

Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by the Cabinet Office, are published separately as Bill 111 – EN.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr Jim Murphy has made the following statement under section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998:

In my view the provisions of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill are compatible with the Convention rights.

Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill

CONTENTS

PART 1

POWER TO REFORM LEGISLATION ETC

Order-making power

- 1 Purpose
- 2 Provision
- 3 Preconditions

Restrictions

- 4 Subordinate legislation
- 5 Taxation
- 6 Criminal penalties
- 7 Forcible entry etc

Devolution

- 8 Scotland
- 9 Wales

Procedure

- 10 Procedure: introductory
- 11 Consultation
- 12 Draft order and explanatory document laid before Parliament
- 13 Determination of Parliamentary procedure
- 14 Negative resolution procedure
- 15 Affirmative resolution procedure
- 16 Super-affirmative resolution procedure

General

- 17 Calculation of time periods
- 18 Interpretation of Part 1

PART 2

REGULATORS

Exercise of regulatory functions

- 19 Principles
- 20 Code of practice
- 21 Code of practice: procedure

Supplementary

- 22 Functions to which sections 19 and 20 apply
- 23 “Regulatory functions”

PART 3

LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ETC

Interpretation of legislation

- 24 References to Community instruments
- 25 EEA agreement and EEA state

Implementation of Community obligations etc

- 26 Power to make orders, rules and schemes
- 27 Power to make ambulatory references to Community instruments

PART 4

SUPPLEMENTARY AND GENERAL

Supplementary

- 28 Repeals and savings
- 29 Consequential amendments

General

- 30 General interpretation
- 31 Commencement
- 32 Extent
- 33 Short title

A
B I L L

TO

Enable provision to be made for the purpose of reforming legislation and implementing recommendations of the Law Commission, the Scottish Law Commission and the Northern Ireland Law Commission; to make provision about the exercise of regulatory functions; to make provision about the interpretation of legislation relating to the European Communities and the European Economic Area; to make provision relating to section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972; and for connected purposes.

BE 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:—

PART 1

POWER TO REFORM LEGISLATION ETC

Order-making power

1 Purpose

- (1) *A Minister of the Crown may by order make provision for either or both of the following purposes—* 5
- (a) *reforming legislation;*
 - (b) *implementing recommendations of any one or more of the United Kingdom Law Commissions, with or without changes.*
- (2) An order under this section must be made in accordance with this Part. 10
- (3) In this Part “legislation” means a provision of—
- (a) any public general Act or local Act, or
 - (b) any Order in Council, order, rules, regulations, scheme, warrant, byelaw or other subordinate instrument made under a public general Act or local Act, 15
- but does not include any instrument which is, or is made under, Northern Ireland legislation.

- (4) In this Part “the United Kingdom Law Commissions” means –
- (a) the Law Commission;
 - (b) the Scottish Law Commission; and
 - (c) the Northern Ireland Law Commission.

2 Provision

5

- (1) An order under section 1 may for either purpose specified in subsection (1) of that section make provision amending, repealing or replacing any legislation.
- (2) Provision under subsection (1) may amend, repeal or replace legislation in any way that an Act might, and in particular may amend, repeal or replace legislation so as to –
- (a) confer functions on any person (including functions of legislating or functions relating to the charging of fees);
 - (b) modify the functions conferred on any person by legislation;
 - (c) transfer, or provide for the transfer or delegation of, the functions conferred on any person by legislation.

10

This is subject to sections 4 to 7.

15

- (3) An order under section 1 may for the purpose specified in subsection (1)(b) of that section also make –
- (a) provision amending or abolishing any rule of law;
 - (b) provision codifying rules of law.
- (4) An order under section 1 may make such consequential, supplementary, incidental or transitional provision (including provision amending, repealing or replacing any legislation or other provision) as the Minister making it considers appropriate.
- (5) An order under section 1 may bind the Crown.

20

25

3 Preconditions

- (1) A Minister may not make an order under section 1 containing –
- (a) provision under section 2(1), other than provision which merely restates legislation, or
 - (b) provision under section 2(3)(a),
- unless he considers that the conditions in subsection (2), where relevant, are satisfied in relation to that provision.
- (2) Those conditions are that –
- (a) the policy objective intended to be secured by the provision could not be satisfactorily secured by non-legislative means;
 - (b) the effect of the provision is proportionate to the policy objective;
 - (c) the provision, taken as a whole, strikes a fair balance between the public interest and the interests of any person adversely affected by it;
 - (d) the provision does not remove any necessary protection;
 - (e) the provision does not prevent any person from continuing to exercise any right or freedom which that person might reasonably expect to continue to exercise.
- (3) A Minister may not make an order under section 1 containing –
- (a) provision under section 2(1) which merely restates legislation, or

30

35

40

- (b) provision under section 2(3)(b),
unless he considers that the condition in subsection (4) is satisfied in relation to that provision.
- (4) That condition is that the provision made would make the law more accessible or more easily understood. 5

Restrictions

4 Subordinate legislation

- (1) Provision under section 2(1) may not confer a function of legislating on a Minister of the Crown (alone or otherwise) unless the conditions in subsections (2) and (3) are satisfied. 10
- (2) The condition in this subsection is that the function is exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (3) The condition in this subsection is that such a statutory instrument –
 - (a) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament; or
 - (b) is not to be made unless a draft of the statutory instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament. 15
- (4) Subsection (1) does not apply to provision which merely restates legislation.

5 Taxation

- (1) Provision under section 2(1) may not impose or increase taxation. 20
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to provision which merely restates legislation.

6 Criminal penalties

- (1) Provision under section 2(1) may not create a new offence that is punishable, or increase the penalty for an existing offence so that it is punishable –
 - (a) on indictment, with imprisonment for a term exceeding two years; or
 - (b) on summary conviction, with –
 - (i) imprisonment for a term exceeding the normal maximum term; or
 - (ii) a fine exceeding level 5 on the standard scale. 25
- (2) In subsection (1)(b)(i), “the normal maximum term” means –
 - (a) in relation to England and Wales –
 - (i) in the case of a summary offence, 51 weeks; and
 - (ii) in the case of an offence triable either way, twelve months; and
 - (b) in relation to Scotland or Northern Ireland, six months. 30
- (3) In the case of an offence which, if committed by an adult, is triable either on indictment or summarily and is not an offence triable on indictment only by virtue of –
 - (a) Part 5 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33), or
 - (b) section 292(6) and (7) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (c. 46), 35

	the reference in subsection (1)(b)(ii) to a fine exceeding level 5 on the standard scale is to be construed as a reference to the statutory maximum.	
(4)	If an order under section 1 containing provision under section 2(1) creating an offence, or altering the penalty for an offence, is made before the date on which section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) comes into force, the order must provide that, in relation to a summary offence committed before that date, any reference to a term of imprisonment of 51 weeks is to be read as a reference to six months.	5
(5)	If an order under section 1 containing provision under section 2(1) creating an offence, or altering the penalty for an offence, is made before the date on which section 154(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 comes into force, the order must provide that, in relation to an offence triable either way committed before that date, any reference to a term of imprisonment of twelve months is to be read as a reference to six months.	10
(6)	Subsection (1) does not apply to provision –	15
	(a) which merely restates legislation;	
	(b) to the extent that it implements recommendations of any one or more of the United Kingdom Law Commissions.	
7	Forcible entry etc	
(1)	Provision under section 2(1) may not –	20
	(a) authorise any forcible entry, search or seizure; or	
	(b) compel the giving of evidence.	
(2)	Subsection (1) does not prevent an order under section 1 from extending any power for purposes similar to those to which the power applied before the order was made.	25
(3)	Subsection (1) does not apply to provision –	
	(a) which merely restates legislation;	
	(b) to the extent that it implements recommendations of any one or more of the United Kingdom Law Commissions.	
	<i>Devolution</i>	30
8	Scotland	
	An order under section 1 may not, except by virtue of section 2(4), make provision which would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament if it were contained in an Act of that Parliament.	
9	Wales	35
	An order under section 1 may not make any provision –	
	(a) conferring a function on the Assembly,	
	(b) modifying or removing a function of the Assembly, or	
	(c) restating any provision which confers a function on the Assembly, except with the agreement of the Assembly.	40

Procedure

10 Procedure: introductory

- (1) An order under section 1 must be made by statutory instrument.
- (2) A Minister may not make an order under section 1 unless –
 - (a) he has consulted in accordance with section 11; 5
 - (b) following that consultation, he has laid a draft order and explanatory document before Parliament in accordance with section 12; and
 - (c) the order is made, as determined under section 13, in accordance with –
 - (i) the negative resolution procedure (see section 14); 10
 - (ii) the affirmative resolution procedure (see section 15); or
 - (iii) the super-affirmative resolution procedure (see section 16).

11 Consultation

- (1) If a Minister proposes to make an order under section 1 he must –
 - (a) consult such organisations as appear to him to be representative of interests substantially affected by the proposals, 15
 - (b) where the proposals relate to the functions of one or more statutory bodies, consult those bodies, or persons appearing to him to be representative of those bodies,
 - (c) consult the Assembly where the proposals, so far as applying in or as regards Wales, relate to any matter in relation to which the Assembly exercises functions (and where the Assembly’s agreement is not required under section 9), 20
 - (d) where the order is made for the purpose of implementing a recommendation of any one or more of the United Kingdom Law Commissions, consult that Commission or those Commissions, and 25
 - (e) consult such other persons as he considers appropriate.But this subsection does not apply to the extent that subsection (2) applies.
- (2) To the extent that a Minister proposes to make an order under section 1 for the purpose of implementing a recommendation of any one or more of the United Kingdom Law Commissions without material changes, the Minister must carry out such consultation as he considers appropriate having regard to the consultation carried out by that Commission or those Commissions. 30
- (3) If, as a result of any consultation required by subsection (1) or (2), it appears to the Minister that it is appropriate to change the whole or any part of his proposals, he must undertake such further consultation with respect to the changes as he considers appropriate. 35
- (4) If, before the day on which this section comes into force, any consultation was undertaken which, had it been undertaken after that day, would to any extent have satisfied the requirements of this section, those requirements shall to that extent be taken to have been satisfied. 40
- (5) Where –
 - (a) proposals for an order under section 1 are the same as proposals for an order under section 1 of the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 (c. 6),

- (b) consultation has at any time been undertaken in relation to the proposals under section 5 of that Act, and
- (c) that consultation satisfied the requirements of that section in relation to the proposals,
- the requirements of this section shall be taken to have been satisfied in relation to the proposals. 5
- (6) In subsection (1)(b) “statutory body” means –
- (a) a body established by or under any enactment; or
- (b) the holder of any office so established.
- 12 Draft order and explanatory document laid before Parliament 10**
- (1) If, after the conclusion of the consultation required by section 11, the Minister considers it appropriate to proceed with the making of an order under section 1, he must lay before Parliament –
- (a) a draft of the order, together with
- (b) an explanatory document. 15
- (2) The explanatory document must –
- (a) explain whether the provision contained in the order is made for the purpose in section 1(1)(a) or (b) or both;
- (b) introduce and give reasons for the provision;
- (c) explain why the Minister considers that – 20
- (i) the conditions in section 3(2) are satisfied (where relevant); or
- (ii) the condition in section 3(4) is satisfied;
- (d) to the extent that it is appropriate to do so having regard to the likely effect of the order, include an assessment of –
- (i) the savings or the increase in costs likely to result from the provision; and 25
- (ii) the other benefits and disbenefits of the provision;
- (e) identify and give reasons for –
- (i) any powers to legislate conferred by the order; and
- (ii) the procedural requirements attaching to those powers; and 30
- (f) give details of –
- (i) any consultation undertaken under section 11;
- (ii) any representations received as a result of the consultation;
- (iii) the changes (if any) made as a result of those representations.
- (3) In the case of any provision contained in the order which is made solely for the purpose in section 1(1)(a), if the Minister considers that the provision would have the effect of – 35
- (a) simplifying or modernising legislation,
- (b) making the overall effect of legislation less onerous, or
- (c) removing inconsistencies or anomalies in legislation, 40
- he must under subsection (2)(b) explain why.
- (4) In the case of any provision contained in the order which is made for the purpose in section 1(1)(b), the explanatory document must under subsection (2)(b) –
- (a) identify the recommendations being implemented; 45

- (b) identify the manner in which the order is intended to implement each of the recommendations; and
 - (c) give details of, and reasons for, any differences between the recommendations and the Minister’s proposals.
 - (5) Where a person making representations in response to consultation under section 11 has requested the Minister not to disclose them, the Minister must not disclose them under subsection (2)(f)(ii) if or to the extent that to do so would (disregarding any connection with proceedings in Parliament) constitute a breach of confidence actionable by any person. 5
 - (6) If information in representations made by a person in response to consultation under section 11 relates to another person, the Minister need not disclose the information under subsection (2)(f)(ii) if or to the extent that – 10
 - (a) it appears to the Minister that the disclosure of that information could adversely affect the interests of that other person; and
 - (b) the Minister has been unable to obtain the consent of that other person to the disclosure. 15
 - (7) Subsections (5) and (6) do not affect any disclosure that is requested by, and made to, a committee of either House of Parliament charged with reporting on the draft order.
- 13 Determination of Parliamentary procedure** 20
- (1) The explanatory document laid with a draft order under section 12 must contain a recommendation by the Minister as to which of the following should apply in relation to the making of an order pursuant to the draft order –
 - (a) the negative resolution procedure (see section 14);
 - (b) the affirmative resolution procedure (see section 15); or 25
 - (c) the super-affirmative resolution procedure (see section 16).
 - (2) The explanatory document must give reasons for the Minister’s recommendation.
 - (3) Where the Minister’s recommendation is that the negative resolution procedure should apply, that procedure shall apply unless, within the 21-day period – 30
 - (a) either House of Parliament requires that the super-affirmative resolution procedure shall apply, in which case that procedure shall apply; or
 - (b) in a case not falling within paragraph (a), either House of Parliament requires that the affirmative resolution procedure shall apply, in which case that procedure shall apply. 35
 - (4) Where the Minister’s recommendation is that the affirmative resolution procedure should apply, that procedure shall apply unless, within the 21-day period, either House of Parliament requires that the super-affirmative resolution procedure shall apply, in which case the super-affirmative resolution procedure shall apply. 40
 - (5) Where the Minister’s recommendation is that the super-affirmative resolution procedure should apply, that procedure shall apply.
 - (6) For the purposes of this section a House of Parliament shall be taken to have required a procedure within the 21-day period if – 45

- (a) that House resolves within that period that that procedure shall apply;
or
 - (b) in a case not falling within paragraph (a), a committee of that House charged with reporting on the draft order has recommended within that period that that procedure should apply and the House has not by resolution rejected that recommendation within that period. 5
- (7) In this section the “21-day period” means the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the draft order was laid before Parliament under section 12.

14 Negative resolution procedure

- (1) For the purposes of this Part, the “negative resolution procedure” in relation to the making of an order pursuant to a draft order laid under section 12 is as follows. 10
- (2) The Minister may make an order in the terms of the draft order unless within the 40-day period either House of Parliament resolves that an order may not be so made. 15
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) an order is made in the terms of a draft order if it contains no material changes to the provisions of the draft order.
- (4) In subsection (2) the “40-day period” means the period of 40 days beginning with the day on which the draft order was laid before Parliament under section 12. 20

15 Affirmative resolution procedure

- (1) For the purposes of this Part the “affirmative resolution procedure” in relation to the making of an order pursuant to a draft order laid under section 12 is as follows.
- (2) If after the expiry of the 40-day period the draft order is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament, the Minister may make an order in the terms of the draft. 25
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) an order is made in the terms of a draft order if it contains no material changes to the provisions of the draft order.
- (4) In subsection (2) “the 40-day period” has the meaning given by section 14(4). 30

16 Super-affirmative resolution procedure

- (1) For the purposes of this Part the “super-affirmative resolution procedure” in relation to the making of an order pursuant to a draft order laid under section 12 is as follows.
- (2) The Minister must have regard to— 35
 - (a) any representations,
 - (b) any resolution of either House of Parliament, and
 - (c) any recommendations of a committee of either House of Parliament charged with reporting on the draft order,
 made during the 60-day period with regard to the draft order. 40

- (3) If, after the expiry of the 60-day period, the Minister wishes to make an order in the terms of the draft, he must lay before Parliament a statement giving details of any representations made under subsection (2)(a).
- (4) The Minister may after the laying of such a statement make an order in the terms of the draft if it is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament. 5
- (5) If, after the expiry of the 60-day period, the Minister wishes to make an order consisting of a version of the draft order with material changes, he must lay before Parliament –
- (a) a revised draft order; and
 - (b) a statement giving details of – 10
 - (i) any representations made under subsection (2)(a); and
 - (ii) the revisions proposed.
- (6) The Minister may after laying a revised draft order and statement under subsection (5) make an order in the terms of the revised draft if it is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament. 15
- (7) For the purposes of subsections (4) and (6) an order is made in the terms of a draft order if it contains no material changes to the provisions of the draft order.
- (8) In this section the “60-day period” means the period of 60 days beginning with the day on which the draft order was laid before Parliament under section 12. 20

General

17 Calculation of time periods

In calculating any period of days for the purposes of sections 13 to 16, no account shall be taken of any time during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which either House is adjourned for more than four days. 25

18 Interpretation of Part 1

In this Part –

- “legislation” has the meaning given by section 1(3);
- to “legislate” means to legislate by order, rules, regulations or other subordinate instrument; 30
- “restate” means replace with alterations only of form or arrangement (and for these purposes to remove an ambiguity is to make an alteration other than one of form or arrangement);
- “the United Kingdom Law Commissions” has the meaning given by section 1(4). 35

PART 2

REGULATORS

*Exercise of regulatory functions***19 Principles**

- (1) Any person exercising a regulatory function to which this section applies must have regard to the principles in subsection (2) in the exercise of the function. 5
- (2) Those principles are that—
- (a) regulatory activities should be carried out in a way which is transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent;
 - (b) regulatory activities should be targeted only at cases in which action is needed. 10
- (3) The duty in subsection (1) is subject to any other requirement affecting the exercise of the regulatory function.

20 Code of practice

- (1) A Minister of the Crown may issue and from time to time revise a code of practice in relation to the exercise of regulatory functions. 15
- (2) Any person exercising a regulatory function to which this section applies must have regard to the code in the exercise of the function.
- (3) The duty in subsection (2) is subject to any other requirement affecting the exercise of the regulatory function. 20
- (4) Where—
- (a) a court or tribunal finds that a person has failed to comply with any requirement, restriction or condition,
 - (b) the duty in subsection (2) applies in relation to the enforcement of that requirement, restriction or condition, and 25
 - (c) it appears to the court or tribunal that there has been a failure to comply with that duty,
- the court or tribunal may take the failure to comply with the duty under subsection (2) into account in deciding how to deal with the failure to comply with the requirement, restriction or condition. 30

21 Code of practice: procedure

- (1) Where a Minister of the Crown proposes to issue or revise a code of practice under section 20, he shall prepare a draft of the code (or revised code).
- (2) The Minister shall, in preparing the draft, seek to secure that it is consistent with the principles specified in section 19(2). 35
- (3) The Minister shall consult the following about the draft—
- (a) persons appearing to him to be representative of persons exercising regulatory functions;
 - (b) such other persons as he considers appropriate.

- (4) If the Minister determines to proceed with the draft (either in its original form or with modifications) he shall lay the draft before Parliament.
- (5) If, within the period of 40 days beginning with the day on which it is laid before Parliament, either House resolves not to approve the draft, the Minister shall take no further steps in relation to that draft. 5
- (6) If no such resolution is made within that period, the Minister shall issue the code (or revised code) in the form of the draft, and it shall come into force on such date as the Minister may by order made by statutory instrument appoint.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (5), no account shall be taken of any period during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which either House is adjourned for more than four days. 10

Supplementary

22 Functions to which sections 19 and 20 apply

- (1) Sections 19 and 20 apply to regulatory functions specified under this section.
- (2) A Minister of the Crown may by order in accordance with this section specify regulatory functions as functions to which sections 19 and 20 apply. 15
- (3) A Minister may not under subsection (2) specify –
 - (a) a regulatory function so far as exercisable in Scotland, if or to the extent that the function relates to matters which are not reserved matters;
 - (b) a regulatory function so far as exercisable in Northern Ireland, if or to the extent that the function relates to matters which are transferred matters; or 20
 - (c) a regulatory function exercisable only in or as regards Wales.
- (4) The Assembly may by order in accordance with this section specify regulatory functions exercisable only in or as regards Wales as functions to which sections 19 and 20 apply. 25
- (5) An order under this section may not specify regulatory functions conferred on or exercisable by any of the following –
 - (a) the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority;
 - (b) the Office of Communications; 30
 - (c) the Office of Rail Regulation;
 - (d) the Postal Services Commission;
 - (e) the Water Services Regulation Authority.
- (6) Before making an order under this section, the authority making the order must consult the following – 35
 - (a) any person (other than the authority) whose functions are to be specified in the order;
 - (b) such other persons as the authority considers appropriate.
- (7) An order under this section may make such consequential, supplementary, incidental, or transitional provision (including provision amending any enactment) as the authority making it considers appropriate; and may make different provision for different purposes. 40
- (8) An order under this section must be made by statutory instrument.

- (9) A Minister of the Crown may not make a statutory instrument containing an order under this section unless a draft has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, each House of Parliament.
- (10) In this section—
- “reserved matter” and “Scotland” have the same meanings as in the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46); 5
 - “transferred matter” and “Northern Ireland” have the same meanings as in the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (c. 47);
 - “Wales” has the same meaning as in the Government of Wales Act 1998 (c. 38). 10
- 23 “Regulatory functions”**
- (1) In this Part “regulatory function” means—
- (a) a function under any enactment of imposing requirements, restrictions or conditions in relation to any activity;
 - (b) a function which relates to the securing of compliance with, or the enforcement of, requirements, restrictions or conditions imposed in relation to any activity under or by virtue of any enactment. 15
- (2) In subsection (1)—
- (a) the references to a function include a function exercisable by or on behalf of the Crown; 20
 - (b) the references to an activity include—
 - (i) providing any goods or services;
 - (ii) employing or offering employment to any person.
- (3) The functions referred to in subsection (1)(b) do not include functions of conducting criminal or civil proceedings. 25

PART 3

LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ETC

Interpretation of legislation

- 24 References to Community instruments**
- (1) In the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30), after section 20 insert— 30
- “20A References to Community instruments**
- Where an Act passed after the commencement of this section refers to a Community instrument that has been amended, extended or applied by another such instrument, the reference, unless the contrary intention appears, is a reference to that instrument as so amended, extended or applied.” 35
- (2) In that Act, in section 22(1) (application to Acts and Measures), after “passed after the commencement of this Act” insert “(subject, in the case of section 20A, to the provision made in that section)”.
- (3) In that Act, in section 24 (application to Northern Ireland), after subsection (3) 40

insert—

“(3A) Section 20A applies to Northern Ireland legislation as it applies to Acts.”

- (4) In the Scotland Act 1998 (Transitory and Transitional Provisions) (Publication and Interpretation etc of Acts of the Scottish Parliament) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/1379), in Schedule 1 (statutory interpretation and operation) at the end insert— 5

“References to Community instruments

- 16 Where an Act of the Scottish Parliament passed after the commencement of this paragraph refers to a Community instrument that has been amended, extended or applied by another such instrument, the reference, unless the contrary intention appears, is a reference to that instrument as so amended, extended or applied.” 10

25 EEA agreement and EEA state

- (1) In the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30), in Schedule 1 (defined expressions), after the definition of “Crown Estate Commissioners” insert— 15

““EEA agreement” means the agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992, together with the Protocol adjusting that Agreement signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993, as from time to time modified or supplemented by or under the Community Treaties. [The date of the coming into force of this paragraph.]” 20

“EEA state”, in relation to any time, means—

- (a) a state which at that time is a member State; or
(b) any other state which at that time is a party to the EEA agreement. [The date of the coming into force of this paragraph.]” 25

- (2) In that Act, in section 24 (application to Northern Ireland), in subsection (4), after “The Corporation Tax Acts” insert—

“EEA agreement and EEA state;”.

- (3) In the Scotland Act 1998 (Transitory and Transitional Provisions) (Publication and Interpretation etc of Acts of the Scottish Parliament) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/1379), in Schedule 2 (general definitions), after the definition of “Devolution issue” insert— 30

““EEA agreement” means the agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992, together with the Protocol adjusting that Agreement signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993, as from time to time modified or supplemented by or under the Community Treaties. 35

“EEA state”, in relation to any time, means—

- (a) a state which at that time is a member State; or
(b) any other state which at that time is a party to the EEA agreement.” 40

- (4) The amendment made by subsection (3) does not have effect in relation to—

- (a) an Act of the Scottish Parliament passed before the commencement of this section; or
- (b) Scottish subordinate legislation (within the meaning of the Order referred to in subsection (3)) made before the commencement of this section.

5

*Implementation of Community obligations etc***26 Power to make orders, rules and schemes**

- (1) In section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972 (c. 68) (general implementation of Treaties) –
 - (a) in subsection (2), for “by regulations” substitute “by order, rules, regulations or scheme”; 10
 - (b) in subsection (4), for “and regulations” substitute “or orders, rules, regulations or schemes”.
- (2) In Schedule 2 to that Act (provisions as to subordinate legislation) –
 - (a) in paragraph 2, in sub-paragraphs (1) and (2), for “regulations” substitute “any order, rules, regulations or scheme”; 15
 - (b) in paragraph 3, for “regulations”, wherever occurring, substitute “order, rules, regulations or scheme”.
- (3) In section 29 of the Government of Wales Act 1998 (c. 38) (implementation of Community law) in subsections (2) and (3), for “regulations”, wherever occurring, substitute “any order, rules, regulations or scheme”. 20
- (4) In Schedule 8 to the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46), in paragraph 15(3), for “regulations” substitute “any order, rules, regulations or scheme”.
- (5) Where any enactment passed, or subordinate legislation made, before the coming into force of this section refers to regulations under subsection (2) of section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972, a Minister of the Crown may by order or regulations amend the enactment or subordinate legislation so that it includes a reference to any order, rules or scheme under that subsection. 25
- (6) The powers of a Minister of the Crown under subsection (5) –
 - (a) so far as exercisable in relation to a matter the exercise of functions in respect of which is within devolved competence (within the meaning of the Scotland Act 1998), shall also be exercisable by the Scottish Ministers; 30
 - (b) so far as exercisable in relation to a transferred matter (within the meaning of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (c. 47)), shall also be exercisable by a Northern Ireland department; 35
 - (c) so far as exercisable in relation to a matter in respect of which functions are exercisable by the Assembly, shall also be exercisable by the Assembly.
- (7) The power under subsection (5) to make an order or regulations – 40
 - (a) so far as exercisable by a Minister of the Crown, the Scottish Ministers or the National Assembly for Wales, shall be exercisable by statutory instrument;
 - (b) so far as exercisable by a Northern Ireland department, shall be exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)). 45

- (8) A statutory instrument or statutory rule containing an order or regulations under subsection (5) –
- (a) if made by a Minister of the Crown, shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament;
 - (b) if made by the Scottish Ministers, shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament; and 5
 - (c) if made by a Northern Ireland department, shall be subject to negative resolution, within the meaning of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (1954 c. 33 (N.I.)), as if it were a statutory instrument within the meaning of that Act. 10
- (9) In subsection (5) –
- (a) “enactment” includes Acts of the Scottish Parliament and Northern Ireland legislation;
 - (b) “subordinate legislation” means any Order in Council, order, rules, regulations, scheme, warrant, byelaws or other instrument made under any Act, Act of the Scottish Parliament or Northern Ireland legislation. 15

27 Power to make ambulatory references to Community instruments

In the European Communities Act 1972 (c. 68), in Schedule 2 (provisions as to subordinate legislation), after paragraph 1 insert –

- “1A (1) Where – 20
- (a) subordinate legislation makes provision for a purpose mentioned in section 2(2) of this Act,
 - (b) the legislation contains a reference to a Community instrument, and
 - (c) it appears to the person making the legislation that it is necessary or expedient (whether or not for that purpose) for the reference to be construed as a reference to the Community instrument as amended from time to time, 25
- the subordinate legislation may make express provision to that effect. 30
- (2) In this paragraph “subordinate legislation” means any Order in Council, order, rules, regulations, scheme, warrant, byelaws or other instrument made under any Act, Act of the Scottish Parliament or Northern Ireland legislation.”

PART 4 35

SUPPLEMENTARY AND GENERAL

Supplementary

28 Repeals and savings

- (1) The enactments mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are repealed to the extent specified in the second column of that Schedule. 40
- (2) Where a document has been laid before Parliament under section 6(1) of the 2001 Act before the day on which this Act comes into force, the repeal by this

	Act of sections 1 to 8 of the 2001 Act does not affect the application of those sections in relation to the making of an implementing order.	
(3)	In subsection (2) an “implementing order” in relation to any document laid before Parliament under section 6(1) of the 2001 Act means an order to give effect (with or without variations) to proposals in that document.	5
(4)	Nothing in this Act affects the continuation in force of any order under section 1 of the 2001 Act which—	
	(a) was made before the day on which this Act comes into force; or	
	(b) is made on or after that day by virtue of subsection (2).	
(5)	Nothing in this Act affects the continuation in force of any order under section 1 of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 (c. 40) which, immediately before the coming into force of this Act, continues in force by virtue of section 12(4) of the 2001 Act.	10
(6)	In this section “the 2001 Act” means the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 (c. 6).	
29	Consequential amendments	15
(1)	In section 6 of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 (model provisions with respect to appeals), in subsection (7), for the definition of “enforcement action” substitute—	
	““enforcement action” means—	
	(a) in relation to any restriction, requirement or condition, any action taken with a view to or in connection with imposing any sanction (whether criminal or otherwise) for failure to observe or comply with it; and	20
	(b) in relation to a restriction, requirement or condition relating to the grant or renewal of licences, includes any refusal to grant, renew or vary a licence, the imposition of any condition on the grant or renewal of a licence and any variation or revocation of a licence;”.	25
(2)	In section 100 of the Local Government Act 2003 (c. 26) (exercise of powers by reference to authorities’ performance categories), in subsection (2)(d), for “section 1 of the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 (c. 6)” substitute “section 1 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006”.	30
	<i>General</i>	
30	General interpretation	
	In this Act—	35
	“the Assembly” means the National Assembly for Wales;	
	“Minister of the Crown” has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975 (c. 26).	
31	Commencement	
	This Act comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.	40

32 Extent

- (1) An order under section 1 which amends, repeals or replaces legislation extending outside England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland may have the same extent as that legislation.
- (2) Section 29 extends to England and Wales only. 5
- (3) The repeals in the Schedule have the same extent as the enactments to which they relate.

33 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006.

SCHEDULE

Section 28

REPEALS

<i>Short title and chapter</i>	<i>Extent of repeal</i>	
Regulatory Reform Act 2001 (c. 6)	The whole Act except section 13(1)(b) and (2), the definition of “the 1994 Act” in section 14 and section 15(1) and (2).	5
Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (c. 26)	In Schedule 12, paragraph 81.	
Education Act 2002 (c. 32)	Section 2(9).	
Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Deceased Fathers) Act 2003 (c. 24)	Section 2(2) and (3).	10
Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c. 43)	Section 189(4).	15
Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44)	In Schedule 27, paragraph 8.	
Gender Recognition Act 2004 (c. 7)	In section 24 – (a) in subsections (1) and (2), the words “, the Chancellor of the Exchequer”; (b) in subsection (3), the words “or paragraph 11 of Schedule 3”.	20
	In Schedule 3, paragraph 11.	
Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14)	Section 1(3).	
Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 (c. 19)	Section 20(6).	25
Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33)	In section 35(1)(a), the words “(whether or not under an order under section 1 of the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 (c. 6))”.	30
Railways Act 2005 (c. 14)	In Schedule 3, paragraph 14.	

Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill

A

B I L L

To enable provision to be made for the purpose of reforming legislation and implementing recommendations of the Law Commission, the Scottish Law Commission and the Northern Ireland Law Commission; to make provision about the exercise of regulatory functions; to make provision about the interpretation of legislation relating to the European Communities and the European Economic Area; to make provision relating to section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Mr Jim Murphy
supported by
Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer,
Mr Secretary Straw, Mr Secretary Darling,
Mr Secretary Hutton, Bill Rammell
and Jane Kennedy.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be printed, 11th January 2006.*

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2006
*Applications for reproduction should be made in writing to the Copyright Unit,
Her Majesty's Stationery Office, St. Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich, NR3 1BQ*

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx