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## CABINET

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1979-80

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Home Department

1. The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) have considered the Bills which Ministers have put forward for this Session's legislative programme. We have sought to construct a balanced programme which will reflect our main political objectives as set out in the Manifesto and The Queen's Speech, especially on matters affecting economic and industrial policy, trade unions, housing and education. We have also sought to avoid, so far as possible, the need for shortened Recesses or regular late sittings. Inevitably these considerations mean that some Bills of lesser priority will have to be deferred until later in the Parliament.
2. We propose a relatively short list of 43 main Bills, set out in Annex A. This list contains the "Essential" Bills which must be enacted during the Session, for example, to give effect to our obligations to the European Economic Community or to make necessary financial provision for certain public bodies. It embodies the most important "Programme" Bills, including all those Bills which were promised in The Queen's Speech. It confirms the preliminary programme of 10 Bills, already approved for early introduction, on which I reported to the Cabinet on 17 May (CC(79) 2nd Conclusions, Minute 1). Three of the Bills in the preliminary programme have been introduced and others are likely to be introduced later this week.
3. In addition, we must provide for a number of "Contingent" Bills, some of which are likely to become Essential as a result of events during the Session. These are listed in Annex B. The Scottish "Programme" Bills are shown in Annex C. Most of them should be suitable for Scottish Grand Committee. Finally, there are some other Bills of lower priority which could be introduced if they are accepted for Second Reading Committee procedure in the House of Commons. These are shown in Annex D.
4. Details of the Bills shown in the Annexes are provided in the paper (C(79) 18) which I am circulating separately for ease of reference.

5. The programme for this Session must include a considerable number of controversial and, in some instances, very long Bills which will be strongly opposed. We must expect that some of them, perhaps half a dozen, will require timetable Motions. They must also reach the Lords in good time to complete their passage in an orderly sequence through that House, where a timetable procedure is not available. These considerations apply particularly to the Bills on Housing, Local Government Planning and Land, Education, Trade Unions, Employment Protection Acts (Amendment) and to those providing for the disposal of assets.

6. Bearing in mind the likely Parliamentary pressures, the Committee are grateful to those of our colleagues who have agreed to shorten their Bills in order to help their passage. It is especially important that those of us who are sponsoring Bills should obtain policy clearance and drafting authority as early as possible, and should see that instructions are sent to Parliamentary Counsel for Bills to be drafted in good time for introduction.

7. I invite my colleagues to:

- a. Note the Bills which have already been introduced.
- b. Agree that the other Essential and Programme Bills listed in Annex A should be brought forward for early policy clearance and drafting, with a view to introduction during the present Session.
- c. Note the Contingent Bills listed in Annex B, and agree that they should be brought forward if necessary.
- d. Agree that the Scottish Bills listed in Annex C, and the Second Reading Committee Bills of lower priority (Annex D), should be brought forward as appropriate.
- e. Ensure that the arrangements for policy clearance and drafting enable the Essential and Programme Bills to be introduced in good time to facilitate the management of Government business in Parliament.

W W

Home Office

11 June 1979

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1979/80

Bills Already Introduced

1. Education<sup>(1)</sup>
2. Kiribati<sup>(1)</sup>
3. European Assembly (Salaries and Pensions)<sup>(1)</sup>

Essential Bills

4. Coal Industry (Finance)
5. Energy, Efficiency and Safety, etc.
6. Wildlife and Countryside
7. New Towns (Money)
8. European Communities (Enlargement)
9. Health Services (Miscellaneous Provisions)
10. Broadcasting
11. British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)
12. Companies<sup>(1)</sup>
13. Companies (No. 2)
14. Insurance Companies<sup>(2)</sup>
15. Ports (Finance)

Programme Bills

16. Importation of Bees<sup>(2)</sup>
17. International Military Services (Financial Provisions)
18. National Heritage Fund
19. Education (Miscellaneous Provisions)
20. Trade Unions

21. Employment Protection Acts (Amendment)
22. Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines (Amendment)
23. Offshore Installations<sup>(1)</sup>
24. Housing
25. Local Government, Planning and Land
26. Consular Fees (Amendment)<sup>(2)</sup>
27. International Organisations (Amendment)<sup>(2)</sup>
28. Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Nauru (Miscellaneous Provisions)<sup>(2)</sup>
29. Social Security (Pensioners' Payments)<sup>(1)</sup>
30. Social Security
31. Official Information
32. Isle of Man<sup>(2)</sup>
33. Nationality
34. Police (Negotiating Machinery)<sup>(2)</sup>
35. Aircraft and Shipbuilding (Denationalisation)<sup>(3)</sup>
36. Industry<sup>(3)</sup>
37. Cable and Wireless (Disposal of Shares)<sup>(3)</sup>
38. Contempt of Court
39. Limitation<sup>(1)(2)</sup>
40. Charging Orders<sup>(1)(2)</sup>
41. Competition and Prices
42. Shipping Contracts and Commercial Documents (Amendment)<sup>(2)</sup>
43. Transport<sup>(3)</sup>

(1) Already approved for early introduction as part of the preliminary programme

(2) Might be suitable for Second Reading Committee

(3) Some of the provisions in these bills might be amalgamated into a single bill dealing comprehensively with the disposal of assets.

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1979/80

Contingent Bills

1. Agriculture Act (Amendment)
2. Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions)
3. Nuclear Installations (Amendment)
4. Nuclear Industry
5. Rhodesia Independence
6. Comprehensive Test Ban
7. Law of the Sea Convention
8. Mauritius (Republic)
9. British North America Acts 1867-1964 (Amendment)
10. New Hebrides Independence
11. Belize Independence
12. Deep Sea Mining
13. Iron and Steel
14. Restrictive Trade Practices (Services)
15. Cinematograph Film Production (Special Loans)
16. Common Fund.

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1979/80

Scottish Programme Bills

1. Bail Etc. (1)
2. Housing
3. Criminal Justice
4. Blind Persons (Optical Charges)
5. Air Services in the Highlands and Islands
6. Valuation and Rating
7. Remuneration of Teaching Staff
8. Civic Government
9. Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupancy)
10. Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (1)

(1) Already approved for early introduction as part of the initial programme.

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1979-80

Bills of Lower Priority for introduction if they are acceptable  
for Second Reading Committee

1. Disposal of Former Russian Assets<sup>(1)</sup>
2. Parliamentary Commissioner (Amendment)
3. Diplomatic Privileges (Special Missions)
4. National Health Service (Dispensing Arrangements)
5. Damages
6. Supreme Court
7. Interest
8. Matrimonial Homes (Rights of Occupation)
9. Currency

(1) Subject to agreement with the USSR