

DISSOLUTION AND CALLING OF PARLIAMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON LORDS AMENDMENTS

What these notes do

- These Explanatory Notes relate to the Lords Amendment to the Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill (Bill 261) as brought from the House of Lords on 25 February 2022.
- These Explanatory Notes have been prepared by the Cabinet Office in order to assist the reader of the Bill and the Lords amendment, and to help inform debate on the Lords amendment. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by Parliament.
- The text of the Lords amendment refers to the Bill as first printed for the Lords on 14 September 2021, HL Bill 51.
- These Explanatory Notes need to be read in conjunction with the Lords amendment and the text of the Bill. They are not, and are not meant to be, a comprehensive description of the Lords amendment.
- Lords Amendment 1* was tabled by Lord Judge, sponsored by Baroness Smith of Basildon, Lord Newby and Lord Lansley, and was opposed by the Government.
- An asterisk indicates that the Lords amendment was opposed by the Government.

These Explanatory Notes relate to the Lords Amendment to the Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill as brought from the House of Lords on 25 February 2022 (Bill 261).

Commentary on Lords Amendment

Lords Amendment to Clause 2: House of Commons motion

Lords Amendment 1*

- 1 Lords amendment 1* would introduce a limit on the exercise of prerogative powers relating to the dissolution of Parliament and the calling of a new Parliament referred to in clause 2(1). They would only be exercisable when the House of Commons approves a motion “that this present Parliament will be dissolved”. In practice this would mean that the Prime Minister could request a dissolution of Parliament from the Sovereign only after obtaining the approval of the House of Commons (by a simple majority).

Financial Effects of Lords Amendments

- 2 Lords amendment 1 in itself will not trigger any financial expenditure.

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