



HM Government

The Coalition: together in the national interest

Mid-Term Review – Programme for Government Update



This document provides an update on the progress that has been made in implementing all of the commitments in the Programme for Government. It provides a snapshot of the work that has been done, up to the end of 2012, to accompany the Mid-Term Review. For a definitive account of progress, this document should be considered alongside the quarterly reports that are published on progress against the commitments in departmental business plans.

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Chapter 1: Banking

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform the banking system to avoid a repeat of the financial crisis, to promote a competitive economy, to sustain the recovery and to protect and sustain jobs. 	<p>We have published a White Paper, <i>Banking reform: delivering stability and supporting a sustainable economy</i>, which sets out the Government's detailed proposals for implementing the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking for fundamentally reforming the structure of banking in the UK. The proposals focus on three key areas of reform: ring-fencing vital banking services, increasing banks' loss absorbency and enhancing competition.</p> <p>Having consulted on these proposals, we have published a draft Banking Reform Bill, which has undergone pre-legislative scrutiny by the Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards and will be introduced as soon as possible. We remain committed to completing all primary and secondary legislation by the end of this Parliament.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce a banking levy and seek a detailed agreement on implementation. 	<p>We introduced a levy on banks' balance sheets on 1 January 2011. The design of the levy is based broadly on the proposal in the International Monetary Fund's report to the G20, <i>A Fair and Substantial Contribution by the Financial Sector</i>.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will bring forward detailed proposals for robust action to tackle unacceptable bonuses in the financial services sector; in developing these proposals, we will ensure they are effective in reducing risk. 	<p>The Financial Services Authority introduced a new Remuneration Code effective from January 2011. Under the Code, at least 40 per cent of a bonus must be deferred for at least three years and at least 50 per cent must be paid in shares.</p> <p>We are also taking action to increase transparency and power for shareholders through ambitious reforms to the corporate governance regime in the UK, which will give shareholders the power to hold directors accountable for remuneration decisions.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want the banking system to serve business, not the other way round. We will bring forward detailed proposals to foster diversity in financial services, promote mutuals and create a more competitive banking industry. 	<p>We have engaged both the European Commission and Lloyds Banking Group to ensure that the bank's divestment results in a strong challenger bank. Our engagement helped ensure that a deal for the divestment reached the heads-of-terms stage, which, if completed, will result in a strong, mutually owned challenger.</p> <p>We have sold Northern Rock Plc to Virgin Money, establishing a new name on the high street.</p> <p>We legislated in the Financial Services Act 2012 to give the new Financial Conduct Authority an objective to promote effective competition in the interests of consumers.</p> <p>The Financial Services Authority and the Bank of England are reviewing the prudential and conduct requirements for new entrants to the banking sector to ensure that they are proportionate and do not pose excessive barriers to entry.</p> <p>We are working with the industry on a major new switching service to make it easier for consumers and businesses to switch their bank accounts.</p> <p>We have launched a consultation on the future of building societies, seeking views on our vision for the sector and our proposed approach to the legislative framework.</p> <p>We have brought into force a Legislative Reform Order to reduce administrative burdens on credit unions, and have launched a consultation on raising the cap on the interest rate they may charge, to allow them to sustainably support a wider range of consumers.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop effective proposals to ensure the flow of credit to viable SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises]. This will include consideration of both a major loan guarantee scheme and the use of net lending targets for the nationalised banks. 	<p>We have announced a Business Bank that will deploy £1 billion of additional capital to address structural gaps in the supply of finance to SMEs and stimulate the provision of long-term capital. In addition, it will bring together, review and rationalise existing government schemes aimed at supporting access to finance for businesses under a single organisation.</p> <p>We have introduced the National Loan Guarantee Scheme, which has offered more than 28,000 loans, worth more than £4.6 billion, to businesses. Businesses have utilised more than 22,000 of these loans, totalling more than £2.7 billion.</p> <p>We have also introduced the Business Finance Partnership to increase the supply of capital to SMEs through non-bank lending channels, and have made £1.2 billion available to invest through these channels.</p> <p>We introduced Project Merlin, which set lending targets for the UK's biggest banks. As a result of this, in 2011 UK banks lent more than £74 billion to British SMEs – a 13 per cent increase in SME lending compared with 2010.</p> <p>Together with the Bank of England we have launched a Funding for Lending scheme, which is operated by the Bank of England as part of its monetary policy remit. The scheme aims to encourage banks and building societies to increase lending by providing them with reduced funding costs so that they can make loans cheaper and more easily available. There are now 35 lenders participating in the scheme and, in the quarter ending 30 September 2012, net lending by participants was up by £0.5 billion.</p> <p>Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, we have facilitated additional bank lending to viable SMEs, offering loans of £1.97 billion.</p> <p>We have unlocked credit in the UK economy by securing commitments from 40 leading companies to boost support for their supply chains by actively evaluating the implementation of, or continuing to offer, low-cost supply-chain finance. We have been working progressively with our own supply chain, starting with 4,500 community pharmacy businesses in England, to enable access to a supply-chain finance programme, which creates savings for government and provides a new, ultra low-cost source of finance for our suppliers.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will take steps to reduce systemic risk in the banking system and will establish an independent commission to investigate the complex issue of separating retail and investment banking in a sustainable way; while recognising that this will take time to get right, the commission will be given an initial time frame of one year to report. 	<p>We established the Independent Commission on Banking, chaired by Sir John Vickers, in June 2010. The Commission published its final report in September 2011 and recommended retail ring-fencing of UK banks; higher capital requirements; and the creation of a strong challenger bank through the divestiture of Lloyds Banking Group.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will reform the regulatory system to avoid a repeat of the financial crisis. We will bring forward proposals to give the Bank of England control of macro-prudential regulation and oversight of micro-prudential regulation. 	<p>The Financial Services Act 2012 received Royal Assent in December 2012. The Act will fundamentally reform the current financial regulatory system by establishing a macro-prudential authority (the Financial Policy Committee) within the Bank of England to monitor systemic risks; creating the Prudential Regulation Authority with responsibility for micro-prudential regulation of firms that manage complex risks on their balance sheets; and creating the Financial Conduct Authority to supervise firms to ensure that they operate in a way that advances the interests of all participants in the financial markets. The new regulatory system will be implemented on 1 April 2013.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We rule out joining or preparing to join the European Single Currency for the duration of this agreement. 	<p>The Government will not join or plan to join the Euro. The Government has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> struck a deal to ensure that the UK will not be liable for future Euro area programmes of assistance through the EU budget; successfully fought for EU legislation that is an important step towards a safer and stronger banking system in Europe, helping to protect the taxpayer from picking up the bill when things go wrong and providing a basis for European countries to implement the global agreement on banking standards; as a result of the agreement on banking union, ensured that decisions by the European Banking Authority will be subject to ‘double majority’ procedures; for binding rules, this will be in the form of a qualified majority of all countries, and also simple majority among both ‘in’ and ‘out’ Member States – this preserves the principle, as the single currency develops, of a single market where all countries continue have a proper voice; ensured that the single market will be protected as the Eurozone takes the steps necessary for a more stable single currency; secured with others a commitment that as Eurozone countries move towards designing a full banking union, which will not involve the UK, the integrity of the single market for all 27 members of the EU should be preserved; and refused to allow a fiscal compact to be written into treaty law without adequate safeguards for the single market.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with the Bank of England to investigate how the process of including housing costs in the CPI [consumer price index] measure of inflation can be accelerated. 	<p>The Office for National Statistics has developed a new additional measure of inflation, CPI including housing costs, which includes the costs of owner occupiers. This will be published from March 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create Britain’s first free national financial advice service, which will be funded in full from a new social responsibility levy on the financial services sector. 	<p>We launched the Money Advice Service, which offers impartial information and advice on money matters nationally, free at the point of use to consumers, and is available to all – online, over the telephone and face to face. The Money Advice Service receives its funding from a levy on financial services firms regulated by the Financial Services Authority.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We take white collar crime as seriously as other crime, so we will create a single agency to take on the work of tackling serious economic crime that is currently done by, among others, the Serious Fraud Office, Financial Services Authority and Office of Fair Trading. 	<p>We set out our vision for the National Crime Agency in June 2011 and are legislating for it in the Crime and Courts Bill. This includes establishing the Economic Crime Command, which will provide a strategic focus at the national level for the counter economic crime community across all sectors and law-enforcement agencies.</p> <p>We have decided that the roles of the Serious Fraud Office, Financial Services Authority and Office of Fair Trading should not be changed for the time being. However, the Economic Crime Command will bring a greater focus on driving improvements in how law enforcement partners tackle economic crime collectively.</p> <p>The Economic Crime Command will be fully established in 2013. Ahead of its formation, we have created a multi-agency Economic Crime Coordination Board that supports closer working between agencies, identifies opportunities for sharing best practice and is working to close intelligence gaps.</p>

Chapter 2: Business

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will cut red tape by introducing a 'one-in, one-out' rule whereby no new regulation is brought in without other regulation being cut by a greater amount. 	<p>We operated a 'one-in, one-out' rule for government departments from January 2011 to January 2013, when this was replaced with a more ambitious 'one-in, two-out' rule, whereby for every new burden the Government places on business we have to deliver savings worth twice that amount. Our figures are independently verified by the Regulatory Policy Committee, and they show that we will have delivered a cumulative saving to business of £919 million a year by July 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will end the culture of 'tick-box' regulation, and instead target inspections on high-risk organisations through co-regulation and improving professional standards. 	<p>We set up a rolling programme of sector-based regulatory-enforcement reviews to improve the way regulation is enforced, including encouraging a risk-based approach to enforcement and use of co-regulation in specific business sectors. We have launched eight of these Focus on Enforcement reviews since Budget 2012, and a comprehensive package of measures to respond to systemic issues (common issues identified in every review) was launched in Autumn Statement 2012.</p> <p>We are extending the Primary Authority scheme to benefit more businesses, including franchises, supply chains and trade associations. We are also consulting on extending the scope of regulations covered by the scheme, including the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010, to improve the coherence and proportionality of local regulation.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will impose 'sunset clauses' on regulations and regulators to ensure that the need for each regulation is regularly reviewed. 	<p>Since March 2011 we have included 'sunset' or 'duty to review' clauses in over 130 pieces of new secondary legislation affecting business, including domestic legislation implementing EU measures.</p> <p>We introduced a measure in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill that will streamline and simplify the legal process for including review and sunset clauses in subordinate legislation, inserted a 'duty to review' clause into the legislation creating the Groceries Code Adjudicator</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review IR35, as part of a wholesale review of all small business taxation, and seek to replace it with simpler measures that prevent tax avoidance but do not place undue administrative burdens or uncertainty on the self-employed, or restrict labour market flexibility. 	<p>The Office of Tax Simplification has completed a review of small business taxation that considered the issue of IR35. Following this review, we have decided to retain IR35, as abolition would put substantial revenue at risk. However, we are committed to improving the way it is administered. To reduce the administrative burden we have published new guidance for businesses so that they are able to self-assess their risk of an HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) enquiry; provided additional guidance on when and how IR35 applies; strengthened and centralised HMRC's specialist teams to ensure consistency of approach; and provided a contract review service to provide contractors with complete certainty about whether IR35 applies in their case.</p> <p>At Autumn Statement 2012 we committed to a target of reducing the annual cost to business of tax administration by £250 million by the end of this spending review period.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will find a practical way to make small business rate relief automatic. 	<p>We removed the legal requirement for ratepayers to submit an application form for relief through the Localism Act 2011. Councils can administer the relief in a way that best serves local businesses.</p> <p>We have doubled small business rate relief for three and a half years (until 31 March 2014). More than half a million businesses in England benefit, with about one-third of a million of businesses paying no rates.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform the corporate tax system by simplifying reliefs and allowances, and tackling avoidance, in order to reduce headline rates. Our aim is to create the most competitive corporate tax regime in the G20, while protecting manufacturing industries. 	<p>We have reduced the main rate of corporation tax from 28 per cent to 24 per cent. There will be further reductions to 23 per cent in April 2013 and then to 21 per cent in April 2014, when the UK will have the lowest corporation tax rate in the G7 and the fourth lowest in the G20.</p> <p>We have also set out our proposals for corporate tax reform in a 'Corporate Tax Road Map'. This highlighted our three reform priorities: reform of controlled foreign companies; the taxation of innovation and intellectual property, including the proposal for a patent box; and the taxation of foreign branches. Legislation has been enacted to implement these reforms.</p> <p>In addition, we have launched the Office of Tax Simplification to provide independent advice on simplifying the UK tax system.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will seek to ensure an injection of private capital into Royal Mail, including opportunities for employee ownership. We will retain Post Office Ltd in public ownership. 	<p>We passed the Postal Services Act 2011 to enable an injection of private capital into Royal Mail while retaining the Universal Service Obligation and reserving at least a 10 per cent stake for employees. State Aid approval was received in March 2012 to transfer Royal Mail's historic pension deficit to the Government, and this was completed in April 2012. In April 2012 we also legally separated Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd. These actions pave the way for a sale of shares in Royal Mail within this Parliament. Post Office Ltd has remained in public ownership, which is required by the Postal Services Act 2011 unless it is converted to a mutual structure. We have consulted on mutualisation and Post Office Ltd is developing a mutual culture within the business. The consultation response confirmed that greater financial stability is required before ownership can be transferred to a mutual, and Post Office Ltd is implementing a commercial strategy towards this goal.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will seek to ensure a level playing field between small and large retailers by enabling councils to take competition issues into account when drawing up their local plans to shape the direction and type of new retail development. 	<p>We published the Portas Review, which did some work on high-street competition, in December 2011.</p> <p>We have required local authorities to have local plans, with reference to shaping the direction of retail growth, and have worked with local authorities to put these plans in place.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give the public the opportunity to challenge the worst regulations. 	<p>The 'Red Tape Challenge' is scrutinising some 6,500 substantive regulations. Of these, we have committed to abolish or reduce at least 3,000, of which 1,500 will have a financial benefit to business, and to complete the identification of these by December 2013. To date, we have identified almost 1,300 regulations to be scrapped or reduced. The implemented measures from the Red Tape Challenge quantified so far provide total savings to business of approximately £162 million a year (and other measures already implemented have benefits that have not yet been quantified). Commitments from departments include the scrapping or improvement of 85% of health and safety regulations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review employment and workplace laws, for employers and employees, to ensure they maximise flexibility for both parties while protecting fairness and providing the competitive environment required for enterprise to thrive. 	<p>We have introduced reforms to encourage the early resolution of workplace disputes, streamline employment tribunals and facilitate settlement agreements in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill.</p> <p>We are legislating to introduce a new employment status of 'employee owner', which will give workers a financial stake in their firm's growth and success through tax-free shares. Under the new voluntary employment status, employee shareholders will have a different set of employment rights from other employees.</p> <p>We have increased the qualification period for unfair dismissal from one to two years, launched an Employers' Charter that reassures employers about what they can already do to deal with staff issues in the workplace and removed the default retirement age.</p> <p>We have set out improvements to the collective redundancy rules, including reducing the minimum consultation period from 90 to 45 days. We will also provide greater clarity and certainty to smaller businesses through improved guidance on dismissal processes set out in the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) Code of Practice on Discipline and Grievance. We have also responded to a call for evidence on the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE).</p> <p>We have consulted on and published proposals to extend to all employees the right to request flexible working. We have also developed a system of shared parental leave to encourage the involvement of fathers from the earliest point.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make it easier for people to set up new enterprises by cutting the time it takes to start a new business. Our ambition is to make the UK one of the fastest countries in the world to start up a new business. We will reduce the number of forms needed to register a new business, and move towards a 'one-click' registration model. 	<p>We have launched an online tool, 'Taking on an employee', to guide first-time employers through the steps they must follow when they take on their first employee. The tool has been widely used since its launch in April 2012.</p> <p>We have also introduced joint company start-up and tax registration. Companies can now incorporate online at Companies House for only £15 and through the same process complete their corporation tax registration. Companies House and HMRC have also developed a joint filing service for company accounts, so that companies can meet the different filing requirements at the same time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will end the ban on social tenants starting businesses in their own homes. 	<p>We have urged councils and housing associations to help unlock their tenants' entrepreneurial talents and ensure that they know their rights to set up businesses from their homes.</p> <p><i>Running a Business from Home</i> was published in November 2010 by the Chartered Institute of Housing and can be found on their website at www.cih.co.uk</p> <p>Additionally, we published <i>The Home Business Guide</i> in May 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will promote small business procurement, in particular by introducing an aspiration that 25 per cent of government contracts should be awarded to small and medium-sized businesses and by publishing government tenders in full online and free of charge. 	<p>We have implemented a wide range of measures to open up the way in which we do business to make sure that small companies, charities and voluntary organisations are in the best possible position to compete for contracts. Direct spend with SMEs across government continues to increase, quarter by quarter.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will consider the implementation of the Dyson Review to make the UK the leading hi-tech exporter in Europe, and refocus the research and development tax credit on hi-tech companies, small firms and start-ups. 	<p>In the 2011 Budget we increased the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit for SMEs from 175 per cent to 200 per cent from April 2011 and to 225 per cent from April 2012. The R&D Tax Credit is the largest programme of support for business innovation in the UK.</p> <p>We published the <i>Innovation and Research Strategy for Growth</i> in December 2011, which took into consideration many of the issues raised in the Dyson Review. We have made progress against our delivery commitments, increasing funding for the Small Business Research Initiative and launching the UK Centre for Challenge Prizes. We have opened the first 'Catapult' centre to bridge the gap between academia and research.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review the range of factors that can be considered by regulators when takeovers are proposed. 	<p>We have undertaken a comprehensive review of corporate governance short-termism that included reviewing the range of factors that can be considered when takeovers are proposed. This resulted in revisions to the UK's Takeover Code that came into effect in September 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reinstate an Operating and Financial Review to ensure that directors' social and environmental duties have to be covered in company reporting, and investigate further ways of improving corporate accountability and transparency. 	<p>We have published draft regulations to improve the quality of narrative reporting. Legislation to make these changes will come into force in October 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that Post Offices are allowed to offer a wide range of services in order to sustain the network, and we will look at the case for developing new sources of revenue, such as the creation of a Post Office Bank. 	<p>We obtained State Aid approval for £1.34 billion of funding to 2015 to modernise the Post Office branch network and continue to maintain at least 11,500 branches. The network must continue to adhere to access criteria, for example that 99 per cent of the population live within three miles of a Post Office. Pilots of new 'main' and 'local' branch models have now been completed, and roll-out of the network transformation programme to modernise the network is now under way. This will see more than half the network being converted over the course of this Parliament.</p> <p>We are working with the Post Office to develop new products and services to secure new sources of revenue, including financial services. However, 80 per cent of current accounts are now accessible at Post Office branches, with this moving to 95 per cent in spring when HSBC introduces the same arrangements. All of the basic accounts of UK banks are also accessible.</p> <p>We also support the Post Office in its ambition to increase its government services. Last year, for the first time since 2004/05, the Post Office's revenues rose. It has recently won a significant contract from the DVLA for the provision of a number of counter services, and there is potential for other government departments to use this contract without the need for further procurement.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will end the so-called ‘gold-plating’ of EU rules, so that British businesses are not disadvantaged relative to their European competitors. 	<p>We have introduced the Guiding Principles for EU Legislation, which departments must abide by when transposing EU legislation, to ensure that UK businesses are not put at a competitive disadvantage compared with their European counterparts. We have reviewed the Guiding Principles and over the past 18 months there has been little evidence of ‘gold-plating’ when departments implement EU law. Where departments have chosen to go beyond minimum EU standards during transposition, they have been required to cut other regulation by an equivalent amount.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships [LEPs] – joint local authority-business bodies brought forward by local authorities themselves to promote local economic development – to replace Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). These may take the form of the existing RDAs in areas where they are popular. 	<p>We have proactively worked to encourage the creation of LEPs. We supported the creation of 39 LEPs and provided support to build their capacity through the £5 million Start-Up Fund and two rounds of the £4 million Capacity Fund. In response to strong representations made from the Chairs of LEPs, the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills and the Department for Communities and Local Government jointly decided in September to offer LEPs up to £250,000 per annum of matched core funding for the remainder of this Parliament (until 2014/15), subject to satisfactory proposals.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take steps to improve the competitiveness of the UK tourism industry, recognising the important part it plays in our national economy. 	<p>We published the <i>Government Tourism Strategy</i> in March 2011 and are now in the second year of VisitBritain’s £100 million international marketing campaign, which, included the GREAT Britain image campaign. This is the biggest ever campaign to promote the UK internationally. The GREAT campaign received a funding boost at the 2012 Autumn Statement, where it was announced that it would receive an additional £22 million investment for 2013/14 in addition to the £8 million already announced for that period.</p> <p>Our £25 million rural-tourism initiative is boosting tourism and we are now in the second year of VisitEngland’s £25 million campaign (including ‘Holidays at Home are GREAT’) to promote domestic tourism.</p> <p>£19.8 million from the Regional Growth Fund was allocated to VisitEngland in order to boost domestic tourism associated with the Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee.</p>

Chapter 3: Civil Liberties

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will implement a full programme of measures to reverse the substantial erosion of civil liberties and roll back state intrusion. 	We have undertaken a wide range of actions, detailed below, and have taken legislative measures through the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and other Acts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce a Freedom Bill. 	The Protection of Freedoms Act received Royal Assent on 1 May 2012.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will scrap the ID card scheme, the National Identity Register and the ContactPoint database, and halt the next generation of biometric passports. 	The Identity Documents Act, which received Royal Assent in December 2010, ended the issuing of ID cards and scrapped the National Identity Register.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will outlaw the finger-printing of children at school without parental permission. 	In the Protection of Freedoms Act we have outlawed the finger-printing of children at school.

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will extend the scope of the Freedom of Information Act to provide greater transparency. 	<p>We have extended the scope of the Freedom of Information Act to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> academy schools; the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service; and more than 100 companies wholly owned by more than one public authority (currently, the Act applies only to those companies wholly owned by the Crown or a single public authority) – this is intended to come into effect from January 2013. <p>We also invited the Justice Select Committee to carry out post-legislative scrutiny of the Act. The Justice Select Committee reported in July 2012 and we published our response in November 2012. This set out the steps we will take to extend the scope of the Act further and also to ensure that the system of freedom of information works effectively across government.</p> <p>We are implementing from January 2013 the gradual reduction, from 30 to 20 years, of the point at which certain public records are made available at the National Archives (with a parallel reduction in the lifespan of some Freedom of Information Act exemptions).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will adopt the protections of the Scottish model for the DNA database. 	<p>We have introduced reforms of the DNA database based on the Scottish model in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will protect historic freedoms through the defence of trial by jury. 	<p>We have ensured that no measures undertaken have threatened to undermine the right to a jury trial.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will restore rights to non-violent protest. 	<p>We have removed restrictions on non-violent protest around the Houses of Parliament and consulted on a range of police powers to promote and maintain public order.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review libel laws to protect freedom of speech. 	<p>We reviewed the law on defamation and published a draft Defamation Bill for Parliamentary scrutiny and public consultation. In response to this consultation, we have amended the Bill and introduced it in the second session of the current Parliament.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce safeguards against the misuse of anti-terrorism legislation. 	<p>We have undertaken and published a review of counter-terrorism legislation and introduced legislation, through the Protection of Freedoms Act, to ensure that surveillance, stop-and-search and pre-charge detention powers are used proportionately and appropriately.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will further regulate CCTV. 	<p>We have legislated for the creation of a surveillance-camera code of practice and through the Protection of Freedoms Act for the appointment of a Surveillance Camera Commissioner, and have consulted over the draft code to ensure that it strikes the right balance of powers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will end the storage of internet and email records without good reason. 	<p>We have published proposals in the draft Communications Data Bill, to provide clarity over what types of personal data are required to be stored by communications and internet service providers for security and law-enforcement purposes, as well as strengthen safeguards around the acquisition, retention and use of such data.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will introduce a new mechanism to prevent the proliferation of unnecessary new criminal offences. 	<p>We have created a new Criminal Offences Gateway, operated by the Ministry of Justice, to scrutinise any proposals and prevent the proliferation of new and unnecessary criminal offences.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will establish a Commission to investigate the creation of a British Bill of Rights that incorporates and builds on all our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, ensures that these rights continue to be enshrined in British law, and protects and extends British liberties. We will seek to promote a better understanding of the true scope of these obligations and liberties. 	<p>We established a Commission, chaired by Sir Leigh Lewis, in March 2011. The Commission reported to the Government in December 2012 and we are now considering its findings.</p>

Chapter 4: Communities and Local Government

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will promote the radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups. This will include a review of local government finance. 	<p>The Local Government Finance Act 2012 received Royal Assent on 1 November 2012. The Act will come into force in April 2013 and will enable the local-government sector to retain 50 per cent of locally generated business rates, freeing councils to generate income and support local firms and jobs.</p> <p>In the 2010 Spending Review, the Government ended ring-fencing of all main revenue grants from 2011/12. The removal of ring-fencing from local-government grants has given councils freedom over the money they receive and has allowed them to work with their residents to decide how best to make their spending decisions address priority needs.</p> <p>We included measures in the Localism Act 2011 to open up public services to give community groups the right to bid for assets and services.</p> <p>We issued a prospectus on whole-place community budgets and neighbourhood pilots in 2011. The four whole-place pilots produced proposals in October 2012 and showcased their work in November 2012.</p> <p>Twelve neighbourhood budgets proposals will be produced in April 2013. The proposals promise significant, real benefits for people in these areas and savings of millions of pounds – particularly through helping people to live independent lives and reducing demand on the state.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will rapidly abolish Regional Spatial Strategies and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils, including giving councils new powers to stop 'garden grabbing'. 	<p>The regional strategy for the East of England was revoked on 3 January 2013. It is the Government's policy to revoke the other strategies as soon as possible, subject to the outcome of the environmental assessment process that is in train.</p> <p>The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that local planning authorities should consider setting out policies to resist inappropriate development of residential gardens, for example where development would cause harm to the local area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the longer term, we will radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative Party publication <i>Open Source Planning</i>. 	<p>Through the Localism Act 2011 we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> streamlined the process of producing local authority plans, including removing unnecessary requirements and stopping planning inspectors from rewriting plans; empowered all local communities to bring forward neighbourhood plans that have real legal weight in the planning system through the structure of either a parish council or a designated neighbourhood forum; and put in place a comprehensive programme of support to help local communities to bring forward neighbourhood plans. <p>We are providing a £50 million programme to support local authorities in making neighbourhood-planning a success.</p> <p>By mid-November 2012, more than 70 neighbourhood-planning areas had reached the first stage in the process of formally designating their neighbourhood-planning areas, and another 100 have submitted applications for designation. Upper Eden in Cumbria has completed its independent examination and is aiming to reach referendum by April 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will abolish the unelected Infrastructure Planning Commission and replace it with an efficient and democratically accountable system that provides a fast-track process for major infrastructure projects. 	<p>Through the Localism Act 2011, we created powers to make this so, and we formally abolished the Infrastructure Planning Commission in April 2012.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. 	<p>A simplified National Planning Policy Framework was published in March 2012 that introduced a new presumption in favour of sustainable development. It is already helping to deliver the homes and jobs the country needs, and an enhanced environment.</p> <p>By May 2010, six years after the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, only 57 core strategies had been adopted, out of 335 local planning authorities. In contrast, 68 per cent of all local planning authorities now have a published local plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will maintain the Green Belt, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and other environmental protections, and create a new designation – similar to SSSIs – to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities. 	<p>The new National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012 maintained Green Belt, SSSI and other environmental protections, and introduced a new Local Green Space designation to protect areas of particular importance to local communities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will abolish the Government Office for London and consider the case for abolishing the remaining Government Offices. 	<p>We abolished the Government Offices in August 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will provide more protection against aggressive bailiffs and unreasonable charging orders, ensure that courts have the power to insist that repossession is always a last resort, and ban orders for sale on unsecured debts of less than £25,000. 	<p>The Government is committed to taking action against aggressive bailiffs.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice launched a consultation that ran from February to May 2012 and included a range of measures to increase protection for vulnerable debtors and create a new legally binding regulatory regime for bailiffs. The consultation response is due to be published in due course.</p> <p>In addition, the Ministry of Justice has published new national standards that tighten the voluntary code covering the industry to provide protection against rogue bailiffs.</p> <p>The additions to the national standards tackle intimidating and threatening behaviour, preventing bailiffs from misrepresenting their powers, and reinforce rules about how firms should resolve complaints about rogue agents. Councils and other authorities will adopt the standards, which will be used to set rules for any bailiffs working for them.</p> <p>We consulted on increasing the threshold for orders for sale as part of the ‘Solving disputes in the county courts’ consultation. Responses to that indicated that the £25,000 threshold was too high and that it should be set at a level closer to the current bankruptcy level of £750. We are introducing a £1,000 threshold to ensure that the correct balance is struck between providing a suitable level of protection for genuinely vulnerable debtor groups and ensuring that orders for sale remain a credible enforcement method for legitimate creditors.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will explore a range of measures to bring empty homes into use. 	<p>We have already committed £160 million to bringing empty homes back into use. Of this funding, £100 million will be paid directly to local authorities, registered housing providers and community groups to bring around 7,350 empty homes back into use as affordable housing. The remaining £60 million will be allocated to 20 local authority partnerships that suffer from significant clusters of empty homes. This will produce a further 3,650 homes, resulting in a combined total of more than 11,000 empty homes being brought back into use by April 2015.</p> <p>On 26 November 2012, we launched a second bidding round to bring a further 5,000 empty properties back into use as affordable housing using a share of £300 million announced in the housing and growth package. Combined with existing empty homes commitments, this funding will take our overall target to more than 15,000 empty homes or properties being brought back into use as housing by April 2015.</p> <p>We are further supporting local authorities to take a lead. Under the new homes bonus, local authorities also earn a financial reward for bringing a long-term empty home back into use. By 2013/14 this will have provided an income to local authorities of more than £120 million for almost 51,000 long-term empty homes brought back into use. Our reforms on Council-Tax flexibilities and the new empty homes premium will also allow councils to remove the tax subsidies that are being given to empty homes and instead use the funding to keep the overall rate of Council Tax down and support frontline services.</p> <p>Our refurbishment schemes are also assisting the improvement of social housing and getting empty homes back into use.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will promote shared ownership schemes and help social tenants and others to own or part-own their home. 	<p>We committed to this in the DCLG structural reform plan and measures to help social tenants to own or part-own their home. The FirstBuy Scheme will now help up to 27,000 aspiring households into home ownership by spring 2014. In Budget 2011, the Government announced the First Buy Scheme to help up to 10,500 first time buyers into home ownership by March 2013 with investment of £180 million (to be matched by housebuilders). On 6 September 2012, as part of the housing and growth statement, the Prime Minister announced additional funding of £280 million for First Buy (to be matched by housebuilders) to provide support for a further 16,500 first-time buyers by March 2014.</p> <p>Shared ownership will make up 20 per cent of the Government's Affordable Homes Programme, which will deliver 170,000 homes by 2015.</p> <p>A right can only be exercised if you know you have it; landlords need to do more to inform tenants of their right to buy their homes. We are doing what we can to make tenants aware, through direct communication, tenant events, the Right to Buy Facebook page and the microsite (http://righttobuy.communities.gov.uk/).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will promote 'Home on the Farm' schemes that encourage farmers to convert existing buildings into affordable housing. 	<p>In 2010 we promoted the Home on the Farm scheme, which encourages councils and farmers to work together to secure the conversion of redundant and underused farm buildings to deliver affordable homes for local people.</p> <p>In November 2011 we further highlighted a scheme run by Harrogate Borough Council that requires developers converting dwellings to make provision for affordable housing, resulting in 34 extra affordable homes across 19 sites.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create new trusts that will make it simpler for communities to provide homes for local people. 	<p>We committed to this in the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>The Community Right to Build, which enables community organisations to bring forward proposals for development in their areas, came into force on 6 April 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will phase out the ring-fencing of grants to local government and review the unfair Housing Revenue Account. 	<p>In the 2010 Spending Review we removed ring-fencing from local government grants (only two remain), giving councils the freedom to manage budgets to fit the needs of their communities. Housing Revenue Account reform was completed in March 2012.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will freeze Council Tax in England for at least one year, and seek to freeze it for a further year, in partnership with local authorities. 	<p>We made funding available to enable local government to freeze Council Tax in 2011/12 and 2012/13, and have done so again for 2013/14. The average Band D Council Tax in England was frozen in 2011/12 and increased by just 0.3 per cent in 2012/13. This represents a reduction of about 4 per cent in real terms over the past two years, helping hard-working families and those on fixed incomes, such as pensioners.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create directly elected mayors in the 12 largest English cities, subject to confirmatory referendums and full scrutiny by elected councillors. 	<p>The Localism Act 2011 provided for referendums in May 2012 in 10 cities: Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Coventry, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Sheffield and Wakefield.</p> <p>Leicester City Council and Liverpool City Council held their first mayoral elections in May 2011 and May 2012 respectively. Mayoral elections were held in Bristol in November 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give councils a general power of competence. 	<p>Councils were granted this power in the Localism Act 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ban the use of powers in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) by councils, unless they are signed off by a magistrate and required for stopping serious crime. 	<p>On 1 November 2012, provisions in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 were implemented. These ensure that local authority authorisations under RIPA for the use of particular covert techniques must be given by a magistrate and only where the local authority is investigating particular types of criminal offences.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will allow councils to return to the committee system, should they wish to. 	<p>Councils were granted these powers in the Localism Act 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will abolish the Standards Board regime. 	<p>The Standards Board for England was abolished on 1 April 2012; the local aspects of the Standards Board regime were abolished on 1 July 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will stop the restructuring of councils in Norfolk, Suffolk and Devon, and stop plans to force the regionalisation of the fire service. 	<p>Restructuring was stopped through the Local Government Act 2010.</p> <p>We closed the FiReControl project in 2010.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will impose tougher rules to stop unfair competition by local authority newspapers. 	<p>Tougher rules on council newspapers were included in the March 2011 <i>Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity</i>. We will put the Code on a statutory footing to ensure that the very few councils not complying with it do comply.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce new powers to help communities save local facilities and services threatened with closure, and give communities the right to bid to take over local state-run services. 	<p>These powers were granted in the Localism Act 2011.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will implement the Sustainable Communities Act, so that citizens know how taxpayers' money is spent in their area and have a greater say over how it is spent. 	<p>The Government has put in place a range of measures to improve the local transparency of spending data, including the <i>Code of recommended practice for local authorities on data transparency</i>, which lists information councils should publish, including spending over £500, senior salaries, contracts and grants to the voluntary and community sector. We recently consulted on updating the Code and making it mandatory. We have also enhanced citizens' rights to inspect town-hall ledgers, and in the Making a Difference with Data project we are working with councils and their residents on understanding what data is available and how they can use it to influence and shape local public services.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will cut local government inspection and abolish the Comprehensive Area Assessment. 	<p>We abolished the Comprehensive Area Assessment in 2010. We estimate that local audit reforms, together with the disbanding of the Audit Commission and its inspection work, will save the public purse about £650 million over five years.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will require continuous improvements to the energy efficiency of new housing. 	<p>We brought changes to Part L (conservation of fuel and power) of the Building Regulations into force in Autumn 2010, increasing the energy efficiency requirements for new buildings.</p> <p>We published a public consultation in January 2012 on further changes to strengthen these requirements and have published the summary of consultation responses.</p> <p>We introduced a new definition of the standard for zero carbon, making it easier for house builders and reducing costs.</p> <p>We have also been publishing data at quarterly intervals on energy efficiency of new homes and the numbers of homes achieving Code for Sustainable Building ratings.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including for new homes and businesses. 	<p>We launched the new homes bonus in February 2011. Since then, more than £1.3 billion has been allocated to authorities recognising a total increase in housing stock of over 450,000.</p> <p>We made reforms to the Community Infrastructure Levy in the Localism Act 2011, and will be introducing secondary legislation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review the effectiveness of the raising of the stamp duty threshold for first-time buyers. 	<p>We reviewed this and decided to focus on schemes like First Buy). We therefore ended the relief in March 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give councillors the power to vote on large salary packages for unelected council officials. 	<p>We introduced measures in the Localism Act 2011 to require Full Council to vote on local pay policies, increasing accountability – particularly on senior pay.</p>

Chapter 5: Consumer Protection

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give regulators new powers to define and ban excessive interest rates on credit and store cards; and we will introduce a seven-day cooling-off period for store cards. 	<p>We have worked with the industry to develop a comprehensive package of measures to address concerns about store cards. The package includes a ban on direct commission to sales staff, a good-practice training scheme and an initial seven-day ban on retail incentives when a consumer takes out a store card.</p> <p>Through the Financial Services Act 2012, we have also given the Financial Conduct Authority the power to cap the cost and duration of credit if evidence suggests it is warranted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will oblige credit card companies to provide better information to their customers in a uniform electronic format that will allow consumers to find out whether they are receiving the best deal. 	<p>We have worked with the UK Cards Association to develop an annual statement for all credit card holders. These annual statements, which are already being rolled out, will help customers to see how they have used their credit cards over the past 12 months, as well as any fees and costs incurred. Customers will have the option of an electronic version.</p> <p>We are committed to making progress through the voluntary midata programme, which asks suppliers of goods and services to provide customers with personal transaction and consumption data in an electronic, machine-readable format. We will look to legislate if companies fail to voluntarily release consumers' electronic data.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce stronger consumer protections, including measures to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges. 	<p>We have worked with banks to announce a voluntary package of measures to help consumers gain better control over their accounts and to avoid bank charges. Since March 2012, consumers have been able to receive an alert from their bank when their balance is low or before they are about to incur an unarranged-overdraft charge. From March 2013, consumers will be made aware of the 'grace period' within which charges will not be levied if sufficient funds are deposited to cover the debit, and will no longer be charged for small unarranged overdrafts.</p> <p>We are also consulting on clarifying and enhancing basic consumer law so that consumers and businesses can confidently use it to reduce the number of economically unproductive disputes.</p> <p>We have worked with the industry to introduce newly revised codes of practice for payday lenders, to increase transparency and better help vulnerable borrowers. Payday lenders have agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduce a good-practice charter explaining how loans work and the costs involved; increased transparency about loan repayment; more help for customers in financial difficulty by freezing charges and interest; robust credit and affordability assessments; and effective compliance-monitoring by the trade associations. <p>We are also strengthening enforcement powers across the whole of consumer credit by giving the Office of Fair Trading the authority to suspend a consumer credit licence with immediate effect where there is an urgent need to do so to protect the interests of the consumer.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take forward measures to enhance customer service in the private and public sectors. 	<p>The <i>Open Public Services</i> White Paper, published in July 2011, set out the Government's approach to improving service in the public sector.</p> <p>As set out in the March 2012 update on the White Paper, the Government is publishing Choice Frameworks in core public services which clearly set out people's rights and highlight simple and effective forms of redress where they are unhappy with the choice or quality of public services.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce, as a first step, an Ombudsman in the Office of Fair Trading who can proactively enforce the Grocery Supply Code of Practice and curb abuses of power, which undermine our farmers and act against the long-term interest of consumers. 	<p>We introduced the Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill to Parliament. The new Adjudicator will enforce the Groceries Code and will have wide-ranging powers to effect remedies where retailers are found to have breached the code.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce honesty in food labelling so that consumers can be confident about where their food comes from and its environmental impact. 	<p>We have worked with the food industry to develop the Principles on Country of Origin Information, which set out best-practice principles.</p> <p>We also worked in the European Council to shape the regulations on the provision of food information to consumers, which includes rules on country of origin labelling.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase households' control over their energy costs by ensuring that energy bills provide information on how to move to the cheapest tariff offered by their supplier, and how each household's energy usage compares to similar households. 	<p>Proposals to ensure that all households are on the best deal for their gas and electricity were published in November 2012. The Government intends to make the necessary legislative changes during the passage of the Energy Bill.</p> <p>This builds on recommendations from Ofgem's Retail Market Review and previous agreements with energy suppliers to help customers identify the best available tariff to suit their needs</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give Post Office Card account holders the chance to benefit from direct debit discounts and ensure that social tariffs offer access to the best prices available. 	<p>We have not pursued this because the cost would be prohibitive and Universal Credit will change the way in which benefits are paid; the Post Office is working with the Department for Work and Pensions to explore options for how it might support the delivery of Universal Credit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will seek to extend protection and support to 'off-grid' energy consumers. 	<p>We introduced the Renewable Heat Premium Payment, which is a one-off grant scheme that helps householders with the up-front costs of installing renewable-heating equipment. Renewable heat can, in many cases, provide a cost-effective alternative to fossil-fuel heating in off-grid homes.</p>

Chapter 6: Crime and Policing

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reduce time-wasting bureaucracy that hampers police operations, and introduce better technology to make policing more effective while saving taxpayers' money. 	<p>We have removed Stop and Account forms, reduced the amount of information recorded for each stop-and-search and simplified and extended police prosecution powers for certain low-level offences.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will amend the health and safety laws that stand in the way of common sense policing. 	<p>We have developed guidance making clear that the duty of the police to the public takes precedence over any concerns about the health and safety of police officers in cases of significant threat to the public.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have a full review of the terms and conditions for police officer employment. 	<p>We have received and responded to the recommendations set out in the independent report from Tom Winsor on the terms and conditions for police officers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce measures to make the police more accountable through oversight by a directly elected individual, who will be subject to strict checks and balances by locally elected representatives. 	<p>We held elections for 41 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) across England and Wales on 15 November 2012. PCCs took up office on 22 November 2012, and they will listen to the public to ensure that the policing needs of their communities are met as effectively as possible.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will seek to spread information on which policing techniques and sentences are most effective at cutting crime across the Criminal Justice System. • We will oblige the police to publish detailed local crime data statistics every month, so the public can get proper information about crime in their neighbourhoods and hold the police to account for their performance. 	<p>We launched the www.police.uk website, publishing up-to-date data on crimes in local areas, mapped to street-level. We added further information about what action the police took in response, and justice outcomes including sentencing information, in May 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will require police forces to hold regular ‘beat meetings’ so that residents can hold them to account. 	<p>We issued guidance to the police in January 2011 as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, which set out the expectations of them on local engagement. This will be monitored by PCCs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will make hospitals share non-confidential information with the police so they know where gun and knife crime is happening and can target stop-and-search in gun and knife crime hot spots. 	<p>We put a national programme in place, with resources available to support delivery of this commitment. We launched supporting resources, including an e-learning toolkit for practitioners, case studies and guidance for Community Safety Partnerships. Funding for 2012/13 is also being used to promote the Violence Reduction Nurse model across England.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will give people greater legal protection to prevent crime and apprehend criminals. • We will ensure that people have the protection that they need when they defend themselves against intruders. 	<p>We brought greater protections into law through the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. Further protection will be provided through the Crime and Courts Bill.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will ban the sale of alcohol below cost price. 	<p>We published an alcohol strategy setting out plans to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol and launched a consultation on the level of the minimum unit price, which will close in February 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will review alcohol taxation and pricing to ensure it tackles binge drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers, pubs and important local industries. 	<p>We published a cross-government alcohol strategy setting out plans for a minimum unit price for alcohol and a possible ban on multi-buy promotions, while working with industry to ensure that it continues to promote and sell alcohol responsibly. We have also published a consultation on key policies within the strategy, seeking views on a range of issues including a proposed minimum unit price for alcohol of 45p.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will overhaul the Licensing Act to give local authorities and the police much stronger powers to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, any premises that are causing problems. 	<p>We conducted a review of the Licensing Act, and published a consultation seeking to strengthen the powers of the police and local authorities to tackle problem premises, with legislation brought forward as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will allow councils and the police to shut down permanently any shop or bar found to be persistently selling alcohol to children. 	<p>We strengthened existing powers to review and revoke completely the licences of premises that are guilty of this offence. We did this by amending statutory guidance to expressly direct that authorities should consider seeking a review and revoking the licence in such circumstances. We legislated in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to lower the evidence threshold for decision-making and also to increase from 48 hours to 2 weeks the maximum period of voluntary closure that offenders can accept as an alternative to prosecution.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will double the maximum fine for under-age alcohol sales to £20,000. 	<p>We doubled the fine as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will permit local councils to charge more for late-night licences to pay for additional policing. 	<p>We introduced a late-night levy, in October 2012, to contribute towards the cost of policing the night-time economy, with legislation brought forward as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will promote better recording of hate crimes against disabled, homosexual and transgender people, which are frequently not centrally recorded. 	<p>We published the Government's first Hate Crime Action Plan, setting out the work being undertaken to increase the reporting and recording of hate crime, and published the first set of official statistics on hate crimes recorded by the police.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce a system of temporary bans on new 'legal highs' while health issues are considered by independent experts. We will not permanently ban a substance without receiving full advice from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. 	<p>We established a system of Temporary Class Orders for new psychoactive substances, which allow them to be temporarily banned for a period of a year while they are assessed by experts for their effects.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review the operation of the Extradition Act – and the US/UK extradition treaty – to make sure it is even-handed. 	<p>We appointed an independent panel, led by Sir Scott Baker, to review the US/UK extradition treaty. The panel reported in October 2011 and in October 2012 we announced the key reforms that we will take through.</p>

Chapter 7: Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will maintain the independence of the BBC, and give the National Audit Office [NAO] full access to the BBC's accounts to ensure transparency. 	<p>We have given the NAO access to the BBC's accounts (from November 2011). The NAO can now decide which value-for-money studies to undertake and when, and will have rights of access to BBC information.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will enable partnerships between local newspapers, radio and television stations to promote a strong and diverse local media industry. 	<p>The Media Ownership (Radio and Cross-media) Order 2011 removed all local cross-media ownership rules, enabling local newspaper, commercial radio and Channel 3 regional services to develop new media platforms. Ofcom announced the licensing of the first local TV stations in 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will maintain free entry to national museums and galleries, and give national museums greater freedoms. 	<p>We have maintained free access. National museums and galleries have been given access to £143 million of their historic reserves over the Spending Review period and have been given major exemptions from central expenditure controls.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with the Scottish Government to deliver a successful Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014, and ensure that the 2013 Rugby League and the 2015 Rugby Union World Cups are successful. We will strongly support the England 2018 World Cup bid. 	<p>We worked with the Scottish Government on sharing lessons learned from the Olympic Games, and have embarked on a programme of work in partnership with both the Scottish Government and Strathclyde Police to help contribute to the successful delivery of the Commonwealth Games in 2014.</p> <p>The World Cup bid was supported.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with the Mayor of London to ensure a safe and successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012, and urgently form plans to deliver a genuine and lasting legacy. 	<p>We worked with the Mayor and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to ensure a safe and successful Games. <i>Beyond 2012 – The London 2012 Legacy Story</i>, published in March 2012, set out the Government's legacy ambitions. An Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Unit has been established in the Cabinet Office, staffed jointly by Whitehall departments and the Greater London Authority, to co-ordinate the delivery of legacy activities; to service the Prime Minister-chaired Legacy Cabinet Committee; and to support Lord Coe in his role as the Prime Minister's Legacy Ambassador, a role he was appointed to in August 2012. A Paralympic Legacy Advisory Group has also been established to challenge and advise on plans for disability legacy activities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will examine the case for moving to a 'gross profits tax' system for the National Lottery, and reform the National Lottery so that more money goes into sport, the arts and heritage. 	<p>We examined the case, but have agreed with HM Treasury not to pursue this further at this point. Following a public consultation, we introduced the Lottery Shares Order to increase the proportion of lottery funding going into sport, heritage and the arts to 20 per cent for each, with the remaining 40 per cent going to the Big Lottery Fund; the full change took effect from April 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will stop wasteful spending by National Lottery distributors by banning lobbying activities and restricting administration costs to 5 per cent of total income. 	<p>Grant processing costs are being capped at 5 per cent of income and gross costs at 8 per cent of income; this will apply to National Lottery distributors from March 2014.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use cash in dormant betting accounts to improve local sports facilities and support sports clubs. 	<p>A report has been submitted by Don Foster MP into abandoned betting accounts and other unclaimed winnings. The recommendations will be considered once the Government has delivered its legislative proposals for remote gambling.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will encourage the reform of football governance rules to support the co-operative ownership of football clubs by supporters. 	<p>The football authorities have responded positively to us and the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee with a series of proposed improvements to football governance, including a closer working relationship between clubs and supporters.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support the creation of an annual Olympic-style schools sport event to encourage competitive sport in schools, and we will seek to protect school playing fields. 	<p>We launched the School Games competition, which saw more than 15,000 schools registered in its first year, and launched Places People Play, a £150 million initiative led by Sport England to improve mass participation in sport, including through improved local facilities and protecting and improving playing fields.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will cut red tape to encourage the performance of more live music. 	<p>The Live Music Act 2012 removed the requirement for the vast majority of music licences that were needed in pubs, restaurants and workplaces, making it far easier to stage live music. These changes became law in October 2012 and reduced the costs that deter small venues from putting on live music. In January 2013 we announced a much wider licensing deregulation package, to be implemented during 2013, deregulating plays and dance performances up to 11pm for audiences of up to 500 people, and freeing up schools, community premises and local councils to host events without bureaucracy. Indoor sport will also be deregulated for audiences of up to 1,000 people up to 11pm. We will also consult on how we can safely relax licensing requirements for community-based film exhibition.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce measures to ensure the rapid roll-out of superfast broadband across the country. We will ensure that BT and other infrastructure providers allow the use of their assets to deliver such broadband, and we will seek to introduce superfast broadband in remote areas at the same time as in more populated areas. If necessary, we will consider using the part of the TV licence fee that is supporting the digital switchover to fund broadband in areas that the market alone will not reach. 	<p>We established a £530 million rural broadband programme (using the part of the licence fee that supported digital switchover), which will provide broadband access throughout the UK, with superfast broadband in 90 per cent of the country. State Aid approval for the programme has been secured and procurement and delivery are well under way. We have also established a £150 million urban broadband fund to create 22 'super-connected' cities, including Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast and Birmingham. In addition, a package of planning and other measures to facilitate broadband roll-out was announced in September 2012.</p>

Chapter 8: Defence

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will maintain Britain's nuclear deterrent, and have agreed that the renewal of Trident should be scrutinised to ensure value for money. Liberal Democrats will continue to make the case for alternatives. We will immediately play a strong role in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, and press for continued progress on multilateral disarmament. 	<p>We have maintained our current Trident nuclear deterrent and we conducted a value-for-money study into it in summer 2010. Its conclusions were reported in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. Overall impact of the study was a reduction in costs of £3.2 billion.</p> <p>We initiated a Cabinet Office-led review into the alternatives to Trident. The alternatives review will report jointly to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in the first half of 2013.</p> <p>We worked hard to ensure that the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May 2010 successfully reached agreement on an action plan to revitalise the NPT.</p> <p>We co-sponsored discussions on the Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will aim to reduce Ministry of Defence running costs by at least 25 per cent. 	<p>This target was increased to one-third in the Spending Review. The Ministry of Defence is currently on track to achieve the revised target. It has already reduced its civilian manpower (which makes up the majority of this target) by some 20 per cent.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Defence has driven forward implementation of Lord Levene's recommendations for reforming defence. In Lord Levene's words, "despite the complexity of this programme, strong progress is being made"; and "work is now being driven with genuine urgency from the very top". Defence Business Services and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation have been created. Both of these are driving efficiency improvements, as are each of the Commands (including the new Joint Forces Command), Defence Equipment and Support and Head Office and Corporate Services.

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work to rebuild the Military Covenant by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ensuring that Service personnel's rest and recuperation leave can be maximised; – changing the rules so that Service personnel only have to register once on the Service register; – exploring the potential for including Service children as part of our proposals for a Pupil Premium; – providing university and further education scholarships for the children of Servicemen and women who have been killed on active duty since 1990; – providing support for ex-Service personnel to study at university; – creating a new programme, 'Troops for Teachers', to recruit ex-Service personnel into the teaching profession; – providing extra support for veteran mental health needs; and – reviewing the rules governing the awarding of medals. 	<p>We enshrined the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant in law and published the first statutory report on the progress made towards delivery of the Covenant. We have worked across government and with devolved administrations and local authorities to honour the commitments made under the Covenant, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that Service personnel's opportunities for rest and recuperation are maximised; • the introduction of a Services Pupil Premium of £250 per child per year, rising to £300 in April 2013; • creation of the Armed Forces Bereavement Scholarship Scheme for the children of Service personnel who have been killed on active duty since 1990; • exemption of Service leavers from paying tax when using Enhanced Learning Credits to access education at Level 3 and above; • the Further and Higher Education Commitment Scheme that is now paying the tuition fees of Service leavers studying for their first university degree; • creation of the Troops to Teachers programme; and • provision of additional mental health professionals with responsibilities for veterans' mental health, and the establishment of a Veterans' Mental Health Service in five of the ten NHS Armed Forces Networks. <p>A review into the award of Service medals was conducted by Sir John Holmes. He concluded that there was no reason to change the basic approach to the award of medals, but noted that there was scope for greater transparency and flexibility in the way the rules are applied. A second stage of the review to make further recommendations is now under way.</p> <p>We have also created a Ministerial committee dedicated to ensuring progress on Covenant commitments and we announced that £35 million from LIBOR bank fines will be spent on Covenant issues.</p> <p>In September 2010, we announced that personnel who were losing out on rest and recuperation through disruptions to the airbridge, or as a result of operations, would be granted Post Operational Leave (POL) to compensate.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will double the operational allowance for Armed Forces personnel serving in Afghanistan, and include Armed Forces pay in our plans for a fair pay review. 	<p>We doubled operational allowances during 2010, and completed the Fair Pay Review.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will ensure that injured personnel are treated in dedicated military wards. 	<p>We developed a system whereby all those wounded on the battlefield abroad are returned to the UK through the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, providing dedicated intensive care with military staff and a military ethos.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will look at whether there is scope to refurbish Armed Forces' accommodation from efficiencies within the Ministry of Defence. 	<p>We committed, in Budget 2012, to providing an extra £100 million in 2013/14 for upgrades to Service accommodation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will support defence jobs through exports that are used for legitimate purposes, not internal repression, and will work for a full international ban on cluster munitions. 	<p>We published a White Paper on defence and security equipment and technology, which included our commitments to work in support of UK companies' export campaigns and to embed considerations of exportability into our departmental processes. While there is more to do strengthening the latter, we have consistently championed British defence industries overseas during Ministerial visits and as part of other high-level engagement.</p> <p>We have passed national legislation, the Cluster Munitions (Prevention) Act 2010, in addition to moving forward the international Cluster Munitions Convention. And we have constantly reviewed export licences to avoid UK equipment being used for repression, notably during the Arab Spring.</p>

Chapter 9: Deficit Reduction

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recognise that deficit reduction, and continuing to ensure economic recovery, is the most urgent issue facing Britain. 	<p>Our most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit. When this Government came to office, the budget deficit stood at 11.2 per cent of GDP. In the past two years it has fallen by a quarter. It is currently forecast to continue to fall further in every year of this Parliament.</p> <p>Our economic policy objective is to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth. We have launched a Growth Review, to last the whole of this Parliament, which looks at how Government can help create the conditions for growth. Work is well under way on all commitments, and we published an update on progress alongside the Autumn Statement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will significantly accelerate the reduction of the structural deficit over the course of a Parliament, with the main burden of deficit reduction borne by reduced spending rather than increased taxes. 	<p>We set out proposals in the June Budget 2010, Budget 2011 and 2012 and Spending Review 2010 to accelerate the reduction of the structural deficit and deliver the fiscal mandate, ensuring a balanced structural current budget by the end of the rolling, five-year forecast period. At the Autumn Statement, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) confirmed that we are on course to meet our fiscal mandate.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce arrangements that will protect those on low incomes from the effect of public sector pay constraint and other spending constraints. 	<p>We ensured that the pay freeze did not apply to those earning less than £21,000 per year in areas of the public sector where pay is controlled by the Government. Employees' public sector pension contributions increases began on 1 April 2012 but have not applied to those earning less than £15,000 and will be lower for those earning less than £21,000. Increases for 2013/14 will be implemented on the same basis, while those for 2014/15 will be decided following a review of opt-out rates.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will protect jobs by stopping the proposed jobs tax. 	<p>We stopped the planned increase in employers' National Insurance contributions.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will set out a plan for deficit reduction in an emergency budget. We have created an independent Office for Budget Responsibility [OBR] to make new forecasts of growth and borrowing for this emergency budget. 	<p>We created the OBR to provide independent analysis of the sustainability of the UK's public finances. The June Budget 2010 was underpinned by the OBR's economy and fiscal forecasts.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make modest cuts of £6 billion to non-front-line services within the financial year 2010/11, subject to advice from the Treasury and the Bank of England on their feasibility and advisability. A proportion of these savings can be used to support jobs. 	<p>We made £6.2 billion of savings from government spending in 2010/11. We used £500 million of this to improve the UK's growth potential and create a fairer society, by reinvesting in further education, apprenticeships and social housing.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will hold a full Spending Review reporting this autumn, following a fully consultative process involving all tiers of government and the private sector. 	<p>We held a Spending Review in October 2010. This followed an extended period of engagement with experts, the public sector and the general public through the 'Spending Challenge'.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reduce spending on the Child Trust Fund and tax credits for higher earners. 	<p>We ended government payments to Child Trust Fund accounts.</p> <p>We have also announced changes to tax credits to ensure that they are targeted at those who need them most. Previously, families with one child lost eligibility to tax credits at an income of approximately £58,000. From April 2012, families lose their eligibility at an income above approximately £26,000. Reforms to tax credits in April 2012 will save approximately £3.2 billion in 2012/13, £3.6 billion in 2013/14, £3.9 billion in 2014/15 and £4 billion in 2015/16 and 2016/17.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create strong financial discipline at all levels of government and place an obligation on public servants to manage taxpayers' money wisely. 	<p>We published <i>Managing taxpayers' money wisely</i> following consultations with the Government Finance Profession, external advisers and the accountancy bodies. This provides the foundation for the Finance Transformation Programme, which aims to strengthen financial discipline and achieve a fundamental shift in public sector culture so that it becomes more commercial, adaptable and innovative – putting finance at the centre of decision-making and securing the best value for every pound spent. This programme consists of a number of projects to improve financial systems, processes, governance, skills and culture.</p> <p>We have also published <i>Improving Spending Control</i>, which outlines a new, more robust framework for improving spending control. Government departments, the devolved administrations and their Arm's Length Bodies will be expected to monitor and manage information about spending effectively, including improving the skills needed to help them deliver their spending plans.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reduce the number and cost of quangos. 	<p>We abolished more than 110 public bodies and merged more than 150 down to fewer than 70. The number of public bodies has therefore reduced by around 200. The Government is also on track to reduce the administrative costs of public bodies in the scope of the Public Bodies Review by at least £2.6 billion by 2015.</p>

Chapter 10: Energy and Climate Change

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will push for the EU to demonstrate leadership in tackling international climate change, including by supporting an increase in the EU emission reduction target to 30 per cent by 2020. 	<p>We have agreed an Energy Efficiency Directive to get the EU back on track towards meeting its target of reducing primary energy consumption by 20 per cent by 2020 against business-as-usual projections.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will seek to increase the target for energy from renewable sources, subject to the advice of the Climate Change Committee. 	<p>We have followed the Climate Change Committee's advice to not increase the target of energy from renewable sources and to focus on achieving the current 2020 renewables target as set out in the Renewable Energy Directive. We have published the <i>UK Renewable Energy Roadmap</i> to continue on the path of achieving our 2020 target. This includes how we are working with industry to boost deployment, bring down costs and maximise growth opportunities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue public sector investment in carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology for four coal-fired power stations. 	<p>We allocated £1 billion of funding to a CCS commercialisation programme. A competition is under way to determine which projects will get funding – this goes beyond just coal-fired power stations and includes gas. We have also published the <i>CCS Roadmap</i> setting out the steps that we are taking to develop a new world-leading CCS industry in the 2020s.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish a smart grid and roll out smart meters. 	<p>We set out the overall strategy and timetable for replacing more than 53 million gas and electricity meters, involving visits to 30 million homes and small businesses. Work to build the regulatory and consumer frameworks is under way.</p> <p>We expect the mass roll-out to start in early 2014 and to be completed in 2019.</p> <p>We worked with Ofgem and wider stakeholders through the Smart Grid Forum to publish an initial report in August 2012 identifying facilitating actions to overcome current and future barriers to a smart grid.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish a full system of feed-in tariffs in electricity – as well as the maintenance of banded Renewables Obligation Certificates. 	<p>The Energy Bill seeks to put in place measures to attract the £110 billion investment needed to replace current generating capacity and upgrade the grid by 2020, and to cope with a rising demand for electricity. This includes contract for difference feed-in-tariffs. These are long-term instruments to provide stable and predictable incentives for companies to invest in low-carbon generation.</p> <p>We have confirmed support levels for new large-scale renewable electricity projects from 2013 to 2017 through the Renewables Obligation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce measures to promote a huge increase in energy from waste through anaerobic digestion. 	<p>We published the <i>Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan</i> to develop anaerobic digestion. Since publication, operational anaerobic digestion plants have increased by over one-third. In addition, we launched a £10 million Anaerobic Digestion Loan Fund and a programme to support innovation in anaerobic digestion and reduce costs.</p> <p>Significant progress has also been made in reducing the costs of connecting anaerobic digestion plants to the gas grid and enabling new permitted development rights for small-scale, on-farm anaerobic digestion, removing the need for planning permission.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create a green investment bank. 	<p>The Green Investment Bank opened for business in November 2012 with £3 billion of government funding to help mobilise additional private capital. Priority sectors have been identified, and the bank has made its first investment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will retain energy performance certificates while scrapping HIPs [home information packs]. 	<p>We have scrapped HIPs and improved energy performance certificates to make them more informative and user-friendly.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce measures to encourage marine energy. 	<p>Support for marine energy technologies more than doubled under the Renewables Obligation, with both wave and tidal stream deployment receiving five Renewable Obligation Certificates per Megawatt hour (up to a 30MW project cap). We are investing up to £20 million in wave and tidal power to help develop marine energy technologies, from the prototype stage to the demonstration of arrays of devices.</p> <p>Two marine energy parks have been launched in the south-west of England and Caithness/Orkney areas. These bring together technology expertise, supply-chain activity and deployment opportunities to promote development of the wave and tidal energy sector.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish an emissions performance standard that will prevent coal-fired power stations being built unless they are equipped with sufficient carbon capture and storage to meet the emissions performance standard. 	<p>The Energy Bill contains provisions to set an emissions performance standard to curb the most polluting fossil fuel power stations. The emissions performance standard will apply to all new fossil fuel power stations at or over 50MW (including those where CCS is demonstrated), and will initially be set at a level equivalent to 450g/kWh.</p> <p>Under the Carbon Capture Readiness requirements, new power stations will have to demonstrate that it will be technically and economically feasible to retrofit CCS to the plant in the future.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will cancel the third runway at Heathrow. 	<p>We have not proceeded with a third runway at Heathrow.</p> <p>The Government recognises, however, that we must address the issue of future airport capacity, and we are committed to doing so.</p> <p>To this end, we have established an independent commission to gather evidence and provide analysis of all the options for airport capacity. Maintaining the UK's status as a leading global aviation hub is of fundamental long-term importance to our economy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will refuse permission for additional runways at Gatwick and Stansted. 	<p>We have not supported new runways at London's other main airports – Gatwick and Stansted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will replace Air Passenger Duty with a per-flight duty. 	<p>We announced in Budget 2011 that we would not introduce a per-plane duty, given concerns over the legality and feasibility of this approach.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce a floor price for carbon, and make efforts to persuade the EU to move towards full auctioning of ETS permits. 	<p>We announced the introduction of a floor price for carbon in Budget 2011. It will begin in 2013 at about £16/tonne and rise to £30/tonne in 2020.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through our 'Green Deal', we will encourage home energy efficiency improvements paid for by savings from energy bills. We will also take measures to improve energy efficiency in businesses and public sector buildings. We will reduce central government carbon emissions by 10 per cent within 12 months. 	<p>We have put in place the necessary primary and secondary legislation and framework to ensure that the Green Deal will be available from 28 January 2013, at which point Green Deal plans can be signed by energy bill payers. The Green Deal is designed to help householders and businesses increase the energy efficiency of properties across the UK. The market, which will be delivering much of the programme within this framework, is looking to take advantage of the commercial opportunities offered.</p> <p>From January 2013, £125 million cashback will be available to householders in England and Wales who make energy-saving home improvements under the Green Deal, on a first-come-first-served basis. A £2.9 million government communication campaign will build understanding and trust for the Green Deal. In addition, £22 million is being given to local authorities to undertake preparatory work and drive early demand.</p> <p>The Energy Company Obligation, worth an estimated £1.3 billion a year, will provide extra help for householders most in need and for homes that are harder to treat.</p> <p>The first comprehensive Energy Efficiency Strategy was published in November 2012 with the intention of changing the way energy is used in sectors such as housing, transport and manufacturing over the coming decades.</p> <p>Departments achieved a 14 per cent reduction in carbon emissions in one year as part of the commitment to reduce emissions by 10 per cent in the year from May 2010 to May 2011.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform energy markets to deliver security of supply and investment in low carbon energy, and ensure fair competition including a review of the role of Ofgem. 	<p>The Energy Bill, introduced to Parliament on 29 November, includes measures necessary to reform the electricity market to deliver secure, clean and affordable electricity.</p> <p>This includes 'contracts for difference' to drive investment and powers to introduce a capacity market to help ensure that the lights stay on, even in times of high demand.</p> <p>We have conducted a review of the role of Ofgem. As a result, a new statutory Strategy and Policy Statement will be established and implemented through the Energy Bill. This Statement will set out the Government's policy goals for the gas and electricity markets; describe the roles and responsibilities of the Government, Ofgem and other relevant bodies; and define the policy outcomes that the Government considers Ofgem to have a particularly important role in delivering.</p> <p>Ofgem will be expected to set out annually how it plans to deliver its contribution to each policy outcome and how it will monitor progress.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will instruct Ofgem to establish a security guarantee of energy supplies. 	<p>We asked Ofgem to produce an annual electricity capacity assessment, the first of which was published in October 2012. This will help to guide decisions on the volume of capacity that will be required to ensure secure energy supplies for the UK.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give an Annual Energy Statement to Parliament to set strategic energy policy and guide investment. 	<p>We have made an Annual Energy Statement each year.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will deliver an offshore electricity grid in order to support the development of a new generation of offshore wind power. 	<p>We have provided offshore wind developers with the flexibility they asked for to build connections to the onshore grid themselves. We identified with Ofgem measures to support the co-ordinated development of the offshore network, which are being implemented. The Energy Bill includes a clause to further support the timely, secure and cost-effective delivery of connections from offshore wind farms to the GB grid.</p> <p>The UK is working with 10 other European countries as part of the North Seas Countries' Offshore Grid Initiative.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will encourage community-owned renewable energy schemes where local people benefit from the power produced. We will also allow communities that host renewable energy projects to keep the additional business rates they generate. 	<p>In the first quarter of 2012 we awarded nearly £10 million worth of grants to more than 200 communities to assess their potential for energy efficiency and local energy-generation schemes under the Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF). The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department of Energy and Climate Change have together designed and will shortly launch a community energy revolving loan fund for rural communities to meet the up-front cost of developing renewable energy projects. In addition, we continue to support communities to take advantage of financial incentives for renewables such as the Renewable Heat Premium Payment Community Scheme. Alongside this, we will allow communities to retain business rates from renewable projects.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the creation of a green investment bank, we will create green financial products to provide individuals with opportunities to invest in the infrastructure needed to support the new green economy. 	<p>The Green Deal will allow commercial and residential premises to finance energy efficiency measures.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work towards an ambitious global climate deal that will limit emissions and explore the creation of new international sources of funding for the purpose of climate change adaptation and mitigation. 	<p>We secured agreement at Durban to negotiate a global legally binding agreement to cover all countries by 2015, to come into force by 2020.</p> <p>We adopted a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to preserve global momentum towards a global deal.</p> <p>We have allocated £2.9 billion to our International Climate Fund over the spending review period, providing long-term finance to support mitigation, adaptation and reducing deforestation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberal Democrats have long opposed any new nuclear construction. Conservatives, by contrast, are committed to allowing the replacement of existing nuclear power stations provided that they are subject to the normal planning process for major projects (under a new National Planning Statement), and also provided that they receive no public subsidy. 	<p>We have set out how our reforms of the electricity market will allow low carbon investment to come forward, consistent with the Government's commitment to no public subsidy for new nuclear. New nuclear power stations will be subject to the same planning processes as other major infrastructure projects.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will implement a process allowing the Liberal Democrats to maintain their opposition to nuclear power while permitting the Government to bring forward the National Planning Statement for ratification by Parliament so that new nuclear construction becomes possible. This process will involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the Government completing the drafting of a national planning statement and putting it before Parliament; – specific agreement that a Liberal Democrat spokesperson will speak against the Planning Statement, but that Liberal Democrat MPs will abstain; and – clarity that this will not be regarded as an issue of confidence. 	<p>On 18 July 2011 the House of Commons debated and approved the six National Policy Statements for Energy (NPSs). This included the NPS on nuclear power. The NPSs were subsequently designated under the Planning Act.</p> <p>The energy NPSs set out national policy against which proposals for major energy projects will be assessed and decided on by the Secretary of State.</p>

Chapter 11: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce measures to make the import or possession of illegal timber a criminal offence. 	<p>We have been developing regulation designed to tackle the import of illegal logging. This will implement the European Timber Regulation in the UK.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce measures to protect wildlife and promote green spaces and wildlife corridors in order to halt the loss of habitats and restore biodiversity. 	<p>We launched the Local Green Space Designation within the National Planning Policy Framework. This is a mechanism by which communities can work with their local authorities to protect spaces that are special to them (such as for wildlife value or recreation).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will launch a national tree planting campaign. 	<p>We launched the Big Tree Plant campaign in December 2010. The campaign is on track, with more than 239,000 trees so far planted towards the April 2015 target of one million. The £4 million fund is so far supporting 128 community projects, aiming to plant 813,000 trees where people live and work.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review the governance arrangements of National Parks in order to increase local accountability. 	<p>We consulted, in 2011, on how to improve local accountability in National Parks governance, including the trialling of allowing some members on National Park Authorities to be directly elected to the role.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work towards full compliance with European Air Quality standards. 	<p>We provided more than £5 million of local funding for projects designed to reduce the levels of air pollution in our towns and cities (Air Quality Grant Programme 2010–12).</p> <p>We are currently reviewing the local air-quality management system across England, with a view to publishing a consultation on a number of options to improve air-quality delivery at the local level.</p> <p>We have met EU air-quality standards on most pollutants and progress is being made towards the nitrogen dioxide limits.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take forward the findings of the Pitt Review to improve our flood defences, and prevent unnecessary building in areas of high flood risk. 	<p>We are committed to investing more than £2.3 billion in protecting people against flooding through to 2015, and have put in place a 'partnership funding' model. This has secured an extra £72 million of external funding on top of government funding, and will give local people more involvement in flood protection. As part of this, the £120 million additional funding announced in the Autumn Statement 2012 will accelerate the protection of up to 60,000 homes and deliver up to £1 billion of economic benefits.</p> <p>We have been working with the Association of British Insurers to develop proposals for future flood insurance.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will examine the conclusions of the Cave and Walker Reviews, and reform the water industry to ensure more efficient use of water and the protection of poorer households. 	<p>We published the Water White Paper in December 2011. Two measures from the White Paper have already been implemented in the Water Industry (Financial Assistance) Act 2012, which received Royal Assent in May 2012, enabling the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fund South West Water to reduce bills by £50 a year for its household customers; and provide contingent financial support during the construction of exceptionally large or complex projects such as the Thames Tunnel. <p>Further measures are set out in the Water Bill, which was published in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny on 10 July 2012, and in the Water White Paper.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work towards a 'zero waste' economy, encourage councils to pay people to recycle, and work to reduce littering. 	<p>The Waste Review was published in June 2011 and we have been taking forward the commitments made. So far, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an Action Plan on anaerobic digestion, which was published in June 2011, with a progress report published in July 2012; a voluntary agreement with the hospitality and food-service sector, launched in June 2012, to reduce food and packaging waste and send more to anaerobic digestion, composting or recycling; and a three-year programme of grants to local authorities and others to develop and implement reward and recognition schemes for recycling – we have funded 31 schemes. <p>We have launched a Fly-Tipping Partnership Framework to encourage local solutions to tackling this serious local environmental problem. We have worked with Keep Britain Tidy to support their anti-littering activity, including sponsoring the 'Love Where You Live' campaign and hosting a 'litter round-table' to engage business.</p> <p>We have also introduced higher recycling targets for waste packaging for 2013–17, which was confirmed in Budget 2012 and will mean that producers (raw-materials manufacturers, converters, packer/fillers and retailers) will need to recycle and recover a higher proportion of the packaging they handle.</p> <p>We have also supported a range of incentive and reward schemes through the £250 million Weekly Collections Support Scheme; innovation and technology can support frequent and comprehensive rubbish and recycling collections, by working with families to go green rather than taxing or fining them.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reduce the regulatory burden on farmers by moving to a risk-based system of regulation, and will develop a system of extra support for hill farmers. 	<p>We published the final response to the Farming Regulation Taskforce report in February 2012, outlining our proposals to move towards a risk-based system of regulation.</p> <p>We also published conclusions of the Uplands Policy Review in March 2011, setting out how we will develop affordable measures of support for hill farmers.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will investigate ways to share with livestock keepers the responsibility for preparing for and dealing with outbreaks of disease. 	<p>We set up the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England in 2011 in response to the England Advisory Group on Responsibility and Cost Sharing's recommendations. The Board advises on strategic health and welfare matters relating to kept animals in England.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take forward the Marine and Coastal Access Act and ensure that its conservation measures are implemented effectively. 	<p>We launched a consultation proposing 31 potential sites to be Marine Conservation Zones in December 2012. There is a commitment to designate sites by September 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of a package of measures, we will introduce a carefully managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine tuberculosis. 	<p>We announced pilots for culling in two areas of high and persistent levels of bovine tuberculosis. In October 2012, the two pilot culls were postponed until summer 2013 at the request of the National Farmers Union. This is to allow farmers to continue their preparations and have the best possible chance of carrying out the cull effectively.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will promote high standards of farm animal welfare. We will end the testing of household products on animals and work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. We will promote responsible pet ownership by introducing effective codes of practice under the Animal Welfare Act, and will ensure that enforcement agencies target irresponsible owners of dangerous dogs. 	<p>We ensured that the UK has no laying hens in conventional cages, in line with the EU ban.</p> <p>We worked on improvements to the promotion of farm animal husbandry best practice, with the aim of consulting in the first half of 2013.</p> <p>We worked to reduce the use of animals in scientific research through a science-led programme headed by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research. However, the Government continues to recognise that there remains a strong scientific case for the carefully regulated use of animals in scientific research where no practicable alternatives exist.</p> <p>We announced arrangements to deliver the commitment to end the testing of household products on animals using licensing powers provided under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. We have also consulted to confirm the economic impact of this approach and to agree a working definition of 'household product'.</p> <p>We have completed consultation on a package of measures to tackle irresponsible dog ownership.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that food procured by government departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall cost. 	<p>In June 2011 we published the Government Buying Standard for food and catering services, which became mandatory for central government's new contracts in September 2011. We have also published guidance for schools and hospitals on the application of this standard.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will investigate measures to help with fuel costs in remote rural areas, starting with pilot schemes. 	<p>We published a report, <i>The Cost of Fuel in Rural Areas</i>, in March 2012. Since 1 March 2012 we have implemented a duty-relief scheme for retailers in certain island communities. They are now entitled to claim relief of five pence per litre of fuel.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create a presumption in favour of sustainable development in the planning system. 	<p>We published the National Planning Policy Framework on 27 March 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We oppose the resumption of commercial whaling, will press for a ban on ivory sales, and will tackle the smuggling and illegal trade on wildlife through our new Border Police Force. 	<p>We continued to oppose the resumption of commercial whaling, including at the recent annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Panama.</p> <p>We have also continued to support the ban on trade in ivory and are working through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to ensure that any process for the agreement of future ivory sales is as strict as possible, in order to prevent a damaging impact on elephant conservation.</p> <p>We continue to work with the Home Office, the Border Force and the National Wildlife Crime Unit to ensure that the trafficking of wildlife, along with that of people, weapons and drugs, is tackled by the proposed Border Police Command within the National Crime Agency.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will bring forward a motion on a free vote enabling the House of Commons to express its view on the repeal of the Hunting Act. 	<p>This proposal has not yet been taken forward.</p>

Chapter 12: Equalities

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will promote equal pay and take a range of measures to end discrimination in the workplace. 	<p>Following consultation in 2012, we have followed through on our early commitment to address pay inequality through measures in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill that is before Parliament. These measures will give Employment Tribunals the power to impose pay audits on employers found to have discriminated in pay on the basis of gender. But tackling pay inequality also requires better information and more informed choices. That's why we are working closely with Business on Think, Act, Report a voluntary scheme to promote greater transparency around gender equality in the workplace. More than one million employees are now covered by Think, Act, Report, and companies as diverse as Marks and Spencer, IBM and Barclays Bank are now supporting it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will extend the right to request flexible working to all employees, consulting with business on how best to do so. 	<p>We have extended to all employees the right to request flexible working from 2014, following consultation with business.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will undertake a fair pay review in the public sector to implement our proposed '20 times' pay multiple. 	<p>The Independent Fair Pay Report has recommended that pay multiples be published on a top-to-median ratio. The <i>Financial Reporting Manual</i> has also been updated to require non-departmental public bodies to publish pay-multiple data.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will look to promote gender equality on the boards of listed companies. 	<p>We supported the implementation of Lord Davies's recommendations for the appointment of more women to boards of companies. Since March 2012 women have accounted for 44% of all board appointments in the FTSE 100. In the FTSE 250 in the same period women have accounted for 36% of all board appointments.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will promote improved community relations and opportunities for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, including by providing internships for under-represented minorities in every Whitehall department and funding a targeted national enterprise mentoring scheme for BAME people who want to start a business. 	<p>We launched the Whitehall Internship programme to promote internships for graduates, undergraduates, college and secondary students from minority and under-represented backgrounds.</p> <p>We launched the Get Mentoring programme to support entrepreneurs from all backgrounds; the scheme now has more than 14,000 trained mentors available. The programme targeted BAME communities through the Ethnic Minority Employment Stakeholder Group and other networks. As a result, 11% of the mentors are from BAME communities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will stop the deportation of asylum seekers who have had to leave particular countries because their sexual orientation or gender identification puts them at proven risk of imprisonment, torture or execution. 	<p>We published guidance for the UK Border Agency and its staff on the handling of asylum cases that involve concerns over sexual orientation, and developed a caseworker training programme.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use our relationships with other countries to push for unequivocal support for gay rights and for UK civil partnerships to be recognised internationally. 	<p>We have continued to work with other nations on their approach to civil partnerships and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. We have updated Schedule 20 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004, which lists the overseas same-sex relationships treated in the UK as civil partnerships. We are also working with other countries to overcome the barriers that prevent UK civil partnerships from being recognised abroad.</p> <p>We continue to lobby Commonwealth nations to promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens, and have raised our concerns about Uganda's anti-homosexuality bill at the most senior levels of its government.</p>

Chapter 13: Europe

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that the British Government is a positive participant in the European Union, playing a strong and positive role with our partners, with the goal of ensuring that all the nations of Europe are equipped to face the challenges of the 21st century: global competitiveness, global warming and global poverty. 	<p>The Government has led the debate on reducing the burden of EU regulation on businesses, securing agreement to a breakthrough step to exempt micro-businesses from new EU proposals from 1 January 2013 and to review the body of EU legislation to identify existing obligations from which micro-businesses could be exempted. We have also worked with other Member States to push the Commission to take further ambitious action to tackle the burden of unnecessary EU regulation.</p> <p>We have secured our objective to ensure that the EU single market is safeguarded when a Eurozone banking union comes into force.</p> <p>We have secured agreement on a single European Patent after 23 years of EU negotiation, with the new Patent Court based in London for key pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors.</p> <p>We have pressed, with other Member States such as Italy, for a sharper focus on bringing the single market to its next stage of development by raising standards of implementation and enforcement, as well as widening and deepening the single market in the services, energy and digital sectors.</p> <p>We have championed an ambitious EU trade policy set out in the Trade and Investment White Paper that could add £200 billion to the EU's GDP and create two million jobs across the EU. For example, we have secured agreement to launch trade negotiations with Japan, Georgia and Moldova; made significant progress towards launching trade negotiations with the US, which could bring greater benefits than all of the EU's other deals combined; and concluded negotiations with Ukraine, with implementation contingent on political reforms. The EU trade agreement with South Korea provisionally came into force in July 2011 and is worth up to £500 million to UK exporters.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
	<p>We have played a key role in delivering international climate agreements in Cancun, Durban and Doha, with the EU and its Member States pivotal to success, including by adopting a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>We have used EU sanctions as a key pillar of the international community's approach to countering Iran's nuclear programme and the violence in Syria and promoting democratic change in Burma.</p> <p>We have shaped the EU's response to the Arab Spring, putting financial and trade support on the table to bolster new democracies in our neighbourhood, including agreement to launch trade negotiations with Morocco and, in due course, Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt.</p> <p>We have pushed the EU to secure democracy and prevent conflict in the Western Balkans and counter the threats to our security in the Horn of Africa.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will ensure that there is no further transfer of sovereignty or powers over the course of the next Parliament. We will examine the balance of the EU's existing competences and will, in particular, work to limit the application of the Working Time Directive in the United Kingdom. 	<p>We laid a Command Paper in Parliament on 12 July 2012 setting out how the Government will deliver the undertaking to examine the balance of the EU's competences.</p> <p>The review will be an audit of what the EU does and how it affects us in the United Kingdom. It will look at where competence lies, how the EU's competences, whether exclusive, shared or supplementary, are used and what that means for our national interest. It will run until 2014.</p> <p>The Government has built an alliance of Member States to maintain support for the individual's right to opt out of the Working Time Directive's working hours limit, which is used in the UK and 15 other Member States to give workers flexibility and choice over the hours they work.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will amend the 1972 European Communities Act so that any proposed future treaty that transferred areas of power, or competences, would be subject to a referendum on that treaty – a 'referendum lock'. We will amend the 1972 European Communities Act so that the use of any <i>passerelle</i> would require primary legislation. 	<p>We legislated in the European Union Act 2011 to ensure that any change to the EU treaties that transfers further areas of power from Britain to the EU will be subject to a referendum.</p> <p>The Act provides new powers for Parliament on the use of <i>passerelles</i> as envisaged in <i>Our Programme for Government</i>, and where the use of a <i>passerelle</i> would constitute a transfer of an area of power that use is now subject to a referendum.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will examine the case for a United Kingdom Sovereignty Bill to make it clear that ultimate authority remains with Parliament. 	<p>The European Union Act 2011 makes clear that ultimate authority on UK legislation rests with Parliament.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will ensure that Britain does not join or prepare to join the Euro in this Parliament. 	<p>The Government will not join or plan to join the Euro. The Government has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • struck a deal to ensure that the UK will not be liable for future Euro area programmes of assistance through the EU budget; • successfully fought for EU legislation that is an important step towards a safer and stronger banking system in Europe, helping to protect the taxpayer from picking up the bill when things go wrong and providing a basis for European countries to implement the global agreement on banking standards; • as a result of the agreement on banking union, ensured that decisions by the European Banking Authority will be subject to ‘double majority’ procedures; for binding rules, this will be in the form of a qualified majority of all countries, and also simple majority among both ‘in’ and ‘out’ Member States – this preserves the principle, as the single currency develops, of a single market where all countries continue have a proper voice; • ensured that the single market will be protected as the Eurozone takes the steps necessary for a more stable single currency; • secured with others a commitment that as Eurozone countries move towards designing a full banking union, which will not involve the UK, the integrity of the single market for all 27 members of the EU should be preserved; and • refused to allow a fiscal compact to be written into treaty law without adequate safeguards for the single market.

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will strongly defend the UK's national interests in the forthcoming EU budget negotiations and agree that the EU budget should only focus on those areas where the EU can add value. 	<p>We have worked to limit growth in EU spending in the EU annual budget, supporting the fiscal consolidation needed as a prerequisite for economic growth.</p> <p>We refused to agree to an unacceptable proposal for the EU's seven-year multi-annual budget framework at the EU summit in November 2012. We are working with like-minded countries to ensure that the EU's budget framework over the period 2014–20 is consistent with fiscal consolidation in Member States. This means at best a cut and at worst a freeze in spending. And we will not accept any changes to the UK rebate.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will press for the European Parliament to have only one seat, in Brussels. 	<p>We oppose the dual seats of the European Parliament in Brussels and in Strasbourg. Estimates suggest that having two seats for the European Parliament currently costs the British taxpayer £28 million a year and also means that 20,000 extra tonnes of carbon dioxide are emitted each year in the process. We support the European Parliament having a single seat in Brussels.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will approach forthcoming legislation in the area of criminal justice on a case-by-case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting Britain's civil liberties and preserving the integrity of our criminal justice system. Britain will not participate in the establishment of any European Public Prosecutor. 	<p>We have promoted an agenda of practical co-operation to tackle cross-border crime and manage migration pressures.</p> <p>The Government has taken decisions on whether or not to opt in to EU justice and home affairs measures on a case-by-case basis, judging each measure on its merits.</p> <p>The Government has strengthened arrangements for parliamentary scrutiny of justice and home affairs opt-in decisions.</p> <p>A European Public Prosecutor has not been established.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support the further enlargement of the EU. 	<p>The Government has continued to support the EU's further enlargement, including to the Western Balkans, Iceland and Turkey, based on all countries' continued progress towards meeting the necessary conditions for membership. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croatia's accession treaty was signed in December 2011. Serbia was granted candidate status in March 2012. Accession negotiations with Montenegro were launched in June 2012. Accession negotiations are ongoing with Iceland.

Chapter 14: Families and Children

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will maintain the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020. 	<p>We published the first-ever Child Poverty Strategy to tackle the causes of poverty: including unemployment and welfare dependency, family breakdown and low educational achievement, poor health and disability and financial insecurity. We published a report in June 2012 into progress against the Child Poverty Act target of halving child poverty by 2010. We have also published a consultation on changing the way we measure child poverty to better capture the reality of child poverty.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform the administration of tax credits to reduce fraud and overpayments. 	<p>We published a new strategy, <i>Tackling fraud and error in the benefits and tax credits systems</i> in October 2010, including radical new proposals to reduce the billions lost to fraud and error every year.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will bring forward plans to reduce the couple penalty in the tax credit system as we make savings from our welfare reform plans. 	<p>We are replacing the existing tax credit system with Universal Credit, which will create new and more effective incentives to work.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support the provision of free nursery care for pre-school children, and we want that support to be provided by a diverse range of providers, with a greater gender balance in the early years workforce. 	<p>We have given all three and four year olds the right to 15 hours a week of free early education since September 2010, and provided statutory guidance to which all local authorities must have regard when providing this. We have sustained a national take-up rate for three and four year olds in early education of 95 per cent, despite an 8 per cent increase in eligible children.</p> <p>We have also committed £291 million in 2012/13; £534 million in 2013/14; and £760 million in 2014/15, to provide 15 hours a week of free childcare for the 260,000 most disadvantaged two year olds in England (around 40 per cent of all two year olds).</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take Sure Start back to its original purpose of early intervention, increase its focus on the neediest families, and better involve organisations with a track record of supporting families. We will investigate ways of ensuring that providers are paid in part by the results they achieve. 	<p>We have worked in collaboration with local authorities and representatives from the early years sector to refresh the 'core purpose' of Sure Start Children's Centres.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will refocus funding from Sure Start peripatetic outreach services, and from the Department of Health budget, to pay for 4,200 extra Sure Start health visitors. 	<p>We are training more than 1,600 health visitors this year, and are on track to ensure that there will be an extra 4,200 in post by April 2015.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will investigate a new approach to helping families with multiple problems. 	<p>We launched a £448 million payment-by-results scheme and national network of Troubled Families Co-ordinators in December 2011 to turn around the lives of 120,000 of the most troubled families by the end of this Parliament. All upper-tier local authorities have signed up to deliver the programme with an agreed number of local troubled families. Within these families, work is under way to get the children back into school; reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour; put adults on a path back to work; and reduce the high costs these families place on the public sector each year.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will publish serious case reviews, with identifying details removed. 	<p>We have revised guidance for local authorities, which will be published shortly. Since June 2012, 34 serious case review overview reports have been published.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and scale it back to common sense levels. 	<p>Some registration and monitoring requirements and controlled activities have been abolished. Legislative changes were included in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will crack down on irresponsible advertising and marketing, especially to children. We will also take steps to tackle the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood. 	<p>We accepted the recommendations of the Bailey Review, <i>Letting Children be Children</i>, and have made good progress on implementing them: the four major internet service providers have signed up to a new code of practice; we have consulted on age-rating music videos; have announced the Government and industry's commitment to actively encourage parents to make use of internet controls to keep their children safe online; and the Advertising Standards Authority has tightened controls on on-street advertising.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will encourage shared parenting from the earliest stages of pregnancy – including the promotion of a system of flexible parental leave. 	<p>We have announced reforms that will allow parents to share up to a year's parental leave after the birth of a child. We plan to legislate in order to introduce the changes in 2015.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will put funding for relationship support on a stable, long-term footing, and make sure that couples are given greater encouragement to use existing relationship support. 	<p>We have announced a dedicated fund of £30 million over four years for relationship support. Grants were awarded to 12 voluntary organisations to fund projects in 2011–13 and we are now in the process of negotiating contracts for relationship support for 2013–15.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will conduct a comprehensive review of family law in order to increase the use of mediation when couples do break up, and to look at how best to provide greater access rights to non-resident parents and grandparents. 	<p>We broadened the scope of the Norgrove Review of family justice and accepted the majority of its recommendations. We have published legislation for pre-legislative scrutiny and will introduce the measures as part of the planned Children and Families Bill.</p>

Chapter 15: Foreign Affairs

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take forward our shared resolve to safeguard the UK's national security and support our Armed Forces in Afghanistan and elsewhere. 	<p>We have set in place an integrated Afghanistan strategy for our campaign, as well as a clear timeline for drawing down UK forces as part of a coherent International Security Assistance Force drawdown.</p> <p>In addition, we have committed £70 million per annum to building the Afghan National Security Forces capability post-2014 and have committed £178 million a year until 2017 in development assistance to Afghanistan. We have also played a leading role in encouraging our partners to commit funds to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a haven for terrorism in the future.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will push for peace in the Middle East, with a secure and universally recognised Israel living alongside a sovereign and viable Palestinian state. 	<p>We have acted with the Middle East Peace Process Quartet, the EU and the UN Security Council to keep the peace process alive and upgraded the status of the Palestinian Mission in the UK in recognition of its status.</p> <p>UK aid (£349 million over 2011–15) is helping to build Palestinian institutions and promoting economic growth, so that any future state will be stable, prosperous, well-run and an effective partner for peace with Israel.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work to establish a new 'special relationship' with India and seek closer engagement with China, while standing firm on human rights in all our bilateral relationships. 	<p>The Prime Minister has undertaken visits to both India and China in order to achieve these objectives, as has the Foreign Secretary and a range of other Government Ministers.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will maintain a strong, close and frank relationship with the United States. 	<p>The Prime Minister has maintained regular contact with the President, supported by the whole of government engagement on key foreign policy issues such as Libya, Syria and Iran; restoring economic growth and financial stability through the G20, IMF and other fora; and promoting opportunities for UK business in the US.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to strengthen the Commonwealth as a focus for promoting democratic values and development. 	<p>We have undertaken work on the setting up of a Commonwealth statute. We have successfully undertaken work on the setting up of a Commonwealth charter.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work to promote stability in the Western Balkans. 	<p>We are promoting stability throughout the Western Balkans through: intense diplomatic engagement; bilateral conflict-prevention projects, notably in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo; and multilateral engagement, including support for a continued Office of the High Representative and European Union Force (EUFOR) peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We continue to encourage the necessary reforms for progress towards the EU and NATO; Montenegro opened accession negotiations with the EU in June 2012, and Serbia was granted EU candidate status in March 2012. By mid 2013 Croatia will be a full member of the EU.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will support concerted international efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. 	<p>We actively participated in the E3+3 negotiations with Iran, most recently in political talks in Istanbul, Moscow and Baghdad, and continued to exercise responsibilities within the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors and to implement EU and UN sanctions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support reform of the UN Security Council, including permanent seats for Japan, India, Germany, Brazil and African representation. 	<p>We have acted to make our position clear in a range of international fora.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work to intensify our cultural, educational, commercial and diplomatic links with many nations beyond Europe and North America to strengthen the UK's relations with the fastest-growing areas of the world economy. 	<p>We have pursued an active emerging powers agenda, and a range of other bilateral engagement, supplemented by Ministerial visits to these nations.</p> <p>The Chancellor has held a series of successful Economic and Financial Dialogues with China and India, with notable success including enhancing London's role as a centre for Chinese currency trading</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will never condone the use of torture. 	<p>This Government has never condoned the use of torture.</p>

Chapter 16: Government Transparency

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will require public bodies to publish online the job titles of every member of staff and the salaries and expenses of senior officials paid more than the lowest salary permissible in Pay Band 1 of the Senior Civil Service pay scale, and organograms that include all positions in those bodies. 	<p>We have implemented a data-transparency policy for pay in the Senior Civil Service at Pay Band 2 and above, as well as published organograms on www.data.gov.uk.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will require anyone paid more than the Prime Minister in the centrally funded public sector to have their salary signed off by the Treasury. 	<p>We have required departments to submit a business case to the Cabinet Office where they wish to employ someone on more than £142,500, where the appointment is subject to Ministerial approval. These cases are then scrutinised and decisions are made by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will regulate lobbying through introducing a statutory register of lobbyists and ensuring greater transparency. 	<p>We published a consultation paper, <i>Introducing a Statutory Register of Lobbyists</i>, which set out initial proposals.</p> <p>The consultation closed on 20 April 2012 and a summary of responses was published on 16 July. The Political and Constitutional Reform Committee also held an inquiry. We are now considering the evidence provided.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will also pursue a detailed agreement on limiting donations and reforming party funding in order to remove big money from politics. 	<p>We held a series of cross-party discussions to look at potential areas for reform, with discussions currently ongoing.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will strengthen the powers of Select Committees to scrutinise major public appointments. 	<p>The Minister for the Cabinet Office issued a written response to the Liaison Committee on the role of Select Committees in relation to major public appointments. Cabinet Office guidance on Public Appointments has now been published – this sets out guidance for pre-appointment scrutiny by Select Committees.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce new protections for whistleblowers in the public sector. 	<p>We have updated staff contracts and the NHS Constitution to underline both the rights and duties that staff have in relation to whistleblowing, and have set up a helpline run by the Royal Mencap Society to help staff in the NHS and social care who want to raise concerns.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take steps to open up government procurement and reduce costs; and we will publish government ICT contracts online. 	<p>All new government contracts over £10,000 have been published online since July 2010; all new central government tender documents for contracts over £10,000 have been published on a single website since September 2010.</p> <p>We have sped up procurement by requiring all but the most complex procurements in central government to be completed in 120 working days by making Lean Principles mandatory.</p> <p>We have made it easier for SMEs to access procurement by abolishing pre qualification questionnaires for central government tenders under £100,000 in all but two departments (remaining only in the most complex or sensitive areas).</p> <p>We have appointed Stephen Allott as the Crown Representative for SMEs, giving them a voice at the highest levels of government.</p> <p>We have also launched the Mystery Shopper Service to allow suppliers to complain about poor public procurement practice.</p> <p>We have ensured councils have only one page of guidance on how best to achieve Best Value in their areas – not just in terms of cost for local taxpayers, but also the wider social and environmental benefits above and beyond the services they provide. And in deciding how best to fulfil their Best Value Duty, councils are required to consult those using, or likely to use, a local service. This should include community and voluntary organisations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create a level playing field for open-source software and will enable large ICT [information and communication technologies] projects to be split into smaller components. 	<p>The Public Services Network has published a set of standards that form the basis for sharing services.</p> <p>We have launched the G-CloudStore, which is more accessible to SMEs seeking government ICT contracts.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will require full, online disclosure of all central government spending and contracts over £25,000. 	<p>This data has been published since November 2010.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create a new 'right to data' so that government-held datasets can be requested and used by the public, and then published on a regular basis. 	<p>We amended the Freedom of Information Act in the Protection of Freedoms Act to enhance the right to data. We are now consulting on the code of practice for these new provisions and look to commence in April 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will require all councils to publish meeting minutes and local service and performance data. 	<p>Guidance on publication was issued to local authorities in May 2010.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will require all councils to publish items of spending above £500, and to publish contracts and tender documents in full. 	<p>In addition to the guidance on publication, a code of practice for transparency in local government is currently out for public consultation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that all data published by public bodies is published in an open and standardised format, so that it can be used easily and with minimal cost by third parties. 	<p>We published the Open Data White Paper in June 2012, in which the Government set out its ambition that all published data would be '3 stars' or above on the basis of Sir Tim Berners-Lee's '5 star' scheme for data quality. On 12 December 2012, the Government laid its first Transparency and Open Data Written Ministerial Statement in Parliament, reporting on progress made by departments during the July to September 2012 period on compliance with the Prime Minister's letters on transparency as well as their own Open Data Strategies. An 'openness scoring' was part of this exercise, whereby it was reported that 52 per cent of datasets published were measured as '3 stars' or above. Subsequent statements will be made on a quarterly basis.</p>

Chapter 17: Immigration

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce an annual limit on the number of non-EU economic migrants admitted into the UK to live and work. We will consider jointly the mechanism for implementing the limit. 	<p>We successfully introduced an annual limit on 6 April 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will end the detention of children for immigration purposes. 	<p>We have ended the detention of children for immigration purposes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create a dedicated Border Police Force, as part of a refocused Serious Organised Crime Agency, to enhance national security, improve immigration controls and crack down on the trafficking of people, weapons and drugs. We will work with police forces to strengthen arrangements to deal with serious crime and other cross-boundary policing challenges, and extend collaboration between forces to deliver better value for money. 	<p>We have published our plans for the new National Crime Agency (NCA), building on the strengths of the existing Serious Organised Crime Agency, to create a distinctly different, highly visible, operational crime-fighting agency with the authority to lead and co-ordinate the UK's fight against serious, organised and complex crime. The NCA will operate across local, national and international borders to tackle organised crime, strengthen border security, fight fraud and cyber crime and protect children from exploitation and abuse.</p> <p>The Border Policing Command within the NCA will be a substantial and effective body of operational crime fighters at the border and overseas, leading the multi-agency effort to strengthen the UK border and tackling serious, organised and complex crime before it reaches the UK.</p> <p>We are currently taking legislation through Parliament to complete the set-up of the NCA.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support E-borders and will reintroduce exit checks. 	<p>The new E-borders IT systems are now live, and exit checks are being reintroduced.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will apply transitional controls as a matter of course in the future for all new EU Member States. 	<p>We have applied transitional controls for the new accession countries (Bulgaria and Romania), and will do so when Croatia accedes to the EU in 2013.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will introduce new measures to minimise abuse of the immigration system, for example via student routes, and will tackle human trafficking as a priority. 	<p>We have reduced abuse of the student migration route through cracking down on non-compliant institutions and students with tougher requirements, and have just announced the extension of interviews.</p> <p>We have tackled human trafficking through a comprehensive new strategy and implementation of the EU Directive on Human Trafficking, with legislation to do so brought forward in the Protection of Freedoms Act.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will explore new ways to improve the current asylum system to speed up the processing of applications. 	<p>We have worked our way through the legacy asylum cases and are resolving more asylum cases, more quickly. In 2011/12, there was a 7 per cent increase in asylum case conclusions made within 12 months and also a 7 per cent increase in those made within 36 months.</p>

Chapter 18: International Development

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will honour our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of GNI (Gross National Income) on overseas aid from 2013, and to enshrine this commitment in law. 	<p>We have allocated rising expenditure on Official Development Assistance. It reaches £11.3 billion in 2013, or 0.7 per cent of GNI.</p> <p>A further increase is provided for 2014 so that 0.7 per cent of GNI will continue to be spent on Official Development Assistance.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will encourage other countries to fulfil their aid commitments. 	<p>We have continued to push the importance of accountability reporting on aid pledges, including through the EU and the G8 and by co-chairing the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, where we are also pushing countries and others to improve the quality of aid and other development finance.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support actions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, we will prioritise aid spending on programmes to ensure that everyone has access to clean water, sanitation, healthcare and education; to reduce maternal and infant mortality; and to restrict the spread of major diseases like HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. We will recognise the vital role of women in development, promote gender equality and focus on the rights of women, children and disabled people to access services. 	<p>We have set challenging results ambition in these areas and allocated resources to deliver them. We have prioritised wealth creation, conflict prevention and climate change in our work towards the Millennium Development Goals, and are investing more in girls and women. Additionally, we are piloting ground-breaking schemes, such as cash-on-delivery aid.</p> <p>Bilateral Aid Review ensured British Aid was focused on 28 priority countries and the Multilateral Aid Review was the first time that a bilateral donor had made such explicit comparisons with a clear link to funding decisions.</p> <p>Prioritised gender equality, launching a new Strategic Vision for Girls and Women in March 2011, and increased investment in girls and women across the programme.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use the aid budget to support the development of local democratic institutions, civil society groups, the media and enterprise; and support efforts to tackle corruption. 	<p>We have made reforms to British policy on international development that mean British aid is now working to stimulate open societies and economies. Open societies are where people are free to exercise choice and to challenge and secure change; where rights and laws are respected; where people are not held back because of who they are; and where government is open and accountable. In 2011/12, we supported freer and fairer elections in four countries.</p> <p>We strengthened civil society, for example through the Tawanmandi programme in Afghanistan, which provides two-thirds of its grants to women's organisations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce full transparency in aid and publish details of all UK aid spending online. We will push for similarly high levels of transparency internationally. 	<p>We introduced the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, putting unprecedented information into the public domain. We were the first country in the world to publish aid information in line with the new International Aid Transparency Initiative standards, and we now publish online comprehensive information about all aid spending over £500.</p> <p>Our Aid Transparency Challenge will also require any organisation we work through to adhere to International Aid Transparency Initiative standards of transparency and accountability for their disbursement of British aid.</p> <p>The Independent Commission for Aid Impact was set up and it provides truly independent scrutiny of British aid, reporting to Parliament – not Ministers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create new mechanisms to give British people a direct say in how an element of the aid budget is spent. 	<p>We launched the UK Aid Match pilot scheme in June 2011.</p> <p>Through the scheme, we match, pound for pound, public donations to appeals made by not-for-profit organisations for work carried out in developing countries to reduce poverty. To date, 18 public appeals have been match funded, directing the use of £40 million of the aid budget.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will keep aid untied from commercial interests, and will maintain the Department for International Development [DfID] as an independent department focused on poverty reduction. 	<p>Our aid has remained untied. This means that we are able to work with partner countries to ensure that goods and services are obtained in the most cost-effective way.</p> <p>DfID has remained an independent department, and is taking action to reduce poverty around the world.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will stick to the rules laid down by the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development] about what spending counts as aid. 	<p>We committed to adhering to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee reporting directives on overseas development aid eligibility. We are an active member of Development Assistance Committee meetings on overseas development aid eligibility.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will push hard in 2010 to make greater progress in tackling maternal and infant mortality. 	<p>In June 2010, the Prime Minister helped negotiate a global G8 agreement that the World Health Organization and World Bank estimate will assist developing countries to prevent 1.3 million deaths of children under five years of age and 64,000 maternal deaths.</p> <p>The London Summit on Family Planning took place on 11 July 2012. The Summit has raised the resources and commitments needed to deliver contraceptives to an additional 120 million women in the world's poorest countries by 2020. More than 20 developing countries made bold commitments to address the policy, financing and delivery barriers to women accessing contraceptive information, services and supplies. Donors made new financial commitments to support these plans amounting to \$2.6 billion – exceeding the Summit's financial goal</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work to accelerate the process of relieving Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) of their debt. 	<p>We have ensured that 34 countries have so far received irrevocable debt relief. The UK continues to be supportive and flexible in order to encourage countries' progress through the HIPC initiative as quickly as possible, and provides 100 per cent relief on eligible debts when countries progress through the HIPC initiative, which goes beyond the requirements of the scheme. We work through Country Offices, the IMF, the World Bank and African Development Bank boards to ensure that appropriate support is provided as countries progress through the process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support efforts to establish an International Arms Trade Treaty to limit the sales of arms to dangerous regimes. 	<p>We worked hard to build consensus in the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations, which took place in July 2012. We are continuing to push for a robust, legally binding, nationally enforced treaty with broad membership, to bring others in line with UK controls on conventional arms. A diplomatic conference will take place in March 2013 to finalise work on a treaty.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support pro-development trade deals, including the proposed Pan-African Free Trade Area. 	<p>We published an ambitious White Paper, <i>Trade and Investment for Growth</i>, which set out our support for pro-development trade deals, multilaterally, bilaterally and through the EU. This included the launch of the UK's Africa Free Trade Initiative, a programme of investment, technical assistance and political support for the proposed Pan-African Free Trade Area.</p> <p>We have set up a dedicated Private Sector Department within DfID and are boosting work to stimulate wealth creation and the private sector in the developing world.</p> <p>We have worked through the G20 to ensure that it prioritises trade measures that will benefit the poorest countries, including aid for trade and tackling bureaucracy at borders.</p> <p>We have secured improvements to make it easier for the Least Developed Countries to join the World Trade Organization, as the Prime Minister recommended in his report to the G20 on global governance, so that they can enjoy the benefits of access to world markets and the global trading rules that brings.</p> <p>We provided approximately £1 billion a year in aid for trade funding that contributes to trade and development projects that will make it easier for developing countries to do business and develop their economies.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support innovative and effective smaller British non-governmental organisations that are committed to tackling poverty. 	<p>We designed and launched the Global Poverty Action Fund, with £40 million of grants annually going to small UK-based not-for-profit organisations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will explore ways of helping the very poorest developing countries to take part in international climate change negotiations. 	<p>We launched the UK's Advocacy Fund on 6 September 2011, which includes £10 million to help strengthen the voices of the poorest countries in international climate negotiations (helping, for instance, with logistical support for delegates).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that UK Trade and Investment and the Export Credits Guarantee Department become champions for British companies that develop and export innovative green technologies around the world, instead of supporting investment in dirty fossil-fuel energy production. 	<p>We actively promoted services available from the Government for companies in the green technologies sector, while only supporting projects that meet the relevant international standards.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will provide a more integrated approach to post-conflict reconstruction where the British military is involved – building on the Stabilisation Unit in Whitehall and creating a new Stabilisation and Reconstruction Force to bridge the gap between the military and the reconstruction effort. 	<p>The Strategic Defence and Security Review set out the requirement for an integrated approach to post-conflict reconstruction. The Building Stability Overseas Strategy sets out in detail the Government's approach to post-conflict situations, but also emphasises the importance of conflict prevention.</p> <p>The Stabilisation Unit plays a key role in post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction and has, in particular, performed strongly in deploying civilian support to transition in Afghanistan. A cross-Whitehall review in the spring of 2012 looked at how the Stabilisation Unit should adapt to new challenges. This concluded that the Stabilisation Unit should continue to play a key role in delivering the Building Stability Overseas Strategy through helping to integrate defence, development and diplomacy efforts in fragile states in the future, and that the Unit should be flexible enough to meet the challenges of upstream conflict prevention as well as post-conflict reconstruction. Military and civilian experts were also brought together in the first-ever Stabilisation Response Team, deployed to Libya in 2011 to help build a shared international understanding of Libya's interim stabilisation needs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review what action can be taken against 'vulture funds'. 	<p>We have legislated to stop, permanently, vulture funds using the UK courts to extract harsh and inequitable payments from poor countries for debts that the companies may in some cases have bought for a fraction of the cost. The Act could save poor countries an estimated £145 million over six years.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support reform of global financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in order to increase the involvement of developing nations. 	<p>We played an important role in ensuring a competitive process for the selection of the new World Bank President in 2012 which led developing countries to nominate their own candidates for the first time.</p> <p>In December 2010 the International Monetary Fund's Board of Governors approved a package of far-reaching reforms of the Fund's quotas and governance. The reforms shift more than 6% of quota shares to emerging market and developing countries while preserving the quota and voting share of the poorest member countries. We ratified these reforms in 2011.</p>

Chapter 19: Jobs and Welfare

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will end all existing welfare to work programmes and create a single welfare to work programme to help all unemployed people get back into work. 	<p>We have stopped virtually all existing welfare to work programmes and launched the integrated Work Programme in June 2011. Statistics on the Work Programme were released in November 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that Jobseeker's Allowance claimants facing the most significant barriers to work are referred to the new welfare to work programme immediately, not after 12 months as is currently the case. We will ensure that Jobseeker's Allowance claimants aged under 25 are referred to the programme after a maximum of six months. 	<p>We introduced a three-month Work Programme referral point for those claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance facing the most significant barriers to work.</p> <p>Jobseekers aged 18–24 are referred to the Work Programme after nine months, or earlier if they are facing higher barriers.</p> <p>In March 2012, we began referring prison leavers who claim Jobseeker's Allowance to the Work Programme immediately on release from custody.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will realign contracts with welfare to work service providers to reflect more closely the results they achieve in getting people back into work. 	<p>The Work Programme has been launched. It pays providers for getting people into work and, crucially, keeping them there.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform the funding mechanism used by government to finance welfare to work programmes to reflect the fact that initial investment delivers later savings through lower benefit expenditure, including creating an integrated work programme with outcome funding based upon the DEL/AME switch. 	<p>The Work Programme, which was launched in June 2011, is a 'payment by results' scheme. It has an innovative funding model and, as performance levels increase, providers will be paid from the benefit savings being realised.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that receipt of benefits for those able to work is conditional on their willingness to work. 	<p>We have established a strong, consistent approach to conditionality within Universal Credit, which will ensure that claimants will have to do much more to either find or prepare for work and that this is a clear condition of receiving benefit. This expectation will extend to significantly more claimants under Universal Credit.</p> <p>The Mandatory Work Activity scheme, requiring more jobseekers to do a month's full-time activity to help them back into work, was extended in June 2012 and will allow for as many as 60,000–70,000 referrals into the scheme each year.</p> <p>We have reduced the lone-parent conditionality age from seven to five and introduced tougher sanctions, including a new 'three strikes policy'. In England, we have mandated Jobseeker's Allowance claimants to take up training that will increase their skills and help them find work (this includes basic skills and English language training), and introduced mandatory work-related activity for Employment and Support Allowance claimants (at advisers' discretion).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support the National Minimum Wage because of the protection it gives low-income workers and the incentives to work it provides. 	<p>A Department for Business, Innovation & Skills and HM Revenue & Customs enforcement scheme to name employers who flout the National Minimum Wage laws was announced on 1 October 2010 and came into effect on 1 January 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will re-assess all current claimants of Incapacity Benefit for their readiness to work. Those assessed as fully capable for work will be moved onto Jobseeker's Allowance. 	<p>All current recipients of Incapacity Benefit are being reassessed through the Work Capability Assessment and moved onto Employment and Support Allowance or other benefits as appropriate. Up to the end of February 2012, 462,100 claimants had started the reassessment process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support would-be entrepreneurs through a new programme – Work for Yourself – which will give the unemployed access to business mentors and start-up loans. 	<p>National roll-out of the New Enterprise Allowance was completed on 31 August 2011. The New Enterprise Allowance gives extra help to unemployed people who want to start their own business.</p> <p>In October 2012, the scheme was extended to give people access from day one of unemployment.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will draw on a range of Service Academies to offer pre-employment training and work placements for unemployed people. 	<p>Sector-based Work Academies were launched on 1 August 2011. These offer pre-employment training, work placements and a guaranteed interview for recipients of Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (work-related activity group) in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies. As of May 2012, over 14,000 people have started on this scheme.</p> <p>We introduced work experience placements lasting up to eight weeks for 16–24 year olds on Jobseekers Allowance. The programme aims to give young jobseekers experience in the workplace, providing them with the vital practical skills and experience that will make a real difference to their prospects of finding a job. Between January 2011 and May 2012, 64,680 people on Jobseekers Allowance started a work experience placement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will develop local Work Clubs – places where unemployed people can gather to exchange skills, find opportunities, make contacts and provide mutual support. 	<p>Support and guidance on setting up a Work Club is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website, and some localised funding is available through Jobcentre Plus. More than 2,400 Work Clubs are now being run within local communities by charities, voluntary organisations and businesses, among others.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will investigate how to simplify the benefit system in order to improve incentives to work. 	<p>The Government has legislated to introduce Universal Credit, a single, streamlined payment that will improve work incentives and make work pay. In addition, the Government has also legislated to cap household benefit payments from 2013 so that no workless family can receive more in welfare than median after-tax earnings for working households.</p>

Chapter 20: Justice

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce a 'rehabilitation revolution' that will pay independent providers to reduce reoffending, paid for by the savings this new approach will generate within the criminal justice system. 	<p>Building on the raft of changes we introduced into the system to reduce reoffending, set out in our Green Paper <i>Breaking the Cycle</i>, and our payment by results pilots, we published our 'Transforming Rehabilitation' consultation in January 2013.</p> <p>This sets out how we will further reform the management of offenders in the community, through rolling out payment by results across rehabilitative services in the community, reforming the way probation services are commissioned and delivered and extending provision to the cohort of under-12-month sentenced prisoners on release.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will conduct a full review of sentencing policy to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting reoffending. In particular, we will ensure that sentencing for drug use helps offenders come off drugs. 	<p>We have completed a full review of sentencing policy and taken forward a raft of changes through the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. The Act also removed the specification for a drug rehabilitation requirement to have a minimum length of six months, allowing the judiciary more flexibility to tailor treatment requirements to individual treatment need. We also tabled amendments to the Crime and Courts Bill in October 2012 to ensure that every community order has a clearly punitive element.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will explore alternative forms of secure, treatment-based accommodation for mentally ill and drugs offenders. 	<p>We launched 16 substance misuse and mental health pilots, focusing on intensive treatment and rehabilitation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will implement the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996 to allow deductions from the earnings of prisoners in properly paid work to be paid into the Victims' Fund. 	<p>We implemented the Prisoners' Earnings Act and have been deducting from prisoners' earnings for the benefit of victims since September 2011.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will consider how to use proceeds from the Victim Surcharge to deliver up to 15 new rape crisis centres, and give existing rape crisis centres stable, long-term funding. 	<p>Extensions to the Victim Surcharge – some implemented in October 2012, some in 2013 – will provide up to £50 million of additional funding for victims' services, including rape crisis centres. The first four new Ministry of Justice-funded rape support centres are now open and running.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will carry out a fundamental review of Legal Aid to make it work more efficiently. 	<p>We have taken forward a wide-ranging review of the Legal Aid system and enacted changes through the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will change the law so that historical convictions for consensual gay sex with over-16s will be treated as spent and will not show up on criminal records checks. 	<p>We have changed the law through the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will extend anonymity in rape cases to defendants. 	<p>An independent assessment found insufficient evidence on which to base an informed decision on the value of providing anonymity to rape defendants. We made clear from the outset that we would only proceed with defendant anonymity in rape cases if the evidence justifying it was clear and sound. In the absence of any such finding, we will not proceed further with this commitment, and announced this in November 2010.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce effective measures to tackle anti-social behaviour and low-level crime, including forms of restorative justice such as Neighbourhood Justice Panels. 	<p>We have set out our plans to abolish the Anti-Social Behaviour Order and replace it with more effective tools to tackle anti-social behaviour. We published a draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill on 13 December 2012, alongside launching a consultation on a Community Remedy, which aims to give victims and the public a greater say in dealing with low-level crime and anti-social behaviour out of court.</p> <p>We published a White Paper on <i>Swift and Sure Justice</i>, including our plans for Neighbourhood Justice Panels and other action to deal with low-level crime.</p> <p>We published an alcohol strategy setting out a range of action to tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and crime, including the introduction of a minimum unit price.</p> <p>We are legislating to allow sentencing to be deferred for restorative justice to take place.</p>

Chapter 21: National Security

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have established a National Security Council and appointed a National Security Adviser. 	<p>The National Security Council, supported by the National Security Adviser, has continued to meet regularly to consider national security issues.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have commenced a Strategic Defence and Security Review, commissioned and overseen by the National Security Council, with strong Treasury involvement. We will also develop and publish a new National Security Strategy. 	<p>A new National Security Strategy and a Strategic Defence and Security Review, overseen by the National Security Council and closely related to the Spending Review, were completed and published in October 2010. We have been reporting annually to Parliament on their implementation in accordance with our commitments.</p> <p>We also published the revised UK Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) in July 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will urgently review Control Orders, as part of a wider review of counter-terrorist legislation, measures and programmes. We will seek to find a practical way to allow the use of intercept evidence in court. 	<p>The Control Orders regime was reviewed as part of a wider review of the most controversial and sensitive counter-terrorism and security powers. As a result of the review's recommendations, the Control Orders regime was repealed and replaced by the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIMs) Act, which was enacted on 14 December 2011.</p> <p>We have undertaken a review of intercept as evidence (the balance of advantage, cost and risk of legally viable approaches). Initial conclusions have been agreed by Ministers, the Advisory Group of Privy Councillors and the interception community. Further work is being done to gather evidence on international comparisons and the availability of technology to mitigate operational burdens.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will deny public funds to any group that has recently espoused or incited violence or hatred. We will proscribe such organisations, subject to the advice of the police and security and intelligence agencies. 	<p>The <i>Prevent Strategy</i>, published in June 2011, committed to stricter monitoring to ensure that funding from central or local government does not reach groups that have an extremist ideology or support terrorist-related activity.</p> <p>Since May 2010, the following organisations have been proscribed: Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (January 2011), Muslims Against Crusades (November 2011), previously known as Al Muhajiroun, Indian Mujahideen (July 2012) and Ansaru (November 2012).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We believe that Britain should be able to deport foreign nationals who threaten our security to countries where there are verifiable guarantees that they will not be tortured. We will seek to extend these guarantees to more countries. 	<p>The Government remains committed to strengthening the UK's ability to deport foreign national terrorists in a manner that is consistent with our legal and human rights obligations. The Government is seeking to extend the range of countries that may provide bilateral assurances of safety on return, prioritising those with the most nationals engaged in terrorism-related activity in the UK or which are judged the most likely to do so. We now have bilateral agreements in place with Algeria, Jordan, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Morocco, and have discussed the scope for agreements with a number of other countries. We are continuing to make progress in the courts towards the deportation of a number of foreign nationals on national security grounds.</p> <p>Between April 2010 and March 2012, 959 dangerous people were extradited from the UK. A group of five dangerous individuals, including Abu Hamza, were extradited to the US in October 2012.</p>

Chapter 22: NHS

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will guarantee that health spending increases in real terms in each year of this Parliament, while recognising the impact this decision will have on other departments. 	<p>We have provided the NHS with a real-terms increase in its budget in 2011/12 and for each subsequent year of this Parliament. This amounts to an increase of £12.7 billion.</p> <p>In 2011/12, compared with 2010/11, spending on the NHS increased by £2.5 billion in cash terms or 0.1 per cent in real terms.</p> <p>Spending on front-line NHS services has increased by £3.4 billion in cash terms (or 3.5 per cent) compared with last year.</p> <p>In 2011/12, the NHS saved £1.5 billion compared with 2010/11 by being more efficient. Bureaucracy was cut by £1.1 billion and expenditure on IT projects was reduced by £400 million.</p> <p>In the 2010 Spending Review settlement, the Government provided the NHS with a real-terms increase in its budget of 0.1 per cent in 2011/12 and for each of the three subsequent years.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will stop the top-down reorganisations of the NHS that have got in the way of patient care. We are committed to reducing duplication and the resources spent on administration, and diverting these resources back to front-line care. 	<p>The measures contained within the Health and Social Care Act 2012 will help deliver better health, better care and better value for money, encouraging greater focus on preventing ill health and empowering local communities to plan services according to local priorities. The modernisation will help the health service to develop from a system of management control to a system where power and decision-making is devolved to the most appropriate level, and has also enabled us to make substantial administrative savings.</p> <p>There are fewer managers and more doctors in the NHS since the 2010 General Election. The number of people waiting longer than 26 and 52 weeks to start treatment is at its lowest level since records began.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will significantly cut the number of health quangos. 	<p>We published a review of Arm's Length Bodies and took powers in the 2012 Health and Social Care Act to abolish identified Arm's Length Bodies. Of the 18 existing Department of Health Arm's Length Bodies, 10 were retained and eight were abolished or their functions were transferred elsewhere in the system.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will cut the cost of NHS administration by a third and transfer resources to support doctors and nurses on the front line. 	<p>The NHS delivered cumulative administration savings of £1.4 billion by the end of 2011/12, expected to rise to £2.7 billion by the end of 2012/13.</p> <p>The NHS delivered faster administration reductions than expected at the time of the revised impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Act 2012. These faster reductions mean savings over the course of this Parliament have increased from £4.5 billion to £5.6 billion. This allows more spending on front-line services.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will stop the centrally dictated closure of A&E and maternity wards, so that people have better access to local services. 	<p>In July 2010, the Secretary of State for Health set out four key tests for service change, which are designed to build confidence within the service, with patients and communities.</p> <p>The tests were set out in the revised Operating Framework for 2010/11 and require existing and future reconfiguration proposals to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support from GP commissioners; strengthened public and patient engagement; clarity on the clinical evidence base; and consistency with current and prospective patient choice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will strengthen the power of GPs as patients' expert guides through the health system by enabling them to commission care on their behalf. 	<p>All 211 CCGs in England are progressing as planned through four waves of authorisation in preparation for 1 April 2013.</p> <p>The first wave of 34 CCGs have now received their authorisation decisions with the final wave due to receive their decisions at the beginning of March 2013.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that there is a stronger voice for patients locally through directly elected individuals on the boards of their local primary care trust (PCT). The remainder of the PCT's board will be appointed by the relevant local authority or authorities, and the Chief Executive and principal officers will be appointed by the Secretary of State on the advice of the new independent NHS board. This will ensure the right balance between locally accountable individuals and technical expertise. 	<p>In light of the abolition of PCTs, we are ensuring greater democratic legitimacy in healthcare through the transferral of responsibility for public health to local authorities. We are also introducing Health and Wellbeing Boards (within local authorities), which will set the overall strategies for healthcare in their localities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local PCT will act as a champion for patients and commission those residual services that are best undertaken at a wider level, rather than directly by GPs. It will also take responsibility for improving public health for people in their area, working closely with the local authority and other local organisations. 	<p>The introduction of Health and Wellbeing Boards will bring together local health and care organisations with local authorities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a local authority has concerns about a significant proposed closure of local services, for example an A&E department, it will have the right to challenge health organisations, and refer the case to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. The Panel would then provide advice to the Secretary of State for Health. 	<p>In the 2012 Act we made changes to the regulation-making powers in the NHS Act 2006 around health scrutiny. In future, regulations will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> confer health scrutiny functions on the local authority itself, rather than on an overview and scrutiny committee specifically; and extend the scope of health scrutiny to 'relevant NHS bodies' and 'relevant health service providers'.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give every patient the right to choose to register with the GP they want, without being restricted by where they live. 	<p>A pilot is currently running in four PCT areas that allows patients to register or receive a consultation with a GP practice of their choice. Practices in these PCT areas are able to join the pilots on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>An evaluation of the pilots is due in the summer of 2013. The results of the evaluation will inform future arrangements.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will develop a 24/7 urgent care service in every area of England, including GP out-of-hours services, and ensure every patient can access a local GP. We will make care more accessible by introducing a single number for every kind of urgent care and by using technology to help people communicate with their doctors. 	<p>Pilots for a single number (111) were introduced in August 2010. Roll-out of the single number service has begun, with the vast majority of the remaining areas of the country now working towards launching the service by the end of March 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will renegotiate the GP contract and incentivise ways of improving access to primary care in disadvantaged areas. 	<p>The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning primary care at a local level and ensuring that there is sufficient access to services for all patients.</p> <p>Proposed changes to the GP contract for 2013/14 have been outlined by the Secretary of State for Health.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make the NHS work better by extending best practice on improving discharge from hospital, maximising the number of day care operations, reducing delays prior to operations, and where possible enabling community access to care and treatments. 	<p>We have maintained stable waiting times and are sharing examples of hospital best practice.</p> <p>We have used the NHS Tariff to ensure that hospitals continue to care for patients beyond discharge and so reduce the level of re-admissions within 30 days.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will help elderly people live at home for longer through solutions such as home adaptations and community support programmes. 	<p>We have established a new capital fund, worth up to £300 million over five years, to support the development of more specialised housing for older and disabled people.</p> <p>In 2011/12, the Department of Health has also directed an additional £20 million to the Disabled Facilities Grant, which will be spent at a local level adapting people's homes. In 2012/13, this additional funding increased to £40 million.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will prioritise dementia research within the health research and development budget. 	<p>We believe that the UK can be a world leader in dementia care and research, and the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia aims to drive up the quality of care, focusing on three areas: improving health and care; creating dementia-friendly communities that understand how to help; and promoting better research.</p> <p>We will more than double funding for dementia research, rising from £26.6 million in 2009/10 to £66.3 million in 2014/15.</p> <p>The Dementia Challenge progress report was published in November 2012, alongside the announcement of a number of measures as part of the next phase of the Challenge. These included £9.6 million to expand the UK Biobank.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will seek to stop foreign healthcare professionals working in the NHS unless they have passed robust language and competence tests. 	<p>We are currently consulting on regulations that will strengthen the role of responsible officers for doctors to ensure that checks are undertaken on their language knowledge. We remain committed to legislating to strengthen the General Medical Council's powers to enable it where concerns arise to take action more effectively against doctors who cannot speak English properly. Furthermore, we are also actively pursuing reforms to European legislation to ensure that an effective system of checks can be applied on all healthcare professionals in the UK.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctors and nurses need to be able to use their professional judgement about what is right for patients and we will support this by giving front-line staff more control of their working environment. 	<p>The modernisation, set out by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, will help the health service to develop from a system of management control to a system where power and control are devolved to the most appropriate level. Change will be led by clinicians and local service providers.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will strengthen the role of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) so it becomes an effective quality inspectorate. We will develop Monitor into an economic regulator that will oversee aspects of access, competition and price-setting in the NHS. 	<p>The Health and Social Care Act 2012 confirmed our commitment to ensuring that the CQC is a strong and effective regulator of health and social care providers. In particular, the Act put in place the legislation required to establish HealthWatch England as an independent voice for service users and the public within the CQC. It also established a new joint licensing arrangement between the CQC and Monitor.</p> <p>In early 2012, the Department of Health carried out a Performance and Capability Review on the CQC. This concluded that the CQC had made good progress in implementing the registration system, and set out an action plan to build on this and strengthen it further.</p> <p>Building on this, the CQC has carried out a strategic review, and its resulting consultation on a new strategy, combined with the appointment of a new Chair and Chief Executive, places it in a strong position for the future.</p> <p>The 2012 Act sets out Monitor's new regulatory powers. Monitor's main duty will be to protect and promote patients' interests. This will be done through the licensing of providers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish an independent NHS board to allocate resources and provide commissioning guidelines. 	<p>The NHS Commissioning Board is established as an executive non-departmental body and it will take on its full statutory powers in April 2013.</p> <p>The mandate to the NHS Commissioning Board was published in November 2012. The NHS Mandate is structured around five key areas where the Government expects the NHS Commissioning Board to make improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> preventing people from dying prematurely; enhancing quality of life for people with long-term conditions; helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury; ensuring that people have a positive experience of care; and treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm. <p>Through the Mandate, the NHS will be measured, for the first time, by how well it achieves the things that really matter to people.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will enable patients to rate hospitals and doctors according to the quality of care they received, and we will require hospitals to be open about mistakes and always tell patients if something has gone wrong. 	<p>A 'Friends and Family' test has been introduced, asking whether patients would recommend where they were treated, alongside the existing questions in the NHS Staff Survey about whether staff would want their friends and relatives to be treated in their own hospital. The Mandate sets out that every patient will be able to give feedback on the quality of their care, in the following stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from April 2013 for acute hospital inpatients and A&E patients; from October 2013 for women who use maternity services; and as soon as possible after October 2013, for all those using NHS services. <p>We have created regulations that mean the NHS Commissioning Board must contractually require patients are told when they have been significantly harmed during their healthcare.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will measure our success on the health results that really matter – such as improving cancer and stroke survival rates or reducing hospital infections. 	<p>The Government has published outcome frameworks for the NHS, public health and adult social care. This is to ensure a new focus on outcomes rather than process-based targets. The Secretary of State's annual report 2011/12 sets out that the NHS has performed well during 2011/12. It has maintained or improved performance against a range of quality indicators set out in the NHS Operating Framework.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will publish detailed data about the performance of healthcare providers online, so everyone will know who is providing a good service and who is falling behind. 	<p>We committed to sponsoring the provision of a comprehensive online 'portal' to bring together the best of the relevant information on health, public health and care and support.</p> <p>Data is already available on the NHS Choices website and on the CQC's website, as well as on individual providers' websites.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will put patients in charge of making decisions about their care, including control of their health records. 	<p>We published the NHS information strategy, <i>The power of information</i>, and committed to giving all NHS patients secure online access, where they wish it, to their personal GP records by 2015.</p> <p>By 2015, all general practices will be expected to make available electronic booking and cancelling of appointments, ordering of repeat prescriptions, communication with the practice and access to records to anyone registered with the practice that requests these services.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will create a Cancer Drugs Fund to enable patients to access the cancer drugs their doctors think will help them, paid for using money saved by the NHS through our pledge to stop the rise in Employer National Insurance contributions from April 2011. 	<p>The £650 million Cancer Drugs Fund has helped more than 25,000 people, between October 2010 and October 2012, to access drugs that would have previously been denied to them.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform NICE and move to a system of value-based pricing, so that all patients can access the drugs and treatments their doctors think they need. 	<p>The Department of Health has been working closely with NICE and with partners in the pharmaceutical industry to develop a value-based pricing system.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce a new dentistry contract that will focus on achieving good dental health and increasing access to NHS dentistry, with an additional focus on the oral health of schoolchildren. 	<p>We have established the pilot programme to test out elements of a new dental contract, and published initial findings in the autumn of 2012. We will continue to work closely with the NHS Commissioning Board to develop a new dental contract.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will provide £10 million a year beyond 2011 from within the budget of the Department of Health to support children's hospices in their vital work. And so that proper support for the most sick children and adults can continue in the setting of their choice, we will introduce a new per-patient funding system for all hospices and providers of palliative care. 	<p>We announced in March 2012 that 40 children's hospices received a share of the Department of Health's annual £10 million Children's Hospice Grant.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will encourage NHS organisations to work better with their local police forces to clamp down on anyone who is aggressive and abusive to staff. 	<p>A national programme is in place, with funding to support delivery of this commitment. We have launched supporting resources including an e-learning toolkit for practitioners, case studies and guidance for Community Safety Partnerships. Funding for 2012/13 is being used to promote the Violence Reduction Nurse model across England. A baseline audit due to be published in January 2013 suggests that one-third of areas are sharing information to a high standard; we will need to build on this good practice as we move forward.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are committed to the continuous improvement of the quality of services to patients, and to achieving this through much greater involvement of independent and voluntary providers. 	<p>The extension of choice of provider in community services through Any Qualified Provider allows patients to choose any healthcare provider (including independent and voluntary providers) that meets rigorous quality requirements, NHS terms and conditions and NHS prices.</p> <p>This extension of choice and competition will drive continuous quality improvement.</p> <p>We have set up the Nursing and Care Quality Forum to advise on best practices in nursing care.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give every patient the power to choose any healthcare provider that meets NHS standards, within NHS prices. This includes independent, voluntary and community sector providers. 	<p>We consulted on proposals to extend choice to Any Qualified Provider and in 2011 published operational guidance to the NHS to deliver the commitment.</p> <p>We began a phased extension of choice of provider through Any Qualified Provider in community and mental health services from April 2012. Greater choice will be available in at least three services in all commissioning areas this year.</p> <p>In future, commissioners will decide which services to extend this choice in, where it is in patients' interests.</p>

Chapter 23: Pensions and Older People

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will restore the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011, with a ‘triple guarantee’ that pensions are raised by the higher of earnings, prices or 2.5 per cent. 	<p>We introduced the ‘triple lock’ and the biggest-ever cash increase in the basic state pension of £5.30 a week in 2012 – a rise of 5.2 per cent.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will commit to establishing an independent commission to review the long-term affordability of public sector pensions, while protecting accrued rights. 	<p>We commissioned Lord Hutton of Furness to undertake a fundamental structural review of public service pension provision. In the 2011 Budget, the Government accepted Lord Hutton’s recommendations as the basis for consultation with public sector workers, unions and others.</p> <p>The Public Service Pensions Bill moved to the House of Lords for second reading in December 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will phase out the default retirement age and hold a review to set the date at which the state pension age starts to rise to 66, although it will not be sooner than 2016 for men and 2020 for women. We will end the rules requiring compulsory annuitisation at 75. 	<p>We phased out the default retirement age in October 2011.</p> <p>The Pensions Act 2011 also brought forward the increase in state pension age to 66 by 2020, and brought the women’s state pension age in line with men’s to 65 by 2018, so that the state pension remains sustainable for the future. The Government legislated to ensure that no women would experience more than an 18-month increase to their state pension age in comparison with the previous timetable.</p> <p>We legislated to end compulsory annuitisation at 75 in the Finance Act 2011.</p> <p>We will publish a White Paper on a new single tier pension, outlining our radical reform of the state pension system, which will reduce complexity and improve incentives to save.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will implement the Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman's recommendation to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policy holders, through an independent payment scheme, for their relative loss as a consequence of regulatory failure. 	<p>We set out in May 2011 how the Equitable Life Payment Scheme will work, and have begun payments to policy holders.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will explore the potential to give people greater flexibility in accessing part of their personal pension fund early. 	<p>We issued a call for evidence on early access to pension savings in December 2010, and published a summary of responses in 2011. The Government acted to provide individuals more flexibility on to how to use pensions savings by removing the need to annuitise at age 75.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will protect key benefits for older people such as the winter fuel allowance, free TV licences, free bus travel, and free eye tests and prescriptions. 	<p>We have protected key benefits for older people throughout this Parliament. These include the winter fuel allowance, free TV licences, free bus travel and free eye tests and prescriptions. We have also permanently increased the level of cold weather payments.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will simplify the rules and regulations relating to pensions to help reinvigorate occupational pensions, encouraging companies to offer high-quality pensions to all employees, and we will work with business and the industry to support auto enrolment. 	<p>We successfully launched auto enrolment on time, while ensuring that small businesses (fewer than 50 employees) are not required to start auto enrolling employees until June 2015.</p> <p>We published our occupational pensions strategy paper – <i>Reinvigorating workplace pensions</i> – in November 2012.</p>

Chapter 24: Political Reform

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish five-year fixed-term Parliaments. We will put a binding motion before the House of Commons stating that the next general election will be held on the first Thursday of May 2015. Following this motion, we will legislate to make provision for fixed-term Parliaments of five years. This legislation will also provide for dissolution if 55 per cent or more of the House votes in favour. 	<p>We passed the Fixed-term Parliaments Act in September 2011, which set a five-year fixed term for Parliament and the mechanism for early dissolution of Parliament. The date of the next general election is 7 May 2015.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will bring forward a Referendum Bill on electoral reform, which includes provision for the introduction of the Alternative Vote in the event of a positive result in the referendum, as well as for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. We will whip both Parliamentary parties in both Houses to support a simple majority referendum on the Alternative Vote, without prejudice to the positions parties will take during such a referendum. 	<p>We passed the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act in March 2011, which included provision for a referendum on the UK Parliamentary voting system and changes to the rules for setting constituency boundaries.</p> <p>A referendum on the voting system was held on 5 May 2011, the outcome of which was in favour of the continuation of the current first-past-the-post system.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will bring forward early legislation to introduce a power of recall, allowing voters to force a by-election where an MP is found to have engaged in serious wrongdoing and having had a petition calling for a by-election signed by 10 per cent of his or her constituents. 	<p>We published a White Paper and draft Bill in December 2011.</p> <p>The Political and Constitutional Reform Committee conducted pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Bill and published a report on 21 June 2012. The Government provided an initial response and is now considering the detailed recommendations of the report.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish a committee to bring forward proposals for a wholly or mainly elected upper chamber on the basis of proportional representation. The committee will come forward with a draft motion by December 2010. It is likely that this will advocate single long terms of office. It is also likely that there will be a grandfathering system for current Peers. In the interim, Lords appointments will be made with the objective of creating a second chamber that is reflective of the share of the vote secured by the political parties in the last general election. 	<p>We published a draft Bill and White Paper on House of Lords reform in May 2011. These were subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by an ad hoc Joint Committee.</p> <p>The Government responded to the Joint Committee's recommendations and introduced the House of Lords Reform Bill on 27 June 2012. The Government took the decision not to proceed with the Bill following second reading in the House of Commons and the lack of support for the necessary timetabling motion.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will bring forward the proposals of the Wright Committee for reform to the House of Commons in full – starting with the proposed committee for management of backbench business. A House Business Committee, to consider government business, will be established by the third year of the Parliament. 	<p>The Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into the implementation of the Wright Reforms, which the Government will engage with as usual.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reduce electoral fraud by speeding up the implementation of individual voter registration. 	<p>We published a White Paper and a draft Bill setting out our proposals on individual voter registration in June 2011. Alongside this, we carried out data-matching pilots during 2011.</p> <p>The Political and Constitutional Reform Committee carried out pre-legislative scrutiny of the proposals and published a report in early November 2011.</p> <p>We introduced the Electoral Registration and Administration Bill in May 2012. It has completed passage through the House of Commons and is now being considered by the House of Lords. It is expected to receive Royal Assent early in 2013.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish a commission to consider the 'West Lothian question'. 	<p>The Commission on the consequences of devolution for the House of Commons was established in January 2012.</p> <p>The Commission is considering how the House of Commons should best deal with legislation that affects only part of the United Kingdom, following the devolution of certain legislative powers to the Scottish Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the National Assembly for Wales. It is due to report by the end of the current Parliamentary session.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will prevent the possible misuse of Parliamentary privilege by MPs accused of serious wrongdoing. 	<p>We published a Green Paper on Parliamentary privilege in April 2012. A joint committee to consider this Green Paper is expected to be established shortly.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will cut the perks and bureaucracy associated with Parliament. 	<p>We have transferred responsibility for MPs' pay and conditions to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA).</p> <p>IPSA consulted on proposals for the fundamental reform of MPs' pay and conditions between October and December 2012, and expects to publish the results of this consultation in spring 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will consult with the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority [IPSA] on how to move away from the generous final-salary pension system for MPs. 	<p>We transferred responsibility for determining and administering the pension scheme for MPs to IPSA on 24 October 2011.</p> <p>This followed a unanimous resolution that the House of Commons supported the approach to public service pension reform set out in the final report of the Independent Public Service Pension Commission chaired by Lord Hutton of Furness (the Hutton Report). It also resolved that IPSA should introduce, by 2015, a new pension scheme for MPs that is informed by the Commission's findings and their subsequent application to other public service pension schemes.</p> <p>The resolution of the House also invited IPSA to increase contribution rates for MPs from 1 April 2012, in line with changes in pension contribution rates for other public service schemes. IPSA consulted on proposals for the fundamental reform of MPs' pensions between October and December 2012, and expects to publish the results of this consultation in spring 2013.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will fund 200 all-postal primaries over this Parliament, targeted at seats which have not changed hands for many years. These funds will be allocated to all political parties with seats in Parliament that they take up, in proportion to their share of the total vote in the last general election. 	<p>Ministers are considering the available policy options, in light of the boundary review process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that any petition that secures 100,000 signatures will be eligible for formal debate in Parliament. The petition with the most signatures will enable members of the public to table a bill eligible to be voted on in Parliament. 	<p>We established the e-petitions website, and all petitions that reach 100,000 signatures are forwarded by the Leader of the House of Commons to the Backbench Business Committee to decide on the allocation of debating time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce a new 'public reading stage' for bills to give the public an opportunity to comment on proposed legislation online, and a dedicated 'public reading day' within a bill's committee stage where those comments will be debated by the committee scrutinising the bill. 	<p>We piloted the new 'public reading stage' in the passage of the Protection of Freedoms Act and the Small Charitable Donations Act.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will improve the Civil Service, and make it easier to reward the best civil servants and remove the least effective. 	<p>We published the Civil Service Reform Plan in June 2012 which set out the first steps in our programme to reform the Civil Service. As part of this we are improving the performance management of the Civil Service so that good performers are recognised and rewarded and poor performance is acted upon.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform the Civil Service Compensation Scheme to bring it into line with practice in the private sector. 	<p>We implemented these reforms in December 2010.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will put a limit on the number of special advisers. 	<p>The numbers of special advisers Ministers can appoint are set out in paragraph 3.2 of the <i>Ministerial Code</i>, published in May 2010.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce extra support for people with disabilities who want to become MPs, councillors or other elected officials. 	<p>We have consulted on and introduced proposals to provide a £1 million fund for political candidates with disabilities to cover costs, and encouraged all political parties to improve their internal disability policies.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will open up Whitehall recruitment by publishing central government job vacancies online. 	<p>We have published all vacancies on a central website since October 2011.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will publish details of every UK project that receives over £25,000 of EU funds. 	<p>We publish on the web details of UK recipients of funds from the Common Agricultural Policy and recipients in England from the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and the European Fisheries Fund. The European Commission manages the distribution of research and development and competitiveness and innovation funds in the UK. It publishes details of UK recipients on its website.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue. 	<p>This provision was included in the Localism Bill, however, the provision was removed following opposition in the House of Lords during the passage of the Bill. Notwithstanding, the Localism Act has introduced local referendums in relation to levels of council tax and on neighbourhood planning.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will stop plans to impose supplementary business rates on firms if a majority of the firms affected do not give their consent. 	<p>We included these powers in the Localism Act 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give residents the power to veto excessive Council Tax increases. 	<p>We published a consultation on this issue in July 2010. Following the outcome of that consultation, we included these powers in the Localism Act 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to promote peace, stability and economic prosperity in Northern Ireland, standing firmly behind the agreements negotiated and institutions they establish. We will work to bring Northern Ireland back into the mainstream of UK politics, including producing a government paper examining potential mechanisms for changing the corporation tax rate in Northern Ireland. 	<p>We published a consultation paper on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy in March 2011. We responded to this consultation in December 2011 and established a Ministerial working group made up of Ministers from the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive. The group recently reported to the Prime Minister in November 2012.</p> <p>In February 2011 we announced a £200 million, four-year package of support for the national security work of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in February 2011.</p> <p>We published a consultation on key issues relating to the way the Northern Ireland Assembly works, including its size and length of term.</p> <p>In September 2011 in order to support air travel to and from Northern Ireland the Government announced the devolution of long haul air passenger duty to the Northern Ireland Executive.</p> <p>The Government, working with the Northern Ireland Executive, agreed a resolution of the crisis created by the collapse of the Presbyterian Mutual Society, resulting in full compensation for those with savings of less than £20,000.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will implement the proposals of the Calman Commission and introduce a referendum on further Welsh devolution. 	<p>We passed the Scotland Act 2012, which is the biggest fiscal devolution in 300 years of UK history. Following the election of an SNP majority Government in May 2011, the Government agreed the basis of a legal, fair and decisive referendum on independence for Scotland, to be held before the end of 2014.</p> <p>We held a referendum on further devolution in Wales in March 2011 and, following a 'yes' vote in that referendum, introduced new measures to allow the Welsh Assembly to pass primary legislation in all devolved areas without the prior consent of the UK Parliament.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review the control and use of accumulated and future revenues from the Fossil Fuel Levy in Scotland. 	<p>In November 2011 we agreed with the Scottish Government the future control and use of the Fossil Fuel Levy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recognise the concerns expressed by the Holtham Commission on the system of devolution funding. However, at this time, the priority must be to reduce the deficit and therefore any change to the system must await the stabilisation of the public finances. Depending on the outcome of the forthcoming referendum, we will establish a process similar to the Calman Commission for the Welsh Assembly. We will take forward the Sustainable Homes Legislative Competence Order. 	<p>We established a Commission on Devolution in Wales (the 'Silk Commission') in October 2011. The Commission will consider the present financial and constitutional arrangements in Wales. It reported on Part 1 of its remit (financial accountability) in November 2012. It will report on Part 2 of its remit (powers of the National Assembly for Wales) by spring 2014.</p> <p>We took forward the Sustainable Homes Legislative Competence Order in July 2010.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make the running of government more efficient by introducing enhanced Departmental Boards which will form collective operational leadership of government departments. 	<p>We introduced a protocol for the Departmental Boards, to include Ministers, civil servants and non-executives from outside government. This was published by the Cabinet Office. The remit of the Boards is to meet every six weeks or so, agreeing the departmental business plan and progress against it.</p>

Chapter 25: Public Health

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give local communities greater control over public health budgets with payment by the outcomes they achieve in improving the health of local residents. 	<p>We have legislated as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to devolve control of public health budgets to local areas. The first public health allocations will be published in January 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give GPs greater incentives to tackle public health problems. 	<p>We have published the Public Health Outcomes Framework so that local areas can judge their progress in tackling public health issues.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will investigate ways of improving access to preventative healthcare for those in disadvantaged areas to help tackle health inequalities. 	<p>We have published the Public Health Outcomes Framework so that local areas can judge their progress in tackling public health issues.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure greater access to talking therapies. 	<p>We published <i>Talking therapies: A four-year plan of action</i> in February 2011, with an investment of about £400 million over four years to make a choice of psychological therapies available for those who need them in England, and start to invest in provision for children and young people, older people, people with long-term physical healthcare problems and those with severe mental illness.</p> <p>The Government announced in October 2011 that its investment in psychological therapies for children and young people with mental health problems would be £32 million; the Government has since increased this to £54 million.</p>

Chapter 26: Schools

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will promote the reform of schools in order to ensure that new providers can enter the state school system in response to parental demand; that all schools have greater freedom over the curriculum; and that all schools are held properly to account. 	<p>We have introduced a system of Free Schools to allow new providers to enter the state school system, and revised the school league tables to better hold schools to account.</p> <p>On the curriculum, we are developing a new, slimmer but more rigorous National Curriculum, with advice from an expert panel, focused on the core knowledge that children need. We have published draft programmes of study for primary English, maths and science and will consult on the revised National Curriculum early in 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will fund a significant premium for disadvantaged pupils from outside the schools budget by reductions in spending elsewhere. 	<p>We have introduced the Pupil Premium, allocated to schools for pupils eligible for free school meals and in care. In 2011/12 the Pupil Premium was £448 per pupil – an investment of £625 million. In 2012/13 this has risen to £623 per pupil and an overall investment of £1.25 billion.</p> <p>In 2012/13 we are also investing up to £50 million to support a summer school programme to help the most disadvantaged pupils make the transition from primary to secondary school.</p> <p>We have also introduced a premium for children whose parents are currently serving in the Armed Forces; this was £200 in 2011/12 and rose to £250 for 2012/13.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give parents, teachers, charities and local communities the chance to set up new schools, as part of our plans to allow new providers to enter the state school system in response to parental demand. 	<p>We have introduced a system of Free Schools. The first 24 Free Schools opened in September 2011 and a total of 80 have now opened. 102 schools are due to open in September 2013 and beyond.</p> <p>We have approved Free School applications from teachers, existing schools and educational organisations, as well as parent, community, charity and local groups.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support Teach First, create Teach Now to build on the Graduate Teacher Programme, and seek other ways to improve the quality of the teaching profession. 	<p>We have supported the expansion of Teach First across England, in both primary and secondary education. Teach First will train 2,000 exceptional graduates as teachers by 2015/16 – four times the number who took part in 2010.</p> <p>We have improved the quality of entrants to the teaching profession by launching bursaries of up to £20,000 to attract the best graduates to train as teachers and introducing prestigious scholarships in maths, physics, chemistry and computer science. We have also ensured that those graduating with less than a 2:2 will no longer receive government funding for teacher training.</p> <p>We have announced the creation of School Direct, a school-led teacher training programme, which includes a strand for the training of high-calibre career changers to replace the Graduate Teacher Programme.</p> <p>We have instigated a new £2 million National Scholarship Fund to help existing teachers in England to develop their skills and help them to deepen their subject knowledge.</p> <p>We have designated 217 Teaching Schools, which are outstanding schools that have responsibility for working with other schools to develop world-class teaching and improve standards.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform the existing rigid national pay and conditions rules to give schools greater freedoms to pay good teachers more and deal with poor performance. 	<p>The School Teachers' Review Body has made recommendations on liberalising the system of teachers' pay, which we propose to accept – subject to consultation. The Department for Education has also amended teacher appraisal regulations, and provided a model capability policy that schools can follow for teachers about whose performance there are serious concerns.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will help schools tackle bullying in schools, especially homophobic bullying. 	<p>We have provided updated guidance on the Department for Education's website on tackling all types of bullying (including in cases of bullying on the grounds of sexual orientation) for schools, headteachers and governors.</p> <p>We have given teachers stronger search powers (via the Education Act 2011), including a specific power to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images (or files) on electronic devices, including mobile phones, as a means of tackling cyber-bullying.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will simplify the regulation of standards in education and target inspection on areas of failure. 	<p>We have simplified the Ofsted inspection framework to focus on four key areas.</p> <p>Schools are no longer required to produce a bureaucratic self-assessment and those that are judged to be outstanding will be inspected less frequently. The 'satisfactory' judgement has been replaced with the clearer 'requires improvement', to drive the standards we want to see.</p> <p>Schools that require improvement will be inspected more regularly (they will be re-inspected within 1–2 years, rather than every three years as previously). If a school is found to require improvement on two consecutive inspections, it is expected to be placed in special measures at the next inspection if it has not improved.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will give anonymity to teachers accused by pupils and take other measures to protect against false accusations. 	<p>We legislated as part of the Education Act 2011 to place reporting restrictions on alleged offences committed by teachers.</p> <p>We have provided updated guidance for schools on dealing with allegations of abuse, and research into the scale of allegations against teachers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will seek to attract more top science and maths graduates to be teachers. 	<p>We provided £2 million in 2012/13 to offer significant bursaries of up to £20,000 to attract the best graduates to become science and maths teachers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will publish performance data on educational providers, as well as past exam papers. 	<p>We have improved school performance tables to include much more data than ever before, bringing together information on attainment, finance, workforce, inspection and attendance into one easily accessible site. We are developing proposals to publish past exam papers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will create more flexibility in the exams systems so that state schools can offer qualifications such as the IGCSE. 	<p>We have enabled state schools to offer the IGCSE.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform league tables so that schools are able to focus on, and demonstrate, the progress of children of all abilities. 	<p>We have reformed Key Stage 4 league tables so that only GCSE, IGCSE, AS Levels and valued vocational qualifications count. We introduced the English Baccalaureate to incentivise schools to teach a range of academic subjects.</p> <p>From 2011, schools performance tables have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how well disadvantaged children perform in each school; whether previously high-, middle- and low-achieving pupils continue to make progress; and how many pupils at each school are entered into the core academic subjects that make up the English Baccalaureate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give heads and teachers the powers they need to ensure discipline in the classroom and promote good behaviour. 	<p>We introduced wider search powers for teachers under the Education Act 2011 (including a general search power covering anything banned by school rules or which is harmful, and a specific power to search for tobacco, pornography and fireworks).</p> <p>We published a checklist on the basics of classroom management developed by the Government's expert adviser on behaviour, Charlie Taylor.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We believe the most vulnerable children deserve the very highest quality of care. We will improve diagnostic assessment for schoolchildren, prevent the unnecessary closure of special schools, and remove the bias towards inclusion. 	<p>We published a Green Paper and Next Steps document on special educational needs, setting out plans to introduce a new birth-to-25 assessment process and single plan, personal budgets for families and the joint commissioning of special educational needs services. The Green Paper also sets out our intention to give parents a real choice of school – either a mainstream or special school – and to remove the bias towards inclusion.</p> <p>We have published draft provisions for pre-legislative scrutiny by the Education Select Committee ahead of the planned Children and Families Bill.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will improve the quality of vocational education, including increasing flexibility for 14–19 year olds and creating new Technical Academies as part of our plans to diversify schools provision. 	<p>We have accepted the recommendations of the Wolf Review of vocational education, including the recommendation that 16–19 funding be distributed on a 'per learner' rather than 'per qualification' basis for all schools and colleges from September 2013, to ensure that all learners are gaining skills that will lead to progression into a variety of jobs or further learning.</p> <p>We have opened five University Technical Colleges and 16 14–19 Studio Schools, and approved 28 University Technical Colleges and 16 Studio Schools for opening in 2013 or beyond.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will keep external assessment, but will review how Key Stage 2 tests operate in future. 	<p>We have accepted the recommendations of the Bew Review of testing, assessment and accountability at Key Stage 2, including replacing the current writing test with teacher assessment of writing composition from 2013.</p> <p>We have trialled a new Key Stage 2 test of spelling, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that all new Academies follow an inclusive admissions policy. We will work with faith groups to enable more faith schools and facilitate inclusive admissions policies in as many of these schools as possible. 	<p>We have brought into force a revised schools admissions code, including for Academies, to reduce prescription and to make it easier for popular schools to admit more pupils.</p> <p>We have allowed Academies and Free Schools to prioritise children receiving the Pupil Premium.</p>

Chapter 27: Social Action

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support the creation and expansion of mutuals, co-operatives, charities and social enterprises, and enable these groups to have much greater involvement in the running of public services. 	<p>The Government is rolling out new ‘Rights to Provide’ across public services, so that employees can request or bid to take over the services they deliver, and has launched the £10 million Mutuals Support Programme. This comprises a website, dedicated hotline and the funds to help public servants to take over and run their services as mutual organisations.</p> <p>There is growing interest in the model, with mutuals now appearing in 12 different sectors of public service delivery, and about 1,600 people each week accessing information from the Cabinet Office’s Mutuals Information Service website. The number of live public service mutuals has increased from nine in 2010 to at least 64 by the end of 2012, together delivering around £1 billion of public services.</p> <p>We have published the <i>Making it easier for civil society to work with the state</i> progress document, which brings together all of the ways in which the Government is supporting the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to deliver and shape public services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> masterclasses to support commercial skills in the sector; the Marsh Review of skills and leadership in the sector; the £20 million Social Outcomes Fund, to help finance early, preventative programmes on complex social problems; innovative ways of funding payment-by-results developed by the Centre for Social Impact Bonds; requiring commissioners to consider social value in the pre-procurement stage of services’ contracting; and the £20 million Investment Readiness Programme, to support the development of more social start-ups and social ventures in England.

Commitment	What we have done
	<p>Other measures we have put in place to support charities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the £107 million Transition Fund to support civil society organisations to adapt to a tighter funding environment; the £16.8 million Advice Services Fund to support the not-for-profit advice sector as it adapts to changes in the way it is funded; setting up Charitable Incorporated Organisations, which are a new form of charity that will make it easier for people to set up and run a charity and protect them from personal liability; the £30 million Transforming Local Infrastructure Fund to support front-line organisations; and appointing a Crown Representative to give voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations a stronger voice at the centre of government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will give public sector workers a new right to form employee-owned co-operatives and bid to take over the services they deliver. This will empower millions of public sector workers to become their own boss and help them to deliver better services. 	<p>The Cabinet Office and individual departments have been working to develop, consult on and implement policy to create and improve opportunities for staff to pursue mutualisation. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Health has implemented a Right to Provide in health and social care services, as well as pilots of adult social work practices. The Department for Education has included references in draft guidance for local authorities in youth services and Sure Start Children's Centres. The Ministry of Justice has consulted on how to support mutualisation in probation services. The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills has run pilots of Community Learning Trusts, including options for mutualisation. The Department for Communities and Local Government has introduced a Community Right to Challenge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will train a new generation of community organisers and support the creation of neighbourhood groups across the UK, especially in the most deprived areas. 	<p>As of October 2012, the Government has recruited and trained 195 Senior Community Organisers. By listening to local people, organisers have been building their networks, recruiting Volunteer Community Organisers and supporting their communities to act on the issues that matter most to them.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take a range of measures to encourage charitable giving and philanthropy. 	<p>We set up a £10 million Innovation in Giving Fund, which identifies and develops innovative platforms and approaches to giving. To date, £6.4 million of this has been allocated.</p> <p>We have worked closely with LINK to introduce ATM Giving, which allows people to donate to charity when they withdraw money. This is now available at 12,000 ATMs belonging to Bank Machine Ltd and the Royal Bank of Scotland.</p> <p>We announced in the 2011 Budget a lower rate of inheritance tax for estates where 10 per cent or more of the estate is left to charity.</p> <p>We have delivered the Small Charitable Donations Act, which will allow charities to claim a Gift Aid style payment on small cash donations for the first time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will introduce National Citizen Service. The initial flagship project will provide a programme for 16 year olds to give them a chance to develop the skills needed to be active and responsible citizens, mix with people from different backgrounds, and start getting involved in their communities. 	<p>170,000 hours of service was given by the 8,400 young people who participated in the 2011 pilot.</p> <p>In 2012, we tripled the number of young people participating in the programme.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use funds from dormant bank accounts to establish a 'Big Society Bank', which will provide new finance for neighbourhood groups, charities, social enterprises and other non-governmental bodies. 	<p>Big Society Capital (BSC) became fully operational in April 2012. It will be capitalised with up to £400 million from dormant account funds and up to £200 million from the four leading UK high street banks.</p> <p>By the end of 2012, BSC will have committed approximately £50 million through 15 investments. Among the initial investments through BSC were: money to help the long-term unemployed to set up their own businesses; support for vulnerable young people to get into employment; a community energy project; and the creation of the first-ever social stock exchange.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take a range of measures to encourage volunteering and involvement in social action, including launching a national day to celebrate and encourage social action, and make regular community service an element of Civil Service staff appraisals. 	<p>We set up the Social Action Fund to back established programmes that are creating opportunities for more people to get involved in social action. To date, we have invested more than £20 million in 40 projects.</p> <p>The Government supported and funded the Join In initiative in 2012. Inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Join In provided people across the UK with a unique opportunity to participate in local sport and volunteer in their communities. In August 2012, 6,000 events took place with over a quarter of a million participants.</p> <p>In 2012, we launched a campaign to create one million ‘friends’ for dementia sufferers. The Cabinet Office also ran three awards programmes in 2012 to recognise and encourage the best examples of social action.</p> <p>In the Civil Service, volunteering is encouraged as part of the guidance for all senior civil servants’ appraisals.</p>

Chapter 28: Social Care and Disability

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish a commission on long-term care, to report within a year. The commission will consider a range of ideas, including both a voluntary insurance scheme to protect the assets of those who go into residential care, and a partnership scheme as proposed by Derek Wanless. 	<p>We established the Dilnot Commission, which reported in 2011. The Government published in July 2012 the Care and Support White Paper, the draft Care and Support Bill and the progress report on social care funding. The measures announced include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Deferred Payments, which ensure that nobody will need to sell their home in their own (or spouse's) lifetime to pay for residential care from April 2015; and a national minimum eligibility threshold, which will make access to care more consistent, and all carers will have the right to an assessment for the first time. <p>The Government agreed that the principles of the Dilnot recommendations – financial protection through a cap on a person's lifetime care costs and an extended means test – would be the right basis for any new funding model, if a way to pay for this can be found.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will break down barriers between health and social care funding to incentivise preventative action. 	<p>The Health and Social Care Act 2012 provides the basis for better collaboration and interaction between the partners in the reformed system. Clinical Commissioning Groups, the NHS Commissioning Board and Monitor all have duties to promote integrated care. Health and Wellbeing Boards will encourage commissioners of both social care and healthcare to work in more integrated ways. The Care and Support White Paper and draft Bill emphasise the links between adult social care and the health system.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will extend the greater roll-out of personal budgets to give people and their carers more control and purchasing power. 	<p>The Care and Support White Paper sets out the Government's commitment to personal budgets. The draft Care and Support Bill places personal budgets on a statutory basis for the first time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use direct payments to carers and better community-based provision to improve access to respite care. 	<p><i>Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy</i>, published in November 2010, set out how the coalition Government will work with carers and carers' organisations. £400 million was provided over four years to give carers, including young carers, with breaks from their caring responsibilities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform Access to Work, so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need. 	<p>We increased Access to Work funding by £15 million to support another 8,000 disabled people.</p> <p>A new Pre-Employment Eligibility Letter is available via the Access to Work Contact Centres, which will help to build disabled jobseekers' confidence when applying for jobs and can be shown to prospective employers.</p> <p>The Mental Health Support Service was introduced in December 2011 to allow Access to Work to meet longer-term objectives around increasing the numbers of people with mental ill health gaining assistance from the programme.</p> <p>We have also announced that businesses with up to 49 employees will no longer pay a contribution towards the extra costs faced by disabled people in work, saving them up to £2,300 per employee who uses the fund; and that Access to Work advisers will be given more flexibility in deciding which equipment is funded through the scheme, offering more choice to disabled people in work.</p>

Chapter 29: Taxation

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase the personal allowance for income tax to help lower and middle income earners. We will announce in the first Budget a substantial increase in the personal allowance from April 2011, with the benefits focused on those with lower and middle incomes. This will be funded with the money that would have been used to pay for the increase in employee National Insurance thresholds proposed by the Conservative Party, as well as revenues from increases in Capital Gains Tax rates for non-business assets as described below. The increase in employer National Insurance thresholds proposed by the Conservatives will go ahead in order to stop the planned jobs tax. 	<p>We increased the personal tax allowance from £6,475 to £7,475 in the first Budget. This was further increased to £8,105 for 2012/13 and will increase to £9,440 for 2013/14.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will further increase the personal allowance to £10,000, making real-terms steps each year towards meeting this as a longer-term policy objective. We will prioritise this over other tax cuts, including cuts to Inheritance Tax. 	<p>We increased the personal tax allowance from £6,475 to £7,475 in the first Budget. This was further increased to £8,105 for 2012/13 and will increase to £9,440 for 2013/14.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will also ensure that provision is made for Liberal Democrat MPs to abstain on budget resolutions to introduce transferable tax allowances for married couples without prejudice to the Coalition Agreement. 	<p>We have undertaken to bring forward proposals by the end of this Parliament.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will reform the taxation of air travel by switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty, and will ensure that a proportion of any increased revenues over time will be used to help fund increases in the personal allowance. 	<p>We announced (in Budget 2011) that we would not introduce a per-plane duty, given concerns over the legality and feasibility of this approach. The Government will continue to work with our international partners on this issue to achieve a consensus.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will seek ways of taxing non-business capital gains at rates similar or close to those applied to income, with generous exemptions for entrepreneurial business activities. 	<p>We introduced a higher rate of capital gains tax at 28 per cent. We have also increased the exemptions for entrepreneurial business activities. The individual lifetime limit for entrepreneurs' relief has been raised to £10 million. Entrepreneurs' relief has been extended to shares acquired through the exercise of Enterprise Management Incentives options. Gains realised on the disposal of assets in 2012/13 that are reinvested in shares that qualify for Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme income tax relief are eligible for capital gains tax relief. A capital gains tax relief for the disposal of Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme shares has also been introduced.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make every effort to tackle tax avoidance, including detailed development of Liberal Democrat proposals. 	<p>We commissioned a study from Graham Aaronson QC and accepted his recommendation that the Government should introduce a General Anti-Abuse Rule. The General Anti-Abuse Rule is included in the draft legislation for the Finance Bill 2013 and will take effect from Royal Assent.</p> <p>We ran a consultation on tax avoidance schemes in summer 2012 and in the Autumn Statement 2012 we announced plans to consult on significant new information disclosure and penalty powers to target the promoters of abusive tax avoidance schemes. We also announced plans to strengthen the existing Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes regime to improve the information HM Revenue & Customs obtains about avoidance schemes and the people who use them, and widen the range of schemes required to be disclosed</p> <p>In the 2012 Budget we announced a strong package of measures to tackle Stamp Duty Land Tax avoidance to ensure that owners of high-value residential property pay their fair share. We also announced a range of measures to close tax loopholes which together will bring in approximately £1 billion and protect a further £10 billion in future revenues over the next five years.</p> <p>As part of its 2010 Spending Review settlement, HM Revenue & Customs was able to reinvest £917 million of its efficiency savings into its compliance work, bringing in an additional £7 billion per annum by 2014/15. At the 2012 Autumn Statement, a further £77 million was invested in HMRC's anti-avoidance and evasion activity, helping to bring in further additional revenues of £2 billion a year by the end of 2014/15. This means that HMRC will aim to bring in total additional revenues of £22 billion per annum by 2014/15, £9 billion more than in 2010/11 – a 70 per cent increase.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase the proportion of tax revenue accounted for by environmental taxes. 	<p>As demonstrated by the Office for Budget Responsibility forecast at Autumn Statement 2012, we are on track to increase the proportion of tax revenue accounted for by environmental taxes by the end of this Parliament.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take measures to fulfil our EU treaty obligations in regard to the taxation of holiday letting that do not penalise UK-based businesses. 	<p>We legislated in the Finance Act 2011 to ensure that tax rules for furnished holiday lettings are fully compliant with European law and, at the same time, continue to provide support for commercial businesses.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will review the taxation of non-domiciled individuals.	<p>We consulted on a package of reforms to the taxation of non-domiciled individuals. The core reforms (including the introduction of a £50,000 annual charge, a new relief to encourage business investment and technical simplification to existing rules) were introduced in the Finance Bill 2012.</p>

Chapter 30: Transport

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will mandate a national recharging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. 	<p>We have allocated match-funding to consortia of businesses and public sector partners to support the installation of electric vehicle recharging infrastructure in lead places across the UK.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will grant longer rail franchises in order to give operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want – like better services, better stations, longer trains and better rolling stock. 	<p>An independent report by Richard Brown will set out recommendations on how future rail franchises should be structured in future following serious errors made by civil servants during the evaluation of tenders for the West Coast Mainline procurement. The Government will publish a detailed statement of future franchise policy once it has given these recommendations careful consideration.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reform the way decisions are made on which transport projects to prioritise, so that the benefits of low carbon proposals (including light rail schemes) are fully recognised. 	<p>We refreshed the transport appraisal system in April 2011.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make Network Rail more accountable to its customers. 	<p>We published a rail Command Paper in March 2012, setting out our vision for the railways, alongside the policies that are needed to realise that vision. Network Rail is working far more closely with operators to cut costs and improve services. It has also appointed a Public Interest Director to articulate taxpayers' interests in board discussions.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish a high speed rail network as part of our programme of measures to fulfil our joint ambitions for creating a low carbon economy. Our vision is of a truly national high speed rail network for the whole of Britain. Given financial constraints, we will have to achieve this in phases. 	<p>We have decided to take forward a national high speed rail network from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds (the 'Y network') as the best solution for enhancing rail capacity and performance on key north-south corridors between London and Scotland.</p> <p>The 'Y network' will be delivered in two phases: phase one will deliver the route between London and the West Midlands, and phase two plans to extend the line to Manchester and Leeds and Heathrow Airport. Meanwhile we have begun a detailed study to see how we can get high speed journeys further north still, towards Scotland.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support Crossrail and further electrification of the rail network. 	<p>Tunnelling is under way along the Crossrail route. On 16 July 2012 we also announced £4.2 billion of further investment in the railways, including a significant new programme of electrification in the South Wales Valleys, the electric spine from Southampton to Yorkshire and elsewhere.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will turn the rail regulator into a powerful passenger champion. 	<p>We have published a rail Command Paper and proposals for changes to the Office of Rail Regulation's regulatory functions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support sustainable travel initiatives, including the promotion of cycling and walking, and will encourage joint working between bus operators and local authorities. 	<p>We published the Local Sustainable Transport White Paper in January 2011.</p> <p>We launched a Local Sustainable Transport Fund (total £600 million), now awarded to support authorities in delivering local economic growth while cutting carbon emissions from transport. With leveraged local authority contributions, the total investment is more than £1 billion.</p> <p>We published <i>Green Light for Better Buses</i>, which sets out a series of reforms to improve local bus subsidy and regulation in England. A consultation on the proposals closed in November 2012, and we will respond to this in due course.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are committed to fair pricing for rail travel. 	<p>We launched a rail fares and ticketing review consultation, which closed on 28 June 2012. The Government is now considering its response and proposals to ensure fair pricing for rail travel, and we intend to report on this in 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work towards the introduction of a new system of HGV road user charging to ensure a fairer arrangement for UK hauliers. 	<p>We introduced the HGV Road User Levy Bill to charge HGVs weighing 12 tonnes or more, to ensure a fairer arrangement for UK hauliers to improve their competitiveness.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will stop central government funding for new fixed speed cameras and switch to more effective ways of making our roads safer, including authorising ‘drugalyser’ technology.	<p>We stopped central government funding for speed cameras.</p> <p>We announced plans for a new law against drug driving, and have included new drug driving laws in the Crime and Courts Bill.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will tackle rogue private sector wheel clampers.	<p>We introduced a new offence in the Protection of Freedoms Act to tackle private sector wheel clampers.</p>

Chapter 31: Universities and Further Education

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will seek ways to support the creation of apprenticeships, internships, work pairings, and college and workplace training places as part of our wider programme to get Britain working. 	<p>We have delivered record growth in the apprenticeships programme, with more than half a million starts last year, and growth at every age and level.</p> <p>We have introduced incentive payments of £1,500 for small employers who take on their first apprentice who is aged 16–24. We have invested £25 million to support the extension of opportunities for training at higher skill levels, which will provide more than 25,000 higher apprenticeships over the next three years.</p> <p>We commissioned an independent review of apprenticeships in England, led by Doug Richard, to ensure that they meet the needs of a changing economy, consistently deliver high-quality training and are maximising the impact of government investment. This was published on 27 November 2012, and the Government will respond in the spring of 2013.</p> <p>We introduced a £1 billion Youth Contract to tackle unemployment in 18–24 year olds. Between 2012 and 2015 it will make available: 160,000 wage incentives; a weekly meeting with a Jobcentre Plus adviser for all 18–24 year olds from month five on Jobseekers Allowance; 20,000 extra incentive payments for employers to take on 16–24 year olds as apprentices; and a total of 100,000 work experience and sector-based Work Academy places a year for 18–24 year olds.</p> <p>We have supported a new code of practice for internships, made changes to the rules for public sector internships and have continued the Graduate Talent Pool website.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will set colleges free from direct state control and abolish many of the further education quangos. Public funding should be fair and follow the choices of students. 	<p>The Education Act 2011 removed burdensome duties on colleges and conferred more power on governing bodies. We have streamlined the number of government organisations in the further education landscape, and given further education colleges (which have been reclassified as private bodies) and training providers a single Adult Skills Budget (in place of ring-fenced budgets), enabling them to respond more flexibly to demand from learners and employers. From the 2013/14 academic year, we will implement a simplified funding system to increase transparency in the way in which Government funding is allocated and reduce the burdens for further education colleges and providers, enabling them to focus more resources on responding to learner and employer demand. We have also provided for the introduction of 24+ Advanced Learning Loans from academic year 2013/14.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will await Lord Browne's final report into higher education funding, and will judge its proposals against the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – increase social mobility; – take into account the impact on student debt; – ensure a properly funded university sector; – improve the quality of teaching; – advance scholarship; and – attract a higher proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. 	<p>We published a response to the Browne Review (November 2010). We then published the Higher Education White Paper in June 2011, which set out our overall approach to delivering a strong, financially sustainable and high-quality higher education sector; promoting a better student experience; fostering social mobility and widening participation; and creating a more responsive and diverse higher education sector in which funding follows the decisions of learners.</p> <p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • created a financially sustainable system by shifting funding from teaching grants towards tuition fee income backed by student loans; • introduced a more progressive repayment mechanism; • extended tuition fee loans to eligible part-time and distance-learning students; • provided more generous support for low-income full-time students; • introduced the National Scholarship Programme, which by 2014 will provide £150 million to help improve access to higher education among the least well off young people and adults; • introduced a requirement for annual access agreements for institutions charging above £6,000 in fees;

Commitment	What we have done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developed the Key Information Set, which will give prospective students access to high-quality information about different courses and institutions, enabling them to make informed choices; enabled unrestrained recruitment at AAB grade level for 2012/13 and ABB for 2013/14, making the system more responsive to competition and student demand; reallocated 20,000 student places to institutions charging fees with an average of £7,500 in 2012/13, putting universities under pressure to provide better quality at lower cost and ensuring more accessible local provision – an additional 5,000 places will be allocated to high-quality, low-cost provision in 2013/14; and reduced the numbers criterion for university title from 4,000 higher education students to 1,000, widening the access to the ‘university’ title for smaller, high-quality providers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the response of the Government to Lord Browne’s report is one that Liberal Democrats cannot accept, then arrangements will be made to enable Liberal Democrat MPs to abstain in any vote. 	<p>Following Lord Browne’s report, in November 2010, the Government has agreed a new funding regime for higher education.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review support for part-time students in terms of loans and fees. 	<p>We have introduced loans for eligible part-time and distance-learning students to cover the full tuition costs for the first time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will publish more information about the costs, graduate earnings and student satisfaction of different university courses. 	<p>We developed the Key Information Set, which will give prospective students access to high-quality information about different courses and institutions, including on employability, earnings premia and student satisfaction.</p>

Commitment	What we have done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will ensure that public funding mechanisms for university research safeguard its academic integrity. 	<p>We have protected the science and research budget at £4.6 billion a year for the entire Spending Review period, which provides researchers, institutions and other funders with certainty.</p> <p>In our response to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee report <i>Setting priorities for publicly funded research</i> in 2010, we affirmed our support for the Haldane Principle, which ensures that detailed decisions on distribution of research funding are made at arm's length from government, on the basis of peer review.</p> <p>The Research Excellence Framework will be completed in 2014, and will become the new system for assessing the quality of research in the UK. Under the framework, different weight is given to the three main elements on which research quality is assessed – output (65 per cent), environment (15 per cent) and impact (20 per cent).</p>