with Building Societies Association. Current judgment is that legislation will not be needed, but if required, introduction should be by late-June. Speedy passage desirable once fault is acknowledged. Uncontroversial: suitable for <u>Second Reading Committee</u> . No expenditure or manpower implications. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|---|--|--------|--|
| 15. Trade | Cinematograph Film Production (Special Loans) | <p>(i) To increase the limit for advances made by the Department of Trade to the National Film Finance Corporation;</p> <p>(ii) to improve the Corporation's financial structure;</p> <p>(iii) to extend the life of the film levy and film quota systems.</p> | Short | <p>If the Government wish to continue to give modest financial support to the British film industry - at least until a long term policy has been formulated - it will be necessary to make some funds available to the Corporation before the present limit (now being approached) is reached. If approved, the Bill could be made ready for early introduction. Royal Assent would be needed as soon as possible. It is proposed to increase the limit for advances from £11 million to £18 million and to write off interest payments on old advances totalling £1.25 million. No manpower implications.</p> |
| 16. Trade | Common Fund | To enable the United Kingdom to ratify a treaty establishing the Common Fund and to make a financial contribution to the Fund. | Short | <p>Contingent on the conclusion of the Treaty establishing the fund which is expected early in 1980. Policy approval would be sought about March 1980; instructions to Counsel soon after and introduction soon after that. Royal Assent needed in time for ratification, which is unlikely to be before December 1980. Uncontroversial. £8 million-£10 million may be needed for Fund's buffer stocking facility and perhaps contributions to the aid facility.</p> |

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------|---|
| 1. Scottish Office | Bail etc. (Scotland) | To abolish the need for criminal courts to sit on Saturdays and to make consequential amendments to the bail system. | Short | Policy approved; ready for introduction. Formed part of Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill which fell at dissolution. Required early to prevent further difficulties with court staff and consequent breakdown in criminal courts. Promised in The Queen's Speech. Recommended by QL for early introduction in the Commons. Uncontroversial. Some saving in cost and manpower. |
| 2. Scottish Office | Housing (Scotland) | (i) To require public authorities to sell houses to tenants at specified discounts; (ii) to confer certain rights on public sector tenants. | Medium | Policy approval should be sought by July; instructions to Draftsmen by September; introduction in November. Manifesto commitment, related to measure for England and Wales. Introduction in the Commons. Considerable financial implications from (i) depending on take-up and funding of sales (should be savings); cost of (ii) £1½ million a year. No significant manpower implications. |
| 3. Scottish Office | Criminal Justice (Scotland) | To implement the recommendations of the Thomson Committee on Criminal Procedure and other criminal justice measures. | Long | Policy approval should be sought by mid-July; instructions to Draftsmen by end August; introduction early November (or by Christmas recess at the latest). Many of the provisions were in a similar bill which fell at dissolution, but some new provisions may be more controversial. Introduction in the Commons preferable. Some savings would offset additional costs, depending on Ministers' decisions and content. |

CONFIDENTIAL

Scottish Programme Bills - Sheet 2

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|--------------------|--|---|------------|--|
| 4. Scottish Office | Blind Persons (Optical Charges) (Scotland) | To exempt blind and partially sighted persons from NHS charges. | Very Short | Policy approval will be sought shortly. Bill could be made ready for introduction very soon after approval given. Unlikely to attract opposition. Loss of revenue from charges £30,000 per year. |
| 5. Scottish Office | Air Services in the Highlands and Islands (Scotland) | To extend the powers of the S of S for Scotland to give assistance to persons providing air services in the Highlands and Islands (i.e. to continue assistance to Loganair for unprofitable but socially necessary services). | Very Short | Policy approval will be sought by October; instructions to Draftsmen by November; introduction in March 1980. The proposal is likely to be widely supported in Scotland. Current expenditure over £60,000 a year. No manpower implications. |
| 6. Scottish Office | Valuation and Rating (Scotland) | <p>(i) To amend legislation relating to the valuation of non-industrial policy;</p> <p>(ii) to strengthen the provision for industrial de-rating;</p> <p>(iii) to make provision for other minor related matters.</p> | Short | Policy approval should be sought by July 1979 following the necessary consultations; instructions to Draftsmen by September; introduction in November; Royal Assent desirable by March 1980. The minor improvements proposed by this Bill would be consistent with the Manifesto commitment to give priority to income tax reductions over abolition of the domestic rating system. No expenditure or manpower implications. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|--------------------|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| 7. Scottish Office | Remuneration of Teaching Staff (Scotland) | To establish new negotiating machinery for pay and conditions of service for teachers in school and further education. | Medium | Policy approval should be sought shortly; instructions to Draftsman shortly thereafter; introduction before or after the summer recess. Royal Assent desirable by end 1979. The Bill would implement the recommendations of the Houghton Committee in 1974 and should be welcomed by employers and teachers' unions, although one or two provisions may be controversial. Introduction in Commons. Negligible expenditure and manpower implications. |
| 8. Scottish Office | Civic Government (Scotland) | To replace with modern legislation the present provisions of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Acts 1892-1911 and corresponding local acts which are due to expire at the end of 1982. | Very long (over 200 clauses) | Policy approval being sought; instructions to Draftsman by August 1979; introduction by Christmas. Politically uncontroversial but local provisions will lead to considerable discussion by Members. Suitable for Lords introduction. Minimal expenditure and manpower implications. |

CONFIDENTIAL

Scottish Programme Bills - Sheet 4

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|---------------------|--|--|--------|---|
| 9. Scottish Office | Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupancy) (Scotland) | To give to the non-owning spouse the right - (i) to occupy the matrimonial home; (ii) to apply for the exclusion of the owning spouse on the grounds of domestic violence. | Medium | Preparation of the Bill must await a report and draft Bill from the Scottish Law Commission expected late in 1979, but it is hoped the Bill can be introduced before the Easter recess 1980. Some degree of controversy expected, but the Bill should be welcomed. No significant expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 10. Scottish Office | Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) | To give effect to a number of proposed improvements in Scots law. | Medium | Policy approved: Bill ready for introduction. Recommended for early introduction in the Lords by QL. Uncontroversial. Negligible implications for expenditure and manpower. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|--|---|------------|--|
| 1. FCO | Disposal of Former Russian Assets | To take over Tsarist assets in the United Kingdom and to provide for their distribution as compensation to United Kingdom nationals having claims arising out of the Russian revolution. | Very Short | Bill contingent on agreement being reached with USSR on the mutual waiver of claims - those negotiations started in March 1966 and the views of the Russian authorities have been awaited since February 1978. At least one further round of negotiations will then be needed. If agreement is reached, the bill will be required as soon as possible to meet wishes of claimants. Uncontroversial. No significant expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 2. FCO | Parliamentary Commissioner (Amendment) | To extend the jurisdiction of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (PCA) to complaints by citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies resident abroad, provided that the action complained of was taken in respect of a citizen who has the right of abode in the United Kingdom (ie a patrial). | Very Short | The Bill would implement a recommendation in the 4th Report from the Select Committee on the PCA published in September 1978. It should follow fairly closely on the proposed making of an Order to extend the PCA's remit to complaints against career consular officers overseas. Uncontroversial. May be some minor expenditure and staff increases. |
| | | | | |

CONFIDENTIAL

Second Reading Committee - Sheet 2

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|------------|---|---|--------|--|
| 3. FCO | Diplomatic Privileges (Special Missions) | To give effect to the UN Convention of 1969 governing the status, privileges and immunities of Special Missions. | Short | The Bill is already drafted, but FCO Ministers have some policy reservations. Early enactment might enable HMG to exert more influence in securing a restrictive interpretation of the Convention. Parliament traditionally hostile to extending immunities and privileges, but politically uncontroversial. Possible slight loss of revenue. No manpower implications. |
| 4. DHSS | National Health Service (Dispensing Arrangements) | To provide for the regulation of changes in the NHS dispensing arrangements in rural areas as between doctors and pharmacists; and to regulate the entry in such areas to the pharmaceutical lists of Family Practitioner Committees. | Short | Based on the recommendations of the Clothier Committee set up primarily by the medical and pharmaceutical professions to resolve their long-standing dispute. The profession have agreed, but consultations with others required. Policy approval should be sought in August; instructions to Counsel by October; Bill ready for introduction by February 1980. No political dimension, but likely to be pressure to legislate now professions have agreed. Should be in patients' interests and a contribution to policy for rural areas. Could be incorporated in Health Services (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, but unlikely to be ready in time. Small extra cost should be met within PESC allocation. Increased staff time can be met within manpower ceiling. |

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|-----------|---|
| 5. Lord Chancellor's Department | Damages | <p>i. To implement many of the lesser recommendations of the Pearson Commission</p> <p>ii. Possibly to implement the recommendations of the 1973 Law Commission that actuarial evidence should be admissible for the purpose of calculating damages.</p> | Medium | Policy approval to be sought in June; instructions to Counsel in July; introduction in November. No particular target for enactment. Uncontroversial. No significant expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 6. Lord Chancellor's Department | Supreme Court | To consolidate and modernise Legislation in the Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act 1925 and numerous amending statutes relating to the constitution and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. | Very Long | Policy approval being sought; some drafting work already undertaken; introduction by December. No particular target for enactment. Uncontroversial. No expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 7. Lord Chancellor's Department | Interest | To implement the Law Commission Report of June 1978 by providing that creditors should be entitled to interest on contract debts from the time the debt becomes payable, unless the parties agree otherwise. | Medium | Policy approval being sought; Bill already drafted and annexed to the Report: ready for introduction soon after policy approval is given. No particular target for enactment. Largely uncontroversial, although it may be criticised by some consumer interests. No significant expenditure or manpower implications. |
| | | | | |

CONFIDENTIAL

Second Reading Committee - Sheet 4

CONFIDENTIAL

| Department | Bill | Purpose | Length | Timing and Comment |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--------|--|
| 8. Lord Chancellor's Department | Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupation) | To implement one of the 3 bills proposed by the Law Commission in their Third Report on Family Property of June 1978 by tidying up and consolidating with improvements the existing law on the rights of spouses to occupy the matrimonial home. | Short | Policy approval may be sought by July; Bill already drafted and could be introduced soon after policy approval is given. No particular target for enactment. Uncontroversial. No expenditure or manpower implications. |
| 9. Treasury | Currency | <p>i. To rationalize the administration of the fiduciary issue;</p> <p>ii. to permit earlier writing off of bank notes;</p> <p>iii. to remove the word "new" on future coins.</p> | Short | Policy approval to be sought, but instructions to Counsel being prepared. Early enactment would secure small administrative savings at an early date. Uncontroversial: suitable for introduction in the Lords. |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |