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Policy

Reforming the constitution and political system

From: Cabinet Office and Sam Gyimah MP
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Part of: Government efficiency, transparency and accountability

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Changing the rules of Royal Succession

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Supporting detail:

Changing the rules of Royal Succession

The Prime Minister announced at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Perth on 28 October 2011 that the government would change the rules of royal succession. This was agreed with the 15 other Commonwealth countries, of which Her Majesty is Head of State.

The government received final consent from all the Commonwealth countries in December 2012 and the Bill was introduced in the House of Commons in January 2013. The Succession to the Crown Act received Royal Assent in April 2013.

The Succession to the Crown Act will:

- end the system of male heirs automatically inheriting the throne over female heirs - eg where a younger son is placed before an elder daughter in the line of succession
- remove the law that stops an heir succeeding to the throne if they are married to a Roman Catholic
- replace the Royal Marriages Act 1772 so only the first 6 in line to the throne will need the consent of the monarch to marry (replacing the rule that anyone descended from King George II needs consent) if they want to keep their place in the line of succession

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