

Academy of Social Sciences Policy Monitor 2 October/November 2011

All items listed in closing date order
Highlighted items appeared in a previous Policy Monitor

A. Consultations (in closing date order)

2 November 2011

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Revision of the Industrial Development Act 1982

Invites comment in four proposed changes: removal of Assisted Area status from N Ireland; changes to the procedure for high cost projects; inclusion of telecommunications and broadband as basic services that can have funding in development areas; and widening the basis for development of government-owned land.

More info on www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/revision-of-industrial-development-act-1982?cat=open

7 November 2011

Department of Communities and Local Government

A new mandatory power of possession for anti-social behaviour

Seeks views on practicalities of proposed power to enable landlords to more swiftly evict anti-social tenants.

More info on www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/antisocialbehaviourconsult.

19 November 2011

Cabinet Office

Big Lottery Fund – Consultation on proposed policy directions

Invites views on new proposals for the policies and priorities to be pursued by the Big Lottery Fund in allocating funds to voluntary and community organisations.

More info on www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/big-lottery-fund-consultation-proposed-policy-directions.

25 November 2011

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Executive Remuneration

A discussion paper seeking views on issues relating to executive remuneration.

More info on www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/executive-remuneration-discussion-paper?cat=open

25 November 2011

Scottish Government

Public sector Equality Duty

Consultation on revised draft regulations on duties of Scottish public authorities under the Equality Act 2010.

More info on www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/09134605

29 November 2011

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Proposal to establish the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) as an independent charity

Following its review of quangos Government proposes to change the status of NESTA from that of a Non-departmental Public Body to that of a charity and invites views.

More info on www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/nesta-charity-and-trust-proposal?cat=open

30 November 2011

Department for Education

Review of Personal, Social, Health and Economics (PSHE) Education

Invites views on the core knowledge that pupils should learn and how best to deliver it.

More info on www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm

1 December 2011

Scottish Government

The Rights of Young Children and Young People

Invites views on the proposed Bill.

More info on www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/07110058.

2 December 2011

Department of Health

Caring for our future: shared ambitions for care and support

Views are invited via a dedicated website on the priorities that have the biggest potential to make improvements to the care and support system. Views are also invited on the recommendations made by the Commission on Funding of Care and Support (chaired by Andrew Dilnot).

More info on <http://caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk>.

3 December 2011

Scottish Government

Putting Learners at the Centre: Delivering our ambitions for post-16 Education

Invites views on proposals covering universities, colleges, skills and training.

More info on www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/15103949.

9 December 2011

Scottish Government

Registration of civil partnership and same sex marriage consultation

More info on www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/05153328.

12 December 2011

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Mutualisation of the Post Office

Seeks views on the case for and shape of any mutualisation, building on the report commissioned from Cooperatives UK on Mutual Options for Post Office Ltd published in May 2011.

More info on www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/post-office-mutualisation?cat=open.

21 December 2011

BBC

Delivering Quality First consultation

The BBC is consulting on its proposals to achieve savings of £600M by 2016/2017 by increased productivity, reductions in programmes and services, added commercial income and savings in working capital.

More info on www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/dqf/ataglance.shtml.

23 December 2011

(N Ireland) Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Social Investment Fund

Seeks views on proposals for the operation of the Fund that will promote and support area-based partnership initiatives.

2 January 2012

Department of Health

Duty of candour

Proposes a contractual requirement on NHS providers to be open with patients when things go wrong with their healthcare.

More info on www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/10/candour-consultation.

3 January 2012

Department for Education

Review of Intercountry Adoption Legislation

Proposes changes to the list of countries whose adoptions are recognised in the UK.

More info on www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm.

4 January 2012

Department for Education

Removing the statutory duty to deliver work related learning at Key Stage 4

The proposal leaves schools to determine whether and how to provide such learning.

More info on www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm.

4 January 2012

Department for Education

Study programmes for 16-19 year olds

Makes proposals in the wake of Professor Alison Wolf's review of Vocational Education published in March 2011.

More info on www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm.

5 January 2012

Welsh Government

School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Bill

This White Paper invites views on the proposed legislation concerning inter alia intervention for schools causing concern, school organisation, school-based counselling.

More info <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/schoolstandardsbill/?lang=en>.

6 January 2012

Department for Education

Revised Statutory Guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services

More info on www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm

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13 January 2012

Home Office

Consultation on police powers to promote and maintain public order

Invites views on three specific issues the government is reviewing: the relevance of the word 'insulting'; in existing legislation; new powers to request removal of face coverings; new curfew powers.

More info on www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/police-powers

13 January 2012

Home Office

Domestic violence disclosure scheme

Consultation on proposal for a scheme for disclosing an individual's history of domestic violence to a new partner.

More info on www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/domestic-violence.

20 January 2012

Office for National Statistics

Beyond 2011 – Public consultation

Invites views from statistics users about their needs and priorities.

More info on www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/consultations/open-consultations/beyond-2011.

B. Reviews and inquiries

Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE)

Task Force on Enhancing Value in the UK Research Base

The CIHE and the UK-Innovation Research centre (UK-IRC) have launched the Task Force to consider how to maximise the value of UK publicly-funded research. The 17 members include sundry Company CEOs and University VCs plus representatives of Research Councils UK and the Higher Education Funding Council, Mark Thompson DG of the BBC and ex Science Minister Lord Sainsbury. They plan to report by summer 2012. No formal call for evidence has been issued.

More info on www.cihe.co.uk/cihe-ukirc-launch-a-new-task-force-on-enhancing-value-in-the-uk-research-base.

Cabinet Office

Riots review

In the wake of the riots in early August the Government has announced a review of all areas of government to see what can be done better. This review will include schools, welfare, families, parenting, addiction, and communities. No date has been given for its completion. At the same time a Riot Communities and Victims Panel has been announced, to be chaired by Darra Singh, CE of Job Centre Plus and former CE of Ealing and Luton Councils. It will produce early findings in November and a final report by March 2012. There has been no formal call for evidence for any of these reviews.

More info on www.dpm.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/riot-communities-and-victims-panel-announced.

12 October 2011

HoC Education Committee

Attracting, Training and Retaining the Best Teachers

The Select Committee invites submissions on ways of identifying, recruiting, training and rewarding good school teachers.

More info www.parliament.uk/education-committee.

14 November 2011

HoC Business, Innovation and Skills Committee

Debt management

The Select Committee will examine government proposals on consumer credit and debt.

More info on www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/business-innovation-and-skills.

24 November 2011

HoC Treasury Committee

Global imbalances

The Select Committee is inquiring into the causes and consequences of global imbalances.

More info on www.parliament.uk/treascom.

5 December

Boundary Commission

Review of parliamentary constituencies

The Commission has published proposals that will reduce the number of constituencies in England from 533 to 502 and invites responses.

More info on www.parliament.uk/business/news/2011/september/boundary-commission-proposals.

C. Scottish and Welsh government programmes

The **Scottish Government** announced its programme for the 2011-2012 term in early September. It included inter alia

- a commitment on an independence referendum in this parliament
- police and fire service reform.
- A commitment that all 16-19 year olds be in education, training or work
- plans for more collaboration in public service delivery

More info on www.scotland.gov.uk/News?releases/2011/09/07120559.

The **Welsh Government** announced its programme for the current term at the end of September. Key commitments include inter alia

- establishing a Welsh jobs fund
- increasing access to GP services
- funding 500 new community support officers
- introducing a statutory Literacy and Numeracy Framework
- an anti-poverty action plan

More info on <http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/firstminister/2011/pfg/?lang=en>

D. Labour Party Policy reviews

Political parties in opposition are often in the market for new evidence and ideas for policy. Currently the Labour Party has six Policy Commissions reviewing policy on

- Britain in the World
- Creating Sustainable Communities
- Crime, Justice, Citizenship and Equalities
- Education and Skills
- Health
- Prosperity and Work

The Labour Party website states that 'Policy Commissions welcome your ideas and thoughts' and provides email addresses for them.

More info on http://www.labour.org.uk/policy_commissions.

William Solesbury
25 October 2011