

General election 2017

With the snap election delivering a hung parliament, Theresa May secured the support of the DUP's 10 MPs on a confidence and supply basis. This following an extended period of negotiation between Theresa May and the DUP leader, Arlene Foster – resulting in a pledge of £1bn extra funding provided to Northern Ireland over the next two years.

Cf. figure 1

The Queen's Speech

The Queen's Speech was notably short, setting out only 27 bills – eight of which were pieces of legislation that the government believes are necessary for Brexit. Included in these eight Brexit bills is legislation allowing Britain to determine its own immigration, customs and trade arrangement

Westminster

From the Houses of Parliament Cf. figure 2

Following the State Opening of Parliament and Queen's Speech on 21 June, a Commons Speaker was elected, before MPs were duly sworn-in and subsequently debated topics from the Queen's Speech. This included education and local services, Brexit and foreign affairs, the economy and jobs, and health, social care and security.

MPs defeated a Labour amendment to the Queen's Speech which called for an end to the public sector pay cap by **323** votes to **309**, a majority of 14. This was the same result by which the Queen's Speech itself was passed – although a cross-party amendment calling for Britain to remain in the EU single market and customs union was defeated by **322** votes to **101**.

- The **House of Lords EU Committee** published a [report](#) on the UK Government's relationship with the devolved nations
- Rachel Reeves MP, newly elected chair of the BEIS select committee set out her early priorities for the committee in an interview in the FT, providing her insight into the potential early inquiries. In addition to scrutinising the Matthew Taylor report into modern working practices, the chair said that she sees part of the committee's role as giving business a voice during the Brexit negotiations. The committee is likely to carry out an inquiry on the sectoral impact of leaving the EU, perhaps focusing on three or four specific sectors
- Education Secretary Justine Greening urged companies to help her in her mission to create an 'army of skilled young people' in her speech at the Business and Education Summit. The Minister also announced a Strategic College Improvement Fund, an expansion of the FE commissioner's role, and £15m to contribute to improvements in further education and to provide teachers required to deliver T-levels
- Matt Hancock, the Minister for Digital, made a statement to the House on the commencement of the Digital Economy Act (see [here](#) for a transcript)

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- Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport, issued a written statement to parliament on HS2 (see [here](#)) specifically relating to £6.6 billion worth of major construction contracts for HS2 *Phase One*
- The Government announced a new **Industry Response Group (IRG)** – made up of government and the construction industry to help ensure the sector can meet the challenges following the Grenfell Tower fire. The IRG will complement the work of the Independent Expert Advisory Panel (IEAP) established in June 2017 by government to advise on immediate steps to ensure building safety. Additionally, **DCLG** produced a circular letter to building control bodies to highlight key issues that building owners and building control bodies need to consider in ensuring compliance with the building regulations when undertaking re-cladding work to tall buildings over 18 metres.
- Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills Anne Milton wrote [letters](#) to the chairs of the Construction Industry Training Board (**CITB**) and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (**ECITB**) confirming continuing government support.
- Following **Lord Taylor's** independent review *Good Work - A Review of Modern Working Practices* his [report](#) has now been published. Key findings of his review were around: tackling exploitation and the potential for exploitation at work; increasing clarity in the law and helping people know and exercise their rights; and aligning the incentives driving the nature of the labour market with modern industrial strategy and broader national objectives in the longer-term.
- The Department for International Trade (DIT) is [partnering](#) with 17 of the UK's leading infrastructure firms, creating **IE:UK** to help UK companies secure major international contracts. IE:UK's work will be supported by a government funded project management office. All activities will be co-resourced between industry and government.
- The **Industrial Strategy Commission** published a [report](#) on the foundations of the Government's industrial strategy where it identified the key strategic goals of the state as being decarbonisation of the energy economy; ensuring adequate investment in infrastructure; developing a sustainable health and social care system; unlocking long-term investment; supporting high-value industries in building export capacity, and enabling growth in all parts of the UK.
- The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clark made a major [speech](#) on industrial strategy and announced a £246m of investment in battery technology.
- The Government announced [new rules](#) making it easier for people to generate their own power with solar panels, to store it in batteries, and sell it to the National Grid. The rules are due to come into effect over the next year and according to the government and energy regulator **Ofgem**, consumers will save £17bn to £40bn by 2050 thanks to these rules.
- The **Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA)** published its fifth annual report on the Government Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP) containing 143 major projects worth £455.5 billion and spread across 17 government departments. This annual report is an important measure of how major projects currently in delivery are progressing, as well as providing analysis of how well these projects are performing year-on-year (see annexe for further information).

Reports and publications - Professional bodies/Think tanks/Other

- **IPPR North** published [analysis](#) showing that over the past decade public spending on transport in London has been more than double that in the North
- The Confederation of British Industry (**CBI**) and **Pearson** have published the 2017 education and skills [survey](#) *Helping the UK Thrive* showing among other things that 80% of employers already have links with schools and/or colleges and that three quarters of employers expect to have more job openings for people with higher-level skills in coming years.
- **Reform** launched its latest [report](#), *Gainful gigging: employment services for the platform economy*. The report finds that government services to help unemployed people find jobs are not keeping pace with changes in the way people work. The report shows how rigid work patterns prevent many disadvantaged jobseekers, such as older or disabled people, from finding jobs.
- **The ONS** published [Where are industry eyes on Brexit?](#) with data showing that London's status as a financial centre could be under threat depending on the Brexit outcome
- With Brexit negotiations under way, and the environment very much in the spotlight, **The Economist** has

- published an [opinion piece](#) on Brexit and the environment
- The **Aviation Environment Federation** (AEF) called for a halt to Heathrow expansion as the Government launched its call for evidence on aviation strategy
 - The **Construction Industry Training Board** (CITB) published a [report](#) *Construction Skills Gap Analysis for the Greater London Authority*
 - Aron Cheung from the Institute for Government wrote a [blog](#) analysing the IPA report (see above). The IFG analysis of the report is that it shows the Government is "continuing to struggle with the implementation of existing projects" and that the Government "is still managing too many complex projects".
 - The National Trust also issued its [concerns](#) about HS2 phases 2a and 2b
 - A **National Grid** [report](#) *Future Energy Scenarios* said the "2°C target" scenario is only one of four possible ways forward for the UK energy sector. The report says 14.5GW of new nuclear capacity is needed by 2035 to meet the target
 - **IPPR** published a [report](#) *Gearing up for the transition: The role of transport in a Northern energy strategy*
 - **The Henry Jackson Society** published a [report](#) *Safeguarding our Systems: Managing Chinese Investment into the UK's Digital and Critical National Infrastructure* – a key recommendation of which was that a new (adequately resourced) regime should be built to carry out the difficult task of tracking foreign direct investment (FDI) into the sensitive parts of the UK's economy and that this regime should be overseen by a special committee in Parliament
 - The **Institute for Fiscal Studies** has published its annual [report](#) on living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK
 - **Ofqual** published its first employer qualifications perceptions [survey](#) asking over 2,000 employers for their views on vocational and technical qualifications and assessments.
 - The **CMI** launched its [Management Manifesto](#) in advance of the general election. The document draws attention to the importance of "closing the £84bn productivity gap"
 - The **Institute for Public Policy Research** and **Independent Age** published a [joint report](#) on winter fuel payments
 - **Policy Exchange** published its [report](#) critiquing estimates of the economic impact of Brexit based on the 'gravity model'
 - The Manufacturers' organisation **EEF** published a [briefing](#) on *UK Manufacturing and Brexit*
 - The **UK's National Academies** — the Academy of Medical Sciences, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society — commissioned Technopolis to provide an [in-depth understanding](#) of the role of EU funding within the UK research and innovation landscape post-Brexit
 - The Academy of Social Sciences published the latest in its series of occasional papers entitled [How can the UK and Scotland Prosper Outside the EU?](#) in which it considers both the situation of the UK as a whole and that of Scotland in particular post-Brexit
 - The Royal Institute of British Architects published a [report](#) entitled *Practice Resilience: How Architects survive and thrive during challenging times*. RIBA's research showed that practices are looking for a Brexit deal and domestic policy that will enable their businesses to continue to thrive, secure continued access to diverse skills, and invest in innovation
 - The Institute for Government published its [report](#) on *Brexit and the European Court of Justice* as well as a [report](#) summarising its conclusions from six UK case studies on *What's wrong with infrastructure decision making?*
 - Forsters LLP published a practical [guide](#) on safeguarding construction contracts after Brexit
 - The British Chambers of Commerce published its latest quarterly [economic forecast](#) Q2 2017
 - The National Audit Office published a [report](#) by the Comptroller and Auditor General examining the delivery of the Bank of England's 'One Mission, One Bank' strategy, launched in 2014
 - The King's Fund published its [report](#) on *Tackling variations in clinical care: Assessing the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme*

Reports, publications and activity – from the world of Project Management

- [Raconteur](#) published its latest Project Management Special report featuring articles from PMI and APM amongst others
- A number of major Project Management related research conferences took place in June 2017 including

[IRNOP](#) and [EURAM](#)

- The [finalists for the IPMA Awards 2017](#) have been announced and will be unveiled at the IPMA World Congress in Astana in September 2017
- The Major Projects Association launched the [Knowledge Hub](#) last month which seeks to capture and share learning, good practice and innovation on major projects, and connect a network of experts across the industry.
- In July the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) launched the UK Government Project Delivery Standard which aims to set expectations for the direction and management of portfolios, programmes and projects ensuring value for money and the successful, timely and cost effective delivery of government policy and business objectives.
- The International Centre for Complex Project Management (ICCPM) announced the winner of the [2017 ICCPM PM Prize](#)

APM Research and Policy Outputs

- APM published the first report from the APM Research Fund on [Project Handover](#)
- APM published the first iteration of [Apprenticeships: an employer guide](#)
- APM launched the [third paper](#) of its *Road to Chartered* series – in cooperation with IBE
- APM launched the [fourth paper](#) of its *Road to Chartered* series on CPD – in cooperation with PARN
- APM sponsored and supported [EurOMA 2017](#) hosted by Heriot Watt University which attracted over 550 participants
- Five new studies from [APM's Research Fund](#) were launched in July 2017

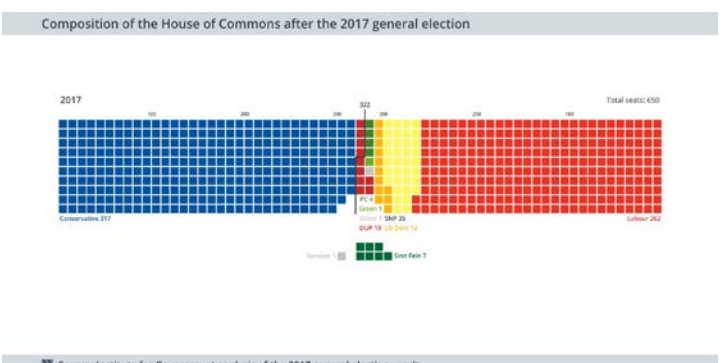
APM Forthcoming

- APM will soon publish a policy briefing on the New Government
- APM will publish its monthly monitor in August and September
- In September APM will publish a Research Fund Study on "Scaled Agile"
- In September APM will launch the fifth paper of its *Road to Chartered* series on new technology
- In October APM will publish a thought leadership opinion piece on Climate Change
- [APM announces the finalists](#) for the APM Awards 2017 which will take place in London in November 2017

Figure 1

PARTY	SEATS	+/-	VOTES	VOTE SHARE	+/- %
Conservative	318	-13	13,669,883	42.4	+5.5
Labour	262	+30	12,878,460	40.0	+9.5
Scottish National Party	35	-21	977,569	3.0	-1.7
Liberal Democrat	12	+4	2,371,910	7.4	-0.5
Democratic Unionist Party	10	+2	292,316	0.9	+0.3
Sinn Fein	7	+3	238,915	0.7	+0.2
Plaid Cymru	4	+1	164,466	0.5	-0.1
Green Party	1	0	525,435	1.6	-2.1
UKIP	0	-1	594,068	1.8	-10.8
Social Democratic & Labour Party	0	-3	95,419	0.3	0.0
Ulster Unionist Party	0	-2	83,280	0.3	-0.1

Figure 2



Annexe

As the Government's centre of expertise for infrastructure and major projects, the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) is responsible for the overall project delivery system in Government – including the *projects, people* and

processes – as well as for supporting and de-risking the most complex and high risk projects. Additionally, the IPA develops the *skills* of the people who deliver these projects as well as overseeing the project life-cycle from policy and financing through to independent assurance. The IPA reports to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury and is therefore APM's key constituency within Government. Its annual report is an important measure of how major projects *currently* in delivery are progressing, as well as providing analysis of how well these projects are performing year-on-year.

Figure 1: Summary of the 2016-2017 GMPP

Number of projects	143
Whole-life cost of GMPP	£455.5bn
2016-17 budget	£24.6bn
Government transformation and service delivery 40 projects worth	£71.1bn
ICT 39 projects worth	£18.6bn
Infrastructure and construction 37 projects worth	£222.5bn
Military capability 27 projects worth	£143.3bn

Data used to calculate these figures can be found in the GMPP data table.
<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infrastructure-and-projects-authority-annual-report-2017>

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