

MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH TO BOTH HOUSES OF

PARLIAMENT WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2009

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government's overriding priority is to ensure sustained growth to deliver a fair and prosperous economy for families and businesses, as the British economy recovers from the global economic downturn. By the active creation of jobs, restructuring the financial sector, strengthening the national infrastructure and providing responsible investment, my Government will foster growth and employment.

My Government will also strengthen key public services, through ensuring that individual entitlements guarantee good services, and will work to build trust in democratic institutions.

My Government will seek effective global and European collaboration through the G20 and the European Union to sustain economic recovery and to combat climate change, including at the Copenhagen summit next month.

The Duke of Edinburgh and I look forward to our visit to Bermuda and our State Visit to Trinidad and Tobago and to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in this, the Commonwealth's 60th anniversary year.

My Government will continue to reform regulation of the financial services industry to ensure savers and lenders are fully protected. Legislation will be brought forward to strengthen governance of the financial sector and to control the system of rewards.

As the economic recovery is established, my Government will reduce the budget deficit and ensure national debt is at a sustainable level. Legislation will be brought forward to halve the deficit.

My Government will introduce legislation to enable the wider provision of free social care to those in highest need.

Legislation will be brought forward to provide guarantees of high educational standards for parents and pupils, to reform the curriculum and to promote child safety.

My Government will bring forward legislation to protect communities by ensuring that parents take responsibility for their children's antisocial behaviour.

My Government will introduce legislation to provide an infrastructure that is fit for the digital age and that will support future economic growth, deliver competitive communications and enhance public service broadcasting.

Legislation will be brought forward to support carbon capture and storage and to help more of the most vulnerable households with their energy bills.

My Government will respond to proposals for high-speed rail services between London and Scotland.

Legislation will be brought forward to improve protection against flooding and to protect water supplies.

My Government is committed to ensuring everyone has a fair chance in life and will continue to take forward a bill to promote equality, tackle discrimination and introduce transparency in the workplace to help address the differences in pay between men and women.

My Government will continue to enshrine in law its commitment to abolish child poverty by 2020.

My Government will ensure that agency workers have a right to equal treatment with permanent staff on pay, holidays and other basic conditions.

Legislation will continue to be taken forward on constitutional reform. My Government will also publish draft legislation on proposals for a reformed second chamber of Parliament with a democratic mandate.

A bill will be introduced to strengthen the law against bribery.

My Government will continue to work closely with the devolved administrations in the interests of all the people of the United Kingdom. My Government is committed to the Northern Ireland political process and will continue to work with Northern Ireland's leaders to complete the devolution of policing and justice and to ensure its success.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Estimates for the public services will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government will work for security, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan and Pakistan and for peace in the Middle East.

My Government will introduce a bill to ban cluster munitions.

My Government will work towards creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, including addressing the challenges from Iran and North Korea.

Draft legislation will be published to make binding my Government's commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on international development by

2013.

Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.