

# Prime Minister (Accountability to House of Commons) Bill

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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# B I L L

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Impose duties on the Prime Minister relating to accountability to the House of Commons; to require the Prime Minister to be available to answer questions in that House on at least two occasions during a sitting week except in specified circumstances; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## **1 Prime Minister: accountability to the House of Commons**

- (1) The Prime Minister is accountable to the House of Commons.
- (2) The Prime Minister must take all reasonable steps to ensure that significant Government announcements are made first to the House of Commons.

## **2 Prime Minister's Questions**

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- (1) The Prime Minister must be available to answer questions in the House of Commons in accordance with subsection (2) unless a condition in subsection (3) applies.
- (2) The Prime Minister must be available—
  - (a) on at least two occasions in any week in which the House of Commons sits for three or more days; 10
  - (b) on at least one occasion in any week in which the House of Commons sits for one or two days.
- (3) The conditions in this section are—
  - (a) the Prime Minister is outside the United Kingdom on Government business; 15
  - (b) the Prime Minister is unavoidably absent for another reason.
- (4) If a condition in subsection (3) applies—
  - (a) the Prime Minister must nominate a deputy, and
  - (b) the duty in subsection (1) extends to that deputy for the duration of the Prime Minister's absence. 20

**3 Commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (2) This Act may be cited as the Prime Minister (Accountability to House of Commons) Act 2022.

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*Presented by Mr Peter Bone*

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be  
Printed, 21st June 2021.

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