

Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Bill Introduced in Parliament

- The Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Bill provides a short extension to the period for Executive formation.
- The Bill also enables the Secretary of State to amend MLA salaries while the Assembly is unable to conduct business.
- The legislation will also take limited but necessary steps to maintain the delivery of Northern Ireland's public services.

Following the Secretary of State's recent announcement in Parliament describing his intention to legislate to extend the period for Executive formation and cut MLA pay, the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Bill will be introduced in Parliament today (Monday 21 November).

The legislation will extend the period for Executive formation by six weeks to 8 December with the possibility of a further six week extension to 19 January, to allow the Northern Ireland Parties to come together and deliver for the people of Northern Ireland.

Further, the Bill will clarify the limited decision-making powers to be provided to NI Civil Servants in the absence of Ministers, enable the Secretary of State to amend MLA salaries while the Assembly is unable to conduct business, and maintain public service delivery. The Bill will also enable a small number of vital public service appointments to be made and enable the regional rate for 2023/24 to be set should an Executive not be in place to do so.

Following discussions with the party leaders, community and business representatives across NI, the Secretary of State made the decision to introduce this legislation to allow for more time and space for Executive formation, avoiding an unwanted election.

Recognising public frustration that MLAs continue to draw a full salary while not performing the duties they were elected to do, this legislation will also enable the Secretary of State to amend the salaries and expenses payable to MLAs while the Assembly is not sitting. This measure is one of several in the Bill that will address the realities of the governance gap in NI during the present impasse.

Speaking ahead of the Bill's introduction, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Chris Heaton-Harris said:

I urge the Northern Ireland Parties to use this extended time to come together and deliver for the interests of all people in Northern Ireland, particularly in this time of rising costs.

At present, MLAs are not in a position to fulfil the full range of their duties, so it is right that we take steps to reduce their

salaries, especially in the current economic climate and in view of the £660 million black hole in the public finances created by poor decisions made by outgoing Ministers.

Furthermore, Northern Ireland's people are being denied full democratic representation. The government's priority is to see politicians elected to return to fulfil their roles in a strong, devolved and locally accountable government, as laid out by the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

Notes to editors:

- The 28 October deadline for Executive formation introduced through the Northern Ireland (Ministers, Elections and Petitions of Concern) Act 2022 has passed. This legislation allowed 24 weeks for parties to form an Executive following the last Assembly election in May 2022. The new legislation introduced in today's Bill will extend this time period for Executive formation.
- Independent analysis provided during a previous political impasse recommended a 27.5% reduction in MLA salaries.

[Welsh Secretary responds to Chancellor's Autumn Statement](#)

- Welsh Government to receive £1.2 billion in additional funding over two years.
- Up to £10m funding for the Advance Technology Research Centre – a defence-focussed Centre of Excellence Site in Wales.

Welsh Secretary David TC Davies has responded to the Chancellor's Autumn Statement which sets out an economic plan to restore stability, protect public services and build long-term prosperity.

Secretary of State for Wales David TC Davies said:

The difficult and necessary decisions taken today aim to tackle inflation and restore confidence and stability in the UK economy.

The UK Government has already committed to protecting Welsh households and businesses from rising energy prices, but balancing the books and getting debt falling is the best long-term solution

to inflation and to limit interest rate rises.

As the Chancellor made clear, there is a tough road ahead but the economy remains strong with UK unemployment at historically low levels. Difficult choices are being made, but it is only through sound management of the public finances that we can provide the long-term economic stability that is so vital for families and businesses up and down Wales.

The Chancellor announced his Autumn Statement on Thursday (17 November) aiming to restore stability to the economy, protect high-quality public services and build long-term prosperity for the United Kingdom.

Jeremy Hunt outlined a targeted package of support for the most vulnerable, alongside measures to get debt and government borrowing down. The plan he set out is designed to fight against inflation in the face of unprecedented global pressures brought about by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

As a result of today's tax and spending decisions, the Welsh Government will receive around an additional £1.2 billion over 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Delivering for the people of Wales, the Chancellor has announced the UK Government will provide up to £10 million of support for the Advanced Technology Research Centre (ATRC), subject to a business case, to deliver a defence-focused Centre of Excellence site in Wales collaboratively with the Welsh Government.

He also confirmed £1.6bn in funding for the UK's 9 Catapult innovation centres, an increase of 35% compared to the last funding cycle, which includes the Compound Semiconductor Catapult in Wales.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt said:

In the face of rising prices and soaring inflation, this Autumn Statement will help deliver economic stability and sustainable public services across the UK.

Difficult decisions have been made, but we are taking decisive action to support the people of Wales, including increasing pensions and benefits in line with inflation next year and providing the Welsh Government with £1.2 billion in additional funding over the next two years.

This money will protect the most vulnerable in our society and support households, businesses and public services through the challenging times ahead.

Further details of the Autumn Statement can be found [here](#)

Government drive to help over 50s re-join the jobs market

- Network of dedicated 50PLUS: Champions now in place across England, Scotland and Wales
- Builds on £22 million funding boost secured to support older workers

Dozens of 50 PLUS Champions tasked with helping older workers into work are now in place across England, Scotland and Wales, the Minister for Employment confirmed today.

Each area has specialised, local staff dedicated to this helping over 50's into work. They are working directly with Jobcentres and employers to remove any barriers that are keeping older workers out of the jobs market. Results of this partnership work are already being seen with leading employers like McDonald's working with the Jobcentre in Scunthorpe to fill vacancies.

50 PLUS Champions assist Work Coaches to change employer attitudes about hiring over 50s as well as matching jobseekers with opportunities that suit their skills.

Minister for Employment, Guy Opperman MP, said:

Older workers are a huge asset to our country and our economy. I want to support them to get into work.

An age-inclusive workforce makes business sense too. Our 50 PLUS Champions will work with leading employers across the country to connect job-ready people with the vast number of opportunities out there.

DWP is also supporting older jobseekers, with the introduction of the Jobcentre Mid-Life MOT service which supports people to take stock and make plans for their work, wealth and well-being into the future.

Jobcentres deliver a specialised offer for those 50 and over, identifying and overcoming obstacles holding them back from the labour market. Support includes modernising CVs or developing new skills through specialist programmes with new employers and a new approach.

There are also individual businesses which partner up with Jobcentres to create sector-based work academies. These SWAPs last up to six weeks and offer pre-employment training, work experience with an employer in the industry and, at the end of the programme, an opportunity to apply for a job

interview in the sector or seek help with the application process.

To mark National Older Workers Week, DWP is organising a number of events and jobs fairs across the country, including job fairs at Hackney Jobcentre Plus and in Birmingham & Solihull at Kings Norton Jobcentre Plus on 22 November, as well as the 'Let's Go Retro' jobs fair in South Manchester on 25 November, all specifically targeted at jobseekers over 50.

- National Older Workers Week takes place from 21 to 25 November 2022
- Founded by Working Wise, the awareness week is now in its second year
- [Working Wise](#) will host a series of events during National Older Workers Week, including an online session for employers on how they can create an age-inclusive workplace

Media enquiries for this press release – 0115 965 8781

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[Moldova Support Platform in Paris: Minister Docherty's Speech](#)

Thank you to the co-chairs for bringing us together again – in particular, our host, Foreign Minister Colonna and also to Minister Baerbock and Foreign Minister Aurescu. Thank you Deputy Prime Minister Popescu.

I am very pleased to represent the United Kingdom today at this third Moldova Support Platform conference.

As we witness unrelenting Russian aggression in Ukraine, and its devastating impact on the people of Ukraine, we also see the harrowing consequences it is having beyond Ukraine's borders, in particular on Moldova. The resilience and solidarity demonstrated by the people of Moldova, under President Sandu's leadership, are truly inspiring. For the UK, it is an irrefutable duty to join with our allies and partners in helping Moldova to overcome some of the worst impacts of Russia's war. As winter arrives, we must continue to demonstrate our unity in standing with Moldova, its democratically-elected government and its people, and their right to choose their own future.

In October I was honoured to visit Moldova. I saw and heard for myself how this small country with a big heart had welcomed hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees, many of whom continue to be supported by the Moldovan people and their government. President Sandu, Foreign Minister Popescu and their colleagues explained the difficulties their country was facing, including energy insecurity caused by Russia's deliberate disruption of the gas supply, soaring inflation and security threats, vividly illustrated by Russian missiles violating Moldovan air space with utter disregard for

civilians and their safety.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, since the launch of this process in April, the UK has been pleased to co-chair, with Romania, the anti-corruption working group. Our coordination with the Moldovan Ministry of Justice and other key agencies in Moldova has been exceptionally valuable. We will present the working group's latest report, focused on concrete results, this afternoon.

I am pleased to report that the UK's own contribution to anti-corruption and transparency work – an additional £12m over three years – is taking shape, providing support where it is needed the most and complementing the efforts of the Moldovan government and our partners.

We also seek to assist Moldova in other sectors, including direct support for its humanitarian efforts. Our humanitarian contribution this year – including £29.45 million regionally and £10.8 million directly to Moldova – is helping crisis-affected refugees and their Moldovan host families, and has helped ease the pressure on the Moldovan government.

Under the auspices of NATO's Tailored Support Package we are delivering support that includes the NATO-sponsored Professional Development Programme, English Language Training, Strategic Communications and Military Engineering along with providing a range of training courses. Our other programmes are tailored to support Moldova in its hour of need, by helping increase energy efficiency, and by working alongside partners to support reforms and capacity-building that will help build Moldovan resilience.

At his meeting with Foreign Minister Popescu in London a few weeks ago, the British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly reiterated the UK's commitment to stand by Moldova. We will continue to take every opportunity we see to reinforce our support.

We must clearly show that we are resolute and united in resisting Russian aggression and its efforts to defeat democracy.

Finally, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, through the Moldova Support Platform and other fora, we will continue to play our part in a collective and coordinated response, both to bring about concrete short-term support and to identify long-term solutions to ensure Moldova's stability and promote greater European integration. The people of Moldova deserve no less.

October 2022 Transaction Data

News story

This data provides information about the number and types of applications that HM Land Registry completed in October 2022.



Image credit: NicoElNino/Shutterstock.com

Please note this data shows what HM Land Registry has been able to process during the time period covered and is not necessarily a reflection of market activity.

In October:

- HM Land Registry completed more than 1,888,990 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 448,084

HM Land Registry completed 1,888,991 applications in October compared with 1,858,997 in September and 1,771,848 last October 2021, of which:

- 357,746 were applications for register updates compared with 344,290 in September
- 987,938 were applications for an official copy of a register compared with 987,206 in September
- 254,853 were search and hold queries (official searches) compared with 252,254 in September
- 17,549 were postal applications from non-account holders compared with 16,285 in September

Applications by region and country

Region/country	August applications	September applications	October applications
South East	445,874	433,539	448,084
Greater London	347,679	339,112	346,800
North West	229,211	212,493	212,060
South West	188,943	181,976	187,071
West Midlands	160,791	152,981	156,400
Yorkshire and the Humber	151,191	148,471	148,718
East Midlands	137,921	133,880	133,720

Region/country	August applications	September applications	October applications
North	94,197	90,738	91,642
East Anglia	81,525	79,689	78,873
Isles of Scilly	38	231	64
Wales	89,027	85,752	85,415
England and Wales (not assigned)	120	135	144
Total	1,926,517	1,858,997	1,888,991

Top 5 local authority areas

October 2022 applications

Top 5 Local authority areas October applications

Birmingham	27,026
City of Westminster	22,542
Leeds	21,975
Cornwall	19,824
Buckinghamshire	19,530

September 2022 applications

Top 5 Local authority areas September applications

Birmingham	26,513
City of Westminster	21,247
Leeds	21,157
Cornwall	19,412
Buckinghamshire	19,219

Top 5 customers

October 2022 applications

Top 5 customers	October Applications
Infotrack Limited	148,454
Enact	46,350
O'Neill Patient	32,968
HBOS PLC Bank	25,454
Land Technologies Ltd	24,929

September 2022 applications

Top 5 customers	September Applications
Infotrack Limited	136,074
Enact	50,729
O'Neill Patient	33,785

Top 5 customers September Applications

Optima Legal Services 28,388

Land Technologies Ltd 22,265

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Next publication

Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month. The November data will be published at 11am on Wednesday 21 December 2022.

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