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King's Speech 2024

Headlines

- Govern in service to the country
- Programme will be 'mission led' and based on stability and equality for all
- Stability will be maintained by adherence to fiscal rules
- All tax and spending commitments **will** be scrutinised in advance by Office of Budget Responsibility
- Economic stability will be a central mission and lead to a new partnership between business and working people - prioritising wealth creation for people across the whole of the UK

Devolution

- Greater devolution of decision making will be at the heart of a modern nation – 'devolution by default'
- English Devolution Bill will provide new powers to metro mayors and combined authorities to support Local Growth Plans
- Strengthen work in Devolved Administrations and reset the relationship
- New Council of Regions and Nations to give mayors and heads of government a forum to collaborate with each other

Rail

- Reform to rail franchising bringing the into public ownership
- Establishment of Great British Rail
- Will help reestablish UK as a leading industrial nation

Environment

- Global Climate Challenge will see UK developing green technologies of the future
- Great British Energy will be established in Scotland which will see energy brought into public ownership
- Support for sustainable aviation production
- Water quality improvements with restrictions on water boss bonuses

Security

- Asylum and New Border Security Command established to tackle organised crime
- Strengthen community policing to deal with antisocial behaviour and strengthen support for victims
- Safety of public venues (including culture) through 'Martyn's Law'
- Commitment to halve violence of women and girls

Education

- Breaking down barriers to opportunity a central mission
- Drive to improve employment opportunities following pandemic
- Bill to improve standards for education and wellbeing of children in education settings
- Reform to VAT on private school fees which will pay for 6,500 new teachers in the state system
- Skills England will be a new partnership between employers and working people
- Apprenticeship Levy will be reformed

Housing

- Renting reforms to end ‘no fault’ evictions and repossession
- Fundamental leasehold and commonhold reform

DCMS

- Independent football regulator and strengthen protection for fans

Health

- Care based on need regardless of ability to pay – NHS will always be free at the point of use
- Reduce waiting time and focus on prevention
- Mental health provision for young people will be a new focus
- Establish parity of mental and physical health through a Mental Health Act update
- New Bill to increase age that people can buy cigarettes and new Bill to regulate vaping
- Reforms to junk food advertising and high caffeine energy drinks for children
- Ban on conversation therapies and practices

Standards in public life

- Duty of candour for all public servants
- Race equality laws will be published in draft legislation
- Enshrine equal pay in law for this first time
- Modernisation of HoC committee to reform procedures and update working practices

Northern Ireland

- Work with political institutions and support them in a renewed relationship
- Repeal and replace the NI Troubles and Reconciliation Act 2023

Constitutional reform

- Remove rights of hereditary peers in House of Lords Laws
- New Council of Regions and Nations for national government leaders and metro mayors

Defence

- NATO commitment
- Nuclear deterrent commitment
- Conduct Strategic Defence Review (Fiona Shaw will lead)

- Full support to Ukraine and supporting their path to NATO membership

Europe

- Reset relations with European partners
- New security pact with EU on mutual threats
- Attending European Community Meeting at Blenheim Palace

Israel & Palestine

- Secure peace and security in the Middle East
- A commitment to the Two State Solution