

### SUMMARY

- + Independent Review and Public Enquiry: Grenfell Tower
- + Brexit updates
- + In next month's monitor: coverage of party conference season

## Brexit

### The House of Commons

The [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) received its second reading in the House of Commons with MPs voting to back the Bill by 326 votes to 290 — at the end of a two day debate (7 and 11 September). The Programme Motion, which allowed for eight days of debate at committee stage, was also passed. A Labour amendment declining to give the Bill a Second Reading was defeated. The Bill now moves to committee stage.

### Scrutiny in the Lords

The House of Lords [Constitution Committee](#) published a call for evidence as part of the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill inquiry (the deadline for submissions is 12 October). The Committee published a preliminary report – prior to the Bill – in March, entitled: 'The Great Repeal Bill and delegated powers'.

### Transition

It is reported that businesses are split over the benefits of a Brexit transition period. According to a [survey from London First](#) and Lloyds Banking Group 40% of UK businesses believe a transition period after the UK's exit from the EU will have a positive impact while 35% felt a transition period would have no impact.

### Negotiations

The Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) publishes position papers, future partnership papers, and technical notes in advance of each round of negotiations. Before the third round of negotiations in August for example, DExEU published three position papers, four future partnership papers and four technical notes (the UK Government's position papers, future partnership papers and technical notes can all be accessed [here](#) with the EU's position papers accessible [here](#)).

On 22 September, in advance of the fourth round negotiations (commencing on 25th September), the Prime Minister made a headline speech in Florence about a "new era of cooperation and partnership between the UK and the EU." The EU27 wanted clarity on money and on the other key article 50 details: citizens' rights and the Irish border; detail on the transition period; and on a feasible vision of what Britain wants its future trading relationship to look like. The Florence speech – Theresa May's third big speech on Brexit – delivered clarity on some aspects and commentators noted it did just enough to unblock the stalled divorce settlement talks, but may not allow them to move on to the "future relationship".

Analysis from the Institute for Government (IfG) notes that this crucial speech needed to win on at least three counts: Firstly, to demonstrate that Cabinet could muster a united front; Secondly, to persuade the European Council to move to the second stage of the talks (on the wider questions of the UK's future relationship with the European Union); and thirdly, to secure support from the EU for the notion of an "implementation period" after March 2019. The IfG has combed through the rhetoric of the speech – providing superb analysis [here](#). Whilst the fourth round of negotiations are underway and with Theresa May meeting European Council President Donald Tusk in 10 Downing Street on 26th September we must patiently await the outcome of these negotiations. **APM will be publishing a refreshed and updated policy briefing on Brexit later in the autumn.**

## Grenfell Tower tragedy

Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, an Independent Review was announced in July by government. The review is being led by Dame Judith Hackitt and will report to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, and Home Secretary Amber Rudd. The review will examine building and fire safety regulations and related compliance and enforcement. [A call for evidence has now been launched](#) on the independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. Responses should be submitted by 13th October 2017.

In addition to the Independent Review, a Public Inquiry has also been launched and will be led by retired Judge Sir Martin Moore-Bick. On 15th August the Prime Minister set the [terms of reference](#) for the Inquiry and at the formal opening of the Inquiry on 14th September, Sir Martin set out a [list of issues](#) to be investigated. Sir Martin has indicated to the Prime Minister that he would like to produce an interim report by Easter 2018 but this is dependent on the progress of other related investigations.

## Grenfell in the Houses of Parliament:

On Tuesday 5th September: Communities Secretary Sajid Javid [provided an update to Parliament](#) on the government response to the Grenfell Tower fire. Mr Javid informed the House of Commons that of the 196 households from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk needing a new home 61 households have accepted an offer of new accommodation and 29 have moved in. Mr Javid also said the government had [published further fire safety advice](#) for owners of high rise residential buildings following large-scale testing.

The Department for Communities and Local Government [has published a number of letters](#) related to the Grenfell Tower Fire and building regulations.

## How to value infrastructure: Improving cost benefit analysis

Getting better at cost benefit analysis could go a long way towards enabling the Government to commission projects that will help transform the UK economy, and avoid expensive overruns like the Channel Tunnel or the embarrassing u-turns of the rail electrification programme. This is the thrust of a new [report](#) published by the Institute for Government (IfG), emphasising the importance of cost benefit analysis in the approval process of infrastructure projects. The report argues that "with a quarter of a trillion pounds worth of infrastructure investment expected over the next five years, the Government cannot afford expensive mistakes and unnecessary delays".

## From Westminster and Whitehall – Government Departments:

■ The National Infrastructure Commission published a [list of the 12 key infrastructure decisions](#) that need to be taken for projects to go ahead across the country, including the next stages of High Speed 2 which will connect Birmingham, Crewe, Manchester and Leeds, High Speed 3 linking the major northern cities, Crossrail 2 and increased investment in broadband and 5g mobile. Meeting with the Mayor of London, Lord Adonis emphasised that progress must be made on the next round of major projects.

■ The Skills Minister has brought together a team of experts to the Education Advisory Group to work collaboratively to build more transport skills than ever before. Specialists in further and higher education have been invited to join transport chiefs to explore how best to equip young people to build a successful career in transport. The group will work closely with the Strategic Transport Apprenticeship Taskforce (STAT), which aims to get more talented young people into transport apprenticeships.

■ The Government unveiled its [National Shipbuilding Strategy](#) under which the government will buy at least five frigates – with work shared between a number of shipyards across the UK. Each frigate would have a price cap of £250m and would be delivered by 2023. The Strategy also aims to help make the UK's maritime industry more internationally competitive.

■ Over the summer, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) launched the 'cost of energy' [review](#) as pledged in the Conservative manifesto and set out on page 94 of the government's [Industrial Strategy Green Paper](#). The review, led by Dieter Helm and due to report at the end of October 2017, will look specifically at how the energy industry, government and regulators "can keep the cost of electricity as low as possible, while ensuring the UK meets its domestic and international climate targets."

■ The Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling confirmed that there will be further consultation on the draft Airports National Policy Statement to allow updated evidence to be taken into account, including revised aviation demand forecasts and the government's final air quality plan. The government are publishing Sir Jeremy Sullivan's [report](#) on the initial consultation, announcing that Sir Jeremy has agreed to oversee the further period of consultation.

■ The Government completed its sale of the Green Investment Bank (GIB) – with new owner Macquarie committing to the GIB's target of leading £3 billion of investment in green energy projects over next 3 years. The company will be known as the Green Investment Group (GIG) and the government will continue to hold an interest in a portfolio of a small number of GIB's existing green infrastructure investments. These assets will continue to be managed by GIB until they can be sold on in a way which returns best value for taxpayers' money.

■ The first stage of a £200 million scheme to help bring the UK's fastest and most reliable broadband to businesses, schools and hospitals began with the [launch of six local pilots](#) – together worth £10m. This programme comes as part of the government's £23 billion National [Productivity Investment Fund](#).

■ The Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) has published a [paper](#) outlining the UK's objectives for a science and innovation agreement with the EU. The paper sets out examples of where the UK sees potential mutual benefit in a close working relationship, exploring precedents for each. The paper invites discussion with the EU on how best to shape our future partnership in this area.

■ £13m of funding has been awarded through a partnership between BEIS and Wellcome as part of the government's Industrial Strategy to "encourage more young people to consider STEM careers, and create a strong skills system to ensure the UK has the necessary experts to continue being a global leader in science."

■ The Department for Transport (DfT) in partnership with Innovate UK has made another £7.9 million available to develop cutting-edge ways to improve the rail network for passengers in the next round of the Accelerating Innovation in Rail (AIR) scheme. The competition is open to companies of all sizes across the UK, but all entries must be collaborative, involving at least two different organisations and at least one SME. Entries will be accepted from 18 September to 15 November 2017.

## Reports and publications - Professional bodies/Think tanks/other:

■ The chairman of the National Infrastructure Commission issued a call to arms for students, academics and leading technology companies to enter a new [Data Challenge](#), and see whether a digital model of the city – a digital twin – could be created and how it could be used.

- The Institute for Civil Engineering (ICE) published a strategy [report](#) "Delivering a Northern Infrastructure Strategy" which sets out how a strategic approach to infrastructure across the North could drive economic growth and improve quality of life – creating a true Northern Powerhouse.

- The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Middlesex University have published results of a [survey](#) stating that six months after its introduction, businesses remain in the dark about how best to utilise the Apprenticeship Levy.

- Research from the [Enterprise Research Centre](#) (ERC) has been published. The study, called '[Assessing the business performance effects of engagement with publicly-funded science](#)' reports that innovation grants from government have created an extra 150,000 jobs and stimulated growth worth £43 billion turnover for the UK companies involved. The study looked into research and development grants over a 13-year period and tracked the impact of grants totalling £8 billion, which went to nearly 15,000 firms.

- The [Heathrow Skills Taskforce](#), chaired by Lord David Blunkett, has opened a six week, UK-wide online forum to gather independent views on the airport's future education, employment and skills strategy.

- NHS Providers, NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioners and the Local Government Association have jointly published a [report](#) New care models: harnessing technology which states that digital tools are a key part of the answer to the challenges of rising demand for services, constrained funding and a multitude of workforce challenges in the health and social care sector.

- The National Audit Office published a [short guide](#) to the Department of Health and NHS England.

- The Office For Fair Access (OFFA) published a [briefing](#) on fair access to Higher Education in England.

- The Sutton Trust has published the [results](#) of a young person omnibus survey.

- Which? has published [research](#) on high-speed broadband, as part of its Fix Bad Broadband campaign, showing that customers expecting to receive high-speed broadband are often left disappointed with the speeds they receive.

## London

- The Mayor of London's [Draft London Environment Strategy](#) aims to be a single, cohesive approach to London's environment. A consultation on the draft will run until 17th November.

- Research commissioned last year by the Mayor of London into the role of overseas investment in the capital's property market has led to calls for London's boroughs to be allowed to increase Council Tax bills for high-value homes that are left empty. The research, carried out by the London School of Economics and the University of York, looked at the contribution of overseas investment to new housing supply, as well as public concerns over homes being sold to overseas buyers and kept empty.

- London First and London Councils (the membership organisation representing the 32 boroughs and City of London) have together published a [report](#) highlighting the potential for build to rent developments to play a significant role in housing London's growing population. The report explains how 'build to rent' can provide an additional source of high-quality supply, to complement that provided by mainstream housebuilders.

- The Mayor of London published his first [draft Housing Strategy for London](#) and announced his intention to earmark £250 million for City Hall to use for buying and preparing land for new and affordable housing.

## Scotland

- September marked the opening of the Queensferry Crossing – with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon accompanying The Queen for the official opening. The event marked the culmination of six years' work to build the structure, involving more than 15,000 people, at a cost of £1.35 billion - £245 million under the original budget. The crossing is the tallest bridge in the UK and required 150,000 tonnes of concrete, 23,000 miles of steel cabling and 19 million hours of labour.

- The Scottish Government unveiled its Programme for Government, laying out its intentions for the coming year. It contains 16 new bills and 11 bills that have previously been announced. The programme – which will include 16 bills to add to the 11 currently in progress – is expected to include major reforms in education, health and justice alongside significant measures to safeguard the environment and improve the quality of housing.

- Next year will see the Scottish government take forward more legislation than at any point since devolution with 27 bills being taken forward, made up of 16 new pieces of legislation and 11 bills already been announced.

- The Scottish Government will introduce the following bills in 2017-18: Budget bill; Climate change bill; Crown estate bill; Damages bill; Education bill; Land and buildings transaction tax bill; Management of offenders bill; Minimum age of criminal responsibility bill; Organ and tissue donation bill; Planning bill; Prescription bill; Safe staffing bill; Sexual offences (pardons and disregards) bill; Transport bill; Vulnerable witnesses and pre-recorded evidence bill; Warm homes bill.

## Appointments:

- Mayor appoints London's first [Chief Digital Officer](#)

- Science Minister Jo Johnson has announced that an Ian Kenyon will become the first CFO of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). He will have oversight of UKRI's £6 billion per annum portfolio of research and innovation funding.

## Reports, publications, and activity from the world of project management

- IfG collaborated with PMI to produce the above mentioned report on the importance of cost/benefit analysis
- In September PMI launched the [2017 Pulse of the Profession In-Depth Reports: Organizational Agility Increases Project Success Rates](#)
- On the 4th and 6th September 2017 IPMA presented their 2017 Project Excellence and Achievement Awards please click here for the [winners](#).

## APM forthcoming:

- The next APM Research Fund study on 'The Importance of Conventions: A critical evaluation of current practice in social cost-benefit analysis' will be published in October.
- At the end of October APM will be opening the call for funding for the [2018 Research Fund](#).
- We are soon to publish practitioner friendly summaries drawn from published articles in the International Journal of Project Management (IJPM). This new initiative entitled the 'APM Research Summary Series' will be launched by the end of October 2017.

## APM Research and Policy Outputs:

- In mid-August APM published its [Post-Election Briefing](#).
- The latest APM Research Publication explores [Can agile be scaled?](#) which included coverage in [The Sunday Telegraph](#).
- The Construction Industry Council (CIC) published a blog featuring APM's research study on 'Project handover' which can be found [here](#).
- APM has published the fifth [paper](#) in its Road to Chartered series entitled: The robot professional? The role of project professionals in the digital future. The paper focuses on the importance of technology and big data, the advent of AI, and how it might impact our profession, work, society and the economy more generally.
- APM published its [policy briefing](#) on T-Levels.