



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

23 May 1983

See copy
hu
ma

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1983-84

The Lord President is very anxious that the legislative programme for 1983-84 should get off to a good start after the Election. While not wishing to prejudge decisions which will have to be taken by the Cabinet immediately after the Election, he assumes that Ministers responsible for those Government Bills which fell on the Dissolution will wish them to be reintroduced, and that some of the essential Bills in the programme which the Cabinet provisionally approved on 14 April will be ready for introduction as soon as Parliament reassembles.

It is important that those Bills which can be made ready in time should be introduced in the week of the State Opening on 22 June, so that Second Readings can be taken in the week of 4 July. The Lord President therefore proposes to hold a meeting of Legislation Committee on 20 or 21 June. He has asked that members of Legislation Committee and Ministers with Bills likely to be considered then should note these dates, and that the Departments concerned should ensure that their Bills are printed and memoranda circulated in time for a meeting then.

The Bills which fell at the Dissolution (apart from the Finance Bill provisions) are, of course, Data Protection, Housing and Building Control, Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers), Petroleum Royalties (Relief), Police and Criminal Evidence, and Telecommunications. The Lord President understands that, of the essential Bills, Social Security and Merchant Shipping are expected to be ready for Legislation Committee on 20 or 21 June, and of the Second Reading Committee Bills Foreign Limitation Periods, Pensions Commutation Board and Occupier's Liability.

Finally, the Lord President trusts that Departments will adhere to and if possible improve on the timetables they gave earlier in the year for the sending of instructions for their Bills to Parliamentary Counsel.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of the Cabinet, the Law Officers and the Chief Whip; and to First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
David

D C R Heyhoe
Private Secretary

Anthony Rawsthorne Esq
Principle Private Secretary
to the Home Secretary