

Broadcast

For all the latest news...

Issue 21 – July 2017

Personal & Business Taxation – Audit & Assurance – Accounting & Business Services



The Queen delivered her annual speech at the state opening of Parliament against a backdrop of political and economic uncertainty.

This year's speech outlined the government's legislative plans for the next two years, following the government's decision to cancel the 2018 Queen's Speech in order to give MPs 'extra time to deal with Brexit laws'.

The speech included a number of Brexit-related bills, designed to pave the way for the UK government to make future changes to UK laws. The bills also grant the UK government flexibility to accommodate trade agreements with the EU and other countries, control over the import and export of goods and the ability to end the free movement of EU citizens into the UK.

Other proposals outlined in the speech include a data protection bill designed to strengthen consumers' rights, a national insurance contributions (NICs) bill aimed at 'making the system fairer', and a financial guidance and claims bill, which establishes a new statutory body to co-ordinate the provision of debt, money and pensions guidance.

The government also announced that it will issue three Finance Bills over the coming two years, in order to 'implement Budget decisions'. Summer Finance Bill 2017 is set to outline 'a range of tax measures', including plans to tackle avoidance.

Ahead of the speech, leading UK business groups called on the government to secure continued access to the European single market until a final Brexit deal can be struck with the EU.

Commenting on the contents of the Queen's Speech, Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), said: 'While Brexit isn't the top immediate priority for many businesses, firms of every size and shape want to avoid turbulence and confusion during the Brexit transition. The government's proposed bills on trade, customs and immigration must minimise adjustment costs and maximise opportunities.'

Meanwhile, a snap poll carried out by the Institute of Directors (IoD) following the election found that business confidence in the UK economy has 'fallen dramatically'

For all the latest news...

The new General Data Protection Regulation

Businesses have been urged to prepare for the introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will impose new requirements on all organisations that collect, store and process individuals' personal information, with significant financial penalties for non-compliance.

The new GDPR places an increased emphasis on accountability and transparency, and businesses should ensure that they have up-to-date records relating to the personal data that they hold, including where the data came from and who it has been shared with.

Businesses are also advised to review any privacy notices they have in place and, where necessary, make sure that these are amended in time for the implementation of the new GDPR, which comes into effect in May 2018.

Organisations must also identify their 'lawful basis' for processing activity within the GDPR, record this and update their privacy notices accordingly. The GDPR will modify some individuals' rights, depending on the lawful basis. If you use consent as your lawful basis for processing, clients will have a greater right to have their data deleted, if they so wish.

Businesses must also ensure that adequate security systems are in place to protect data, and to detect, report and investigate any data breaches.

Commenting on the new GDPR, David Riches from the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), said: 'Businesses need to be proactive about ensuring they are ready for the new data protection regulations when they come into force [in May 2018] and not leave preparations until the eleventh hour'.

Other news in brief

FSB calls for government to rule out national insurance rise for self-employed

The Federation of Small Businesses has urged the government to rule out the possibility of a national insurance rise for the self-employed.

First cash-only Lifetime ISA enters the market

The first cash-only Lifetime ISA has been launched, allowing adults under the age of 40 to put aside cash sums in order to save for their first home or their future retirement.

Number of 45p taxpayers reaches new high

The number of people paying the additional rate of income tax has risen to its highest ever level, according to new data released by HMRC.

Insurance costs set to rise as a result of increase in Insurance Premium Tax

Millions of individuals in the UK have been warned that their insurance premiums are set to rise as a result of an increase in Insurance Premium Tax.

Report calls for retirement age to rise to 'at least 70'

A report published by the World Economic Forum has called for the retirement age in financially stable countries to rise to 'at least 70' by 2050, in line with increases in life expectancy.

ESSENTIAL TAX DATES FOR JULY

5 July

Deadline for reaching a PAYE Settlement Agreement for 2016/17.

6 July

Deadline for forms P11D and P11D(b) for 2016/17 to be submitted to HMRC and copies to be issued to employees concerned.

14 July

Due date for income tax for the CT61 period to 30 June 2017.

19 July

Class 1A NICs due for 2016/17.
PAYE Student loan and CIS deductions due for the month to 5 July 2017.
PAYE quarterly payments are due for small employers for the pay periods 6 April 2017 to 5 July 2017.

31 July

Second self assessment payment on account for 2016/17 due.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'The future of our economy is inexorably linked to the kind of Brexit deal that we reach with the EU.'

Chancellor Philip Hammond