

# QUEEN'S SPEECH 2017: IMMIGRATION IMPLICATIONS

21 June 2017

The Queen's Speech is the central part of the State Opening of Parliament and sets out the Government's legislative agenda, usually for the coming year, but in this instance for the next two years. The Speech is prepared by the Government and its proposals are subject to approval by the House of Commons. Six days have been set aside for the Speech to be debated in Parliament and for MPs to vote on amendments.

## The Government's plans for immigration as set out in the Speech and associated background briefing:



### Immigration Bill

"The purpose of the Bill is to allow the Government to end the EU's rules on free movement of EU nationals in the UK and make the migration of EU nationals and their family members subject to relevant UK law once the UK has left the EU, whilst still allowing the UK to attract the brightest and the best."

"The main elements of the Bill are: To allow the Government to repeal EU law on immigration, primarily free movement, that will be saved and converted into UK law by the Repeal Bill; To allow the Government to make the migration of EU nationals and their family members subject to relevant UK law once the UK has left the EU."



### Brexit: The main priority

"My Government's priority is to secure the best possible deal as the country leaves the European Union."

"A bill will be introduced to repeal the European Communities Act and provide certainty for individuals and businesses. This will be complemented by legislation to ensure that the United Kingdom makes a success of Brexit, establishing new national policies on immigration..."

"My Government will seek to maintain a deep and special partnership with European allies and to forge new trading relationships across the globe."



### Addressing the UK skills gap

"My ministers will work to ensure people have the skills they need for the high-skilled, high-wage jobs of the future, including through a major reform of technical education."



### Tackling mass migration

"My Government...will also lead efforts to reform the international system to improve the United Kingdom's ability to tackle mass migration, alleviate poverty, and end modern slavery"

"We must strengthen international adherence to legal frameworks that distinguish between refugees and economic migrants, so we can provide proper protection for refugees and reap the economic benefits controlled migration can bring while discouraging abuse of the immigration system."

*The Speech did not include details of any net migration target.*

*There is no mention of the Immigration Skills Charge being doubled, as promised in the Conservative Party manifesto. We must be careful not to read too much into that. The Skills Charge is managed through regulations, rather than the plans for primary legislation set out by the Queen.*