

Reading Legislation Training

The purpose of this day is to equip our attendees with an understanding of the processes within government that brings forward legislation ; to understand the structure of a Bill and what to look for in its content ; to read a Bill and follow its stages; how to assess the scope for amendment; how to structure potential amendments; to understand the use of secondary legislation ; including worked case studies of recent Bills.

Outline of Session

09:30: Welcome and Introductions

Session 1: The King's Speech

* Bids for legislation ; PBL; Sessions; Draft Legislation; shape of the Legislative Programme; the origin of Bills.

Session 2: Creating a Bill (20 minutes)

* Green/White Paper ; Policy approval; Instructions to Counsel ; Drafting approval; Parliamentary Counsel ; PBL ; Introduction

Session 3: The Legislative Programme (20 minutes)

* Parliamentary time ; Money Bills; Commons or Lords Introduction ; carry-over Bills; Private Member's Bills; Law Commission Bills

Session 4: Publications (30 minutes)

* The Bill; Explanatory Memorandum ; Delegated Powers Memorandum; Impact Assessment; Amendment Papers; Hansard ; Parliamentary Legislation Website.

Session 5: Stages of a Bill (30 minutes)

* Commons : 1st /2nd Reading; Committee/ Of the Whole House /evidence/ recommitment ; Report Stage; 3rd Reading

* Lords : 1st/2nd Reading; Committee (Grand Committee) ; Report; 3rd Reading

* Ping-Pong

* Royal Assent

Session 6: Reading a Bill (40 minutes)

* Short title/ Long Title/ Scope/Parts

* Purposes/ Duties/ Objectives

* Powers / Responsibilities/Delegated Powers

* Accountability/ Scrutiny/Reporting

* Enforcement/ Offences

* Amendments to existing Statute/ Repeals/Keeling Schedule

* Expiration of Powers/ Sunsetting

* Commencement

Session 7: Writing amendments to a Bill (30 minutes)

* Understanding the structure of the Bill; purpose of an amendment; drafting an amendment ; probing amendments; government amendments; write-rounds and approval for amendments.

Session 8: Secondary Legislation (20minutes)

SI affirmative/negative ; Orders -in-Council

[Briefing for Case Studies]

Lunch

Session 9: Case Studies [Two Groups] (90 minutes)

* A Big Programme Bill : The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill. [How does this Bill change the law relating to a) plan-making by local authorities; b) developer contributions to affordable housing ; and c) which aspects of the Bill have been brought into force and when? And to write an amendment to the Bill.

* A Short Programme Bill : The Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill [How does this Bill change the law; amendments to existing statute; drafting potential amendments]

Session 10: Presentation of work on case studies (40 minutes)**Review and Q&A (20 minutes)****Close – End of the Day**