



Cabinet Office

GOOD LAW

How can the design of Bills and Acts help?

Hayley Rogers

Office of the Parliamentary Counsel



Some history

“I wish that the superfluous and tedious statutes were brought into one sum together, and made more plain and short.”

Edward VI (1537-1553)

“The law is regarded by its users as intricate and intimidating..we should regard the current degree of difficulty as neither inevitable nor acceptable.”

Richard Heaton CB, First Parliamentary Counsel, April 2013



Legislation is important

But...

empowers

intricate and
complex

protects

can hinder
economic activity

resolves

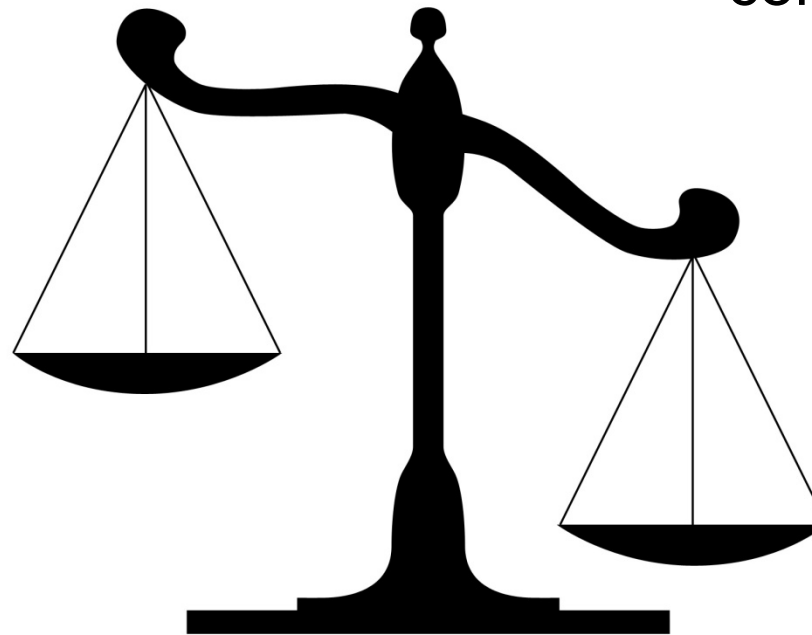
difficult to
comply with

helps

provides
stability

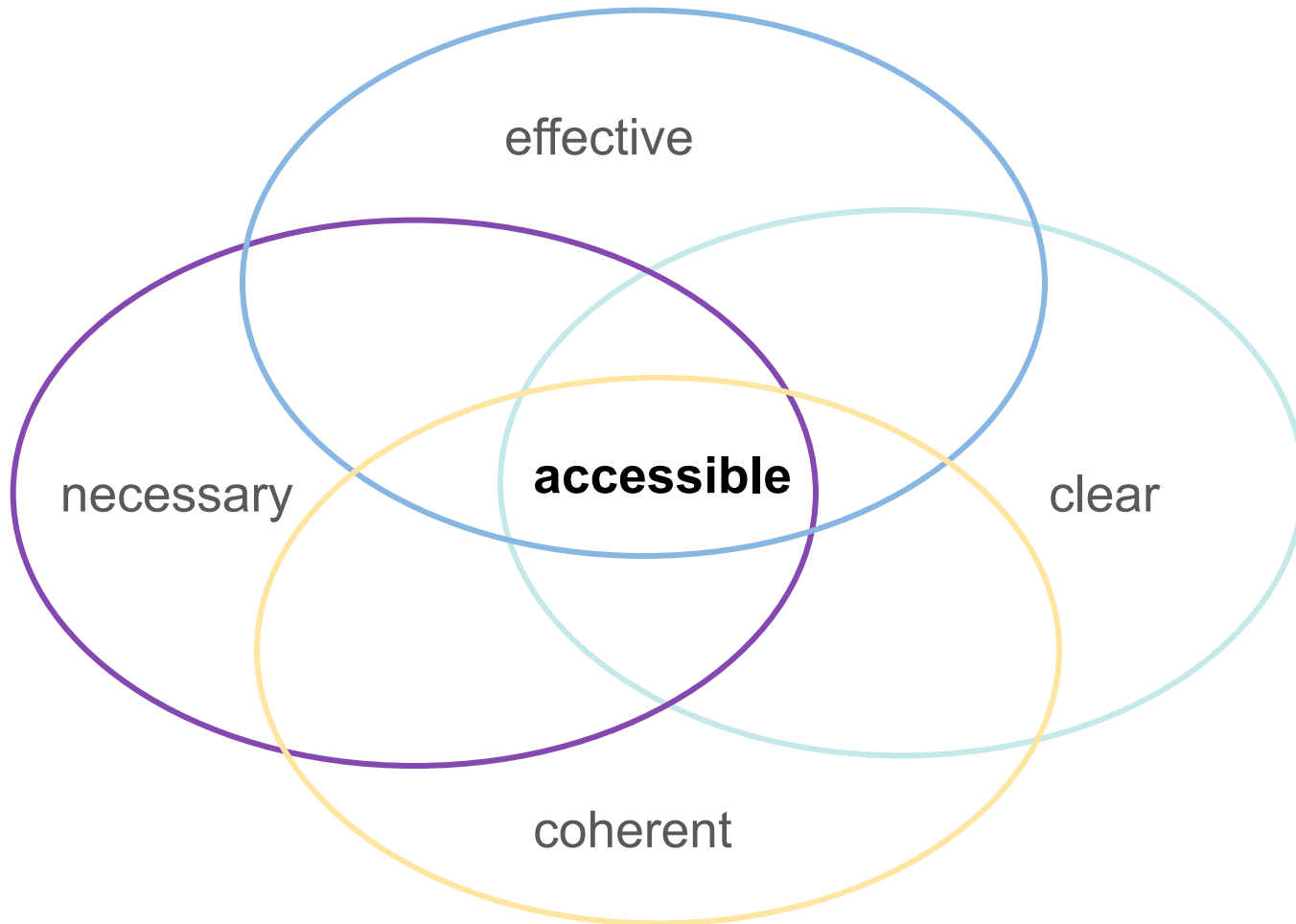
gives
opportunities

can create burden
for people and
businesses



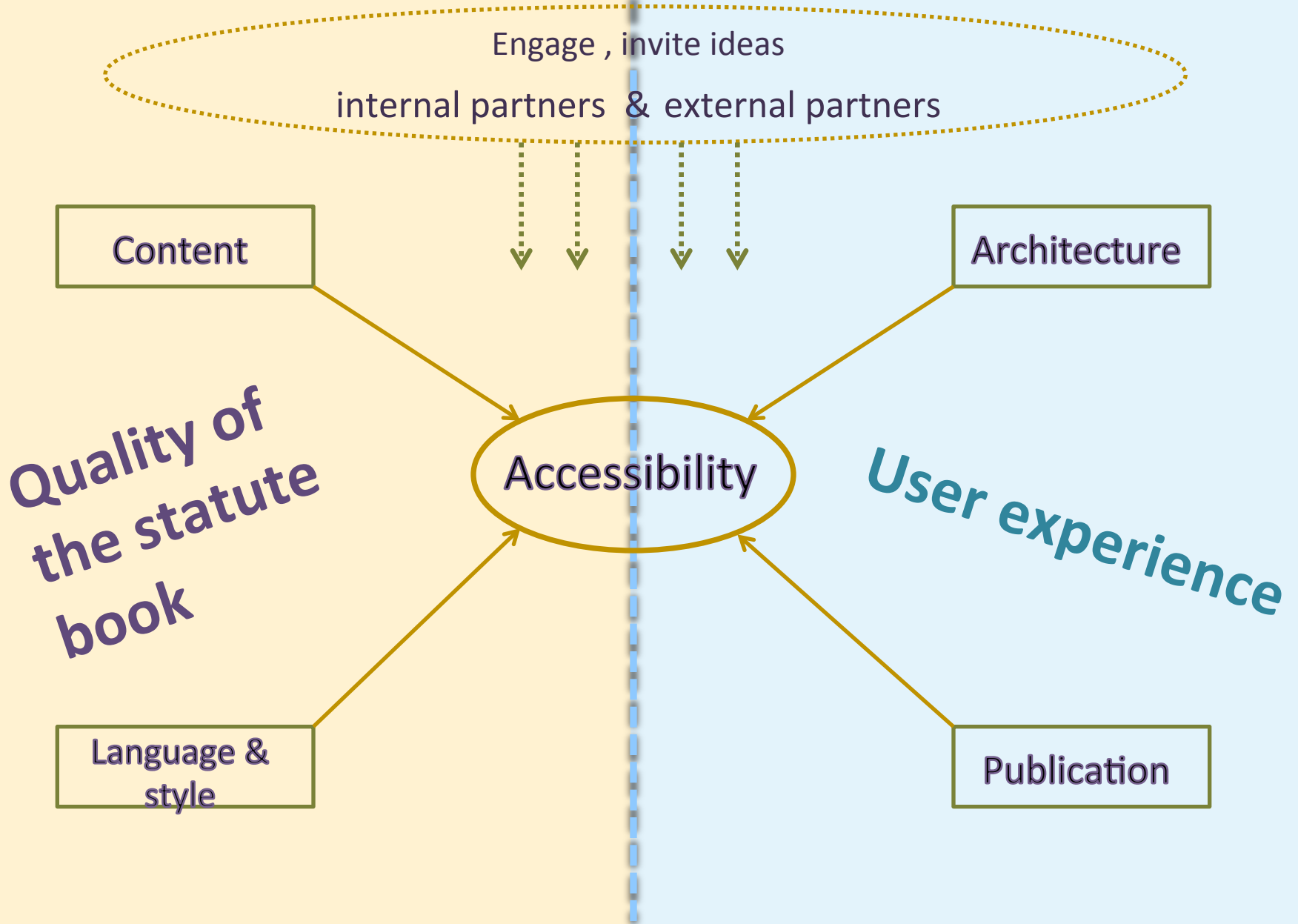


Vision for good law





How do we get there?





s. 2 Calendar (New Style) Act 1750



Calendar (New Style) Act 1750

1750 CHAPTER 23 24 Geo 2

2 **Hundredth years, except every fourth hundred, to be common years of 365 days. Years bissextile of 366 days.**

And for the continuing and preserving the calendar or method of reckoning, and computing the days of the year in the same regular course, as near as may be, in all times coming, the several years of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, one thousand nine hundred, two thousand one hundred, two thousand two hundred, two thousand three hundred, or any other hundredth years of our Lord which shall happen in time to come, except only every fourth hundredth year of our Lord, whereof the year of our Lord two thousand shall be the first, shall not be esteemed or taken to be bissextile or leap years, but shall be taken to be common years consisting of three hundred and sixty-five days, and no more; and that the years of our Lord two thousand, two thousand four hundred, two thousand eight hundred, and every other fourth hundredth year of our Lord from the said year of our Lord two thousand inclusive, and also all other years of our Lord which by the present supputation are esteemed to be bissextile or leap years, shall for the future and in all times to come be esteemed and taken to be bissextile or leap years, consisting of three hundred and sixty-six days, in the same sort and manner as is now used with respect to every fourth year of our Lord.

One long
sentence



Education (Provision of Meals) Act 1906

CHAPTER 57.

An Act to make provision for Meals for Children attending Public Elementary Schools in England and Wales. A.D. 1906.
—
[21st December 1906.]

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1. A local education authority under Part III. of the Education Act, 1902, may take such steps as they think fit for the provision of meals for children in attendance at any public elementary school in their area, and for that purpose—

- (a) may associate with themselves any committee on which the authority are represented, who will undertake to provide food for those children (in this Act called a "school canteen committee"); and
- (b) may aid that committee by furnishing such land, buildings, furniture, and apparatus, and such officers and servants as may be necessary for the organization, preparation, and service of such meals ;

but, save as herein-after provided, the authority shall not incur any expense in respect of the purchase of food to be supplied at such meals.

2.—(1) There shall be charged to the parent of every child in respect of every meal furnished to that child under this Act such an amount as may be determined by the local education authority, and, in the event of payment not being made by the parent, it shall be the duty of the authority, unless they are satisfied that the parent is unable by reason of circumstances other than his own default to pay the amount, to require the payment of that amount from that parent, and any such amount may be recovered summarily as a civil debt.

Power of local education authority to aid school canteen committees in the provision of meals for children.

2 Edw. 7. c. 42.

Side notes

Recovery of the cost of meals.



Education Act 1944

One long sentence

49. Regulations made by the Minister shall impose upon local education authorities the duty of providing milk, meals and other refreshment for pupils in attendance at schools and county colleges maintained by them ; and such regulations shall make provision as to the manner in which and the persons by whom the expense of providing such milk, meals or refreshment is to be defrayed, as to the facilities to be afforded (including any buildings or equipment to be provided) and as to the services to be rendered by managers governors and teachers with respect to the provision of such milk, meals or refreshment, and as to such other consequential matters as the Minister considers expedient, so, however, that such regulations shall not impose upon teachers at any school or college duties upon days on which the school or college is not open for instruction, or duties in respect of meals other than the supervision of pupils, and shall not require the managers or governors of a voluntary school to incur expenditure.

Provision of milk and meals.

50.—(1) Where the local education authority are satisfied with respect to any child that primary or secondary education suitable to his age ability and aptitude can best be provided by them for him at any particular county school, voluntary school, or special school, or are satisfied with respect to any young person that further education should in his case be provided by requiring his continuous attendance at a county college, but

Provision of board and lodging otherwise than at boarding schools or colleges.



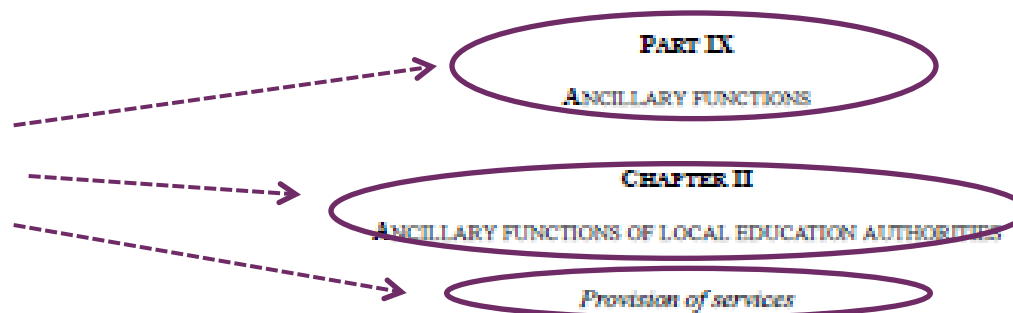
s.512 Education Act 1996 (as enacted)



Education Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 56

Hierarchy of headings



512 Provision of meals etc. at schools maintained by local education authorities

- (1) A local education authority may provide registered pupils at any school maintained by them with milk, meals and other refreshment, either on the school premises or at any place other than the school premises where education is being provided.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), a local education authority shall—
 - (a) charge for anything provided by them under subsection (1), and
 - (b) charge every pupil the same price for the same quantity of the same item.
- (3) In relation to a pupil whose parents are in receipt of income support or of an income-based jobseeker's allowance (payable under the Jobseekers Act 1995) or who is himself in receipt of that benefit, a local education authority—
 - (a) shall so exercise their power under subsection (1) as to ensure that such provision is made for him in the middle of the day as appears to them to be requisite, and
 - (b) shall make that provision for him free of charge.
- (4) A local education authority shall provide at any school maintained by them such facilities as they consider appropriate for the consumption of any meals or other refreshment brought to the school by registered pupils.



Ch 2 Pt 1, Capital Allowances Act 2001



Capital Allowances Act 2001

2001 CHAPTER 2

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 2

EXCLUSION OF DOUBLE RELIEF

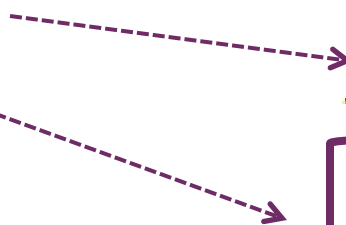
7 No double allowances

- (1) If an allowance is made under any Part of this Act to a person in respect of capital expenditure, no allowance is to be made to him under any other Part in respect of—
 - (a) that expenditure, or
 - (b) the provision of any asset to which that expenditure related.
- (2) This section does not apply in relation to Parts 7 and 8 (know-how and patent allowances).

8 No double relief through pooling under Part 2 (plant and machinery allowances)

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if, under Part 2—
 - (a) any capital expenditure has been allocated to a pool, and
 - (b) an allowance or charge has been made to or on any person in respect of the pool.
- (2) The person to or on whom the allowance or charge has been made is not entitled to an allowance under any Part other than Part 2 in respect of—
 - (a) the expenditure allocated to the pool, or
 - (b) the provision of any asset to which the allocated expenditure related.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies if under any Part other than Part 2 an allowance has been made to a person in respect of any capital expenditure.

Short sections and shorter sentences





s.91 Income Tax Act 2007

Income Tax Act 2007

2007 CHAPTER 3

PART 4

LOSS RELIEF

CHAPTER 2

TRADE LOSSES

Terminal trade loss relief

91 How relief works

This section explains how the deductions are to be made. The amount of the reliev-able loss to be deducted at any step is limited in accordance with section 25(4) and (5).

Step 1

Deduct the reliev-able loss from the profits of the trade of the final tax year.

Step 2

Deduct any part of the reliev-able loss not deducted at Step 1 from the profits of the trade of the previous tax year.

Step 3

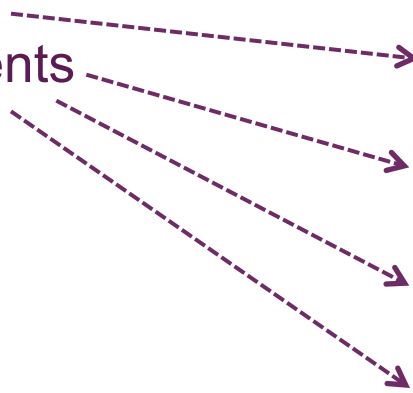
Deduct any part of the reliev-able loss not deducted at Step 1 or 2 from the profits of the trade of the tax year before the previous one.

Step 4

Deduct any part of the reliev-able loss not deducted at Step 1, 2 or 3 from the profits of the trade of the tax year before that one.

Other claims

‘Step’ statements





s. 181 Finance Act 2013



Finance Act 2013

2013 CHAPTER 29

PART 4

EXCISE DUTIES AND OTHER TAXES

Tobacco

181 Rates of tobacco products duty

(1) For the table in Schedule 1 to TPDA 1979 substitute—

“TABLE

1. Cigarettes	An amount equal to 16.5 per cent of the retail price plus £176.22 per thousand cigarettes
2. Cigars	£219.82 per kilogram
3. Hand-rolling tobacco	£172.74 per kilogram
4. Other smoking tobacco and chewing tobacco	£96.64 per kilogram”.

(2) The amendment made by this section is treated as having come into force at 6 pm on 20 March 2013.

Table



s. 2 National Insurance Contributions Act 2014

National Insurance Contributions Act 2014

2014 CHAPTER 7

Employment allowance

2 Exceptions

(1) A person cannot qualify for an employment allowance for a tax year if, at any time in the tax year, the person is a public authority which is not a charity.

(2) In subsection (1)—

“charity” has the same meaning as in the Small Charitable Donations Act 2012 (see section 18(1) of that Act), and

“public authority” includes any person whose activities involve, wholly or mainly, the performance of functions (whether or not in the United Kingdom) which are of a public nature.

Subsection headings

Personal, family or household affairs

(3) Liabilities to pay secondary Class 1 contributions incurred by a person (“P”) are “excluded liabilities” if they are incurred in respect of an employed earner who is employed (wholly or partly) for purposes connected with P’s personal, family or household affairs.

Workers supplied by service companies etc

(4) Liabilities to pay secondary Class 1 contributions are “excluded liabilities” if they are incurred by virtue of regulations made under section 4A of SSCBA 1992 or SSCB(ND)A 1992 (earnings of workers supplied by service companies etc).

Transfers of businesses

(5) Subsection (6) applies if a business, or a part of a business, is transferred to a person (“P”) in a tax year.

(6) Liabilities to pay secondary Class 1 contributions incurred by P in the tax year are “excluded liabilities” if they are incurred in respect of an employed earner who is



s. 2 Calendar (New Style) Act 1750



Calendar (New Style) Act 1750

1750 CHAPTER 23 24 Geo 2

2 Hundredth years, except every fourth hundred, to be common years of 365 days. Years bissextile of 366 days.

And for the continuing and preserving the calendar or method of reckoning, and computing the days of the year in the same regular course, as near as may be, in all times coming, the several years of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, one thousand nine hundred, two thousand one hundred, two thousand two hundred, two thousand three hundred, or any other hundredth years of our Lord which shall happen in time to come, except only every fourth hundredth year of our Lord, whereof the year of our Lord two thousand shall be the first, shall not be esteemed or taken to be bissextile or leap years, but shall be taken to be common years consisting of three hundred and sixty-five days, and no more; and that the years of our Lord two thousand, two thousand four hundred, two thousand eight hundred, and every other fourth hundredth year of our Lord from the said year of our Lord two thousand inclusive, and also all other years of our Lord which by the present supputation are esteemed to be bissextile or leap years, shall for the future and in all times to come be esteemed and taken to be bissextile or leap years, consisting of three hundred and sixty-six days, in the same sort and manner as is now used with respect to every fourth year of our Lord.

s. 2 Calendar (New Style) Act 1750

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Browse Legislation](#) [New Legislation](#) [Changes To Legislation](#) [Search Legislation](#)

Title: Year: Number: Type:

[Advanced Search >](#)

Calendar (New Style) Act 1750

1750 c. 23 (Regnal. 24_Geo_2) ▶ [Section 2](#)

[Table of Contents](#) [Content](#) [More Resources ?](#)

[◀ Previous: Provision](#) [Next: Provision ▶](#) [Plain View](#) [Print Options](#)

What Version ?

Latest available (Revised)

Original (As enacted)

Advanced Features ?

Show Geographical Extent
(e.g. England, Wales, Scotland,
Northern Ireland)

Show Timeline of Changes

Opening Options ?

Open whole Act

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Calendar (New Style) Act 1750, Section 2. ?

Changes to Legislation

Revised legislation carried on this site may not be fully up to date. At the current time any known changes or effects made by subsequent legislation have been applied to the text of the legislation you are viewing by the editorial team. Please see 'Frequently Asked Questions' for details regarding the timescales for which new effects are identified and recorded on this site.

2 **Hundredth years, except every fourth hundred, to be common years of 365 days. Years bissextile of 366 days.**

And for the continuing and preserving the calendar or method of reckoning, and computing the days of the year in the same regular course, as near as may be, in all times coming, the several years of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, one thousand nine hundred, two thousand one hundred, two thousand two hundred, two thousand three hundred, or any other hundredth years of our Lord which shall happen in time to come, except only every fourth hundredth year of our Lord, whereof the year of our Lord two thousand shall be the first, shall not be esteemed or taken to be bissextile or leap years, but shall be taken to be common years consisting of three hundred and sixty-five days, and no more; and that the years of our Lord two thousand, two thousand four hundred, two thousand eight hundred, and every other fourth hundredth year of our Lord from the said year of our Lord two thousand inclusive, and also all other years of our Lord which by the present supputation are esteemed to be bissextile or leap years, shall for the future and in all times to come be esteemed and taken to be bissextile or leap years, consisting of three hundred and sixty-six days, in the same sort and manner as is now used with respect to every fourth year of our Lord.



Calendar Bill 2014

1 Leap years

- (1) A leap year is a year in which February has 29 days.
- (2) The year 2016, and every fourth year after that, is a leap year.
- (3) But the year 2100, and every hundredth year after that, is not a leap year.
- (4) But the year 2400, and every four hundredth year after that is a leap year.



Calendar Bill 2014

1 Leap years

What leap year means

- (1) A leap year is a year in which February has 29 days.

Which years are leap years: basic rule

- (2) The year 2016, and every fourth year after that, is a leap year.

Exception to basic rule

- (3) But the year 2100, and every hundredth year after that, is not a leap year.

Exception to exception

- (4) But the year 2400, and every four hundredth year after that is a leap year.



1 Leap years

What leap year means

- (1) A leap year is a year in which February has 29 days.

Which years are leap years: basic rule

- (2) The year 2016, and every fourth year after that, is a leap year.

Exception to basic rule

- (3) But the year 2100, and every hundredth year after that, is not a leap year.

Exception to exception

- (4) But the year 2400, and every four hundredth year after that is a leap year.

Leap years for next 400 years

- (5) The table below sets out the years that are leap years between 2016 and 2416.

TABLE

2016	2020	2024	...	2096
2104	2108	2112	...	2196
2204	2208	2212	...	2296
2304	2308	2312	...	2396
2400	2404	2408	2412	2416

Draft Care and Support Bill

DRAFT
OF A
B I L L
TO

Make provision to reform the law relating to care and support for adults and the law relating to support for carers; to make provision about safeguarding adults from abuse or neglect; to establish and make provision about Health Education England; to establish and make provision about a Health Research Authority; to amend the Public Bodies Act 2011 in relation to bodies with functions relating to health; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

PART 1

CARE AND SUPPORT

General responsibilities of local authorities

1 Promoting individual well-being

- (1) The general duty of a local authority, in exercising a function under this Part in the case of an adult, is to promote that adult's well-being.
- (2) "Well-being", in relation to an adult, means that adult's well-being so far as relating to any of the following—
 - (a) physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
 - (b) protection from abuse and neglect;
 - (c) control by the adult over day-to-day life (including over the care and support provided to the adult and the way in which it is provided);
 - (d) participation in work, education, training or recreation;
 - (e) social and economic well-being;
 - (f) domestic, family and personal relationships;
 - (g) the adult's contribution to society.

- (3) In exercising a function under this Part in the case of an adult, a local authority must have regard to the following matters in particular—
 - (a) the importance of beginning with the assumption that the adult is best-placed to judge the adult's well-being;
 - (b) the adult's views, wishes and feelings;
 - (c) the need to ensure that decisions about the adult are made having regard to all the adult's circumstances (and are not based only on the adult's age or appearance or any condition of the adult's or aspect of the adult's behaviour which might lead others to make unjustified assumptions about the adult's well-being);
 - (d) the importance of the adult participating as fully as possible in decisions relating to the exercise of the function concerned and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable the adult to participate;
 - (e) the importance of achieving a balance between the adult's well-being and that of any friends or relatives who are involved in caring for the adult;
 - (f) the need to protect people from abuse and neglect;
 - (g) the need to ensure that any restriction on the adult's rights or freedom of action that is involved in the exercise of the function is kept to the minimum necessary for achieving the purpose for which the function is being exercised.
- (4) "Local authority" means—
 - (a) a county council in England,
 - (b) a district council for an area in England for which there is no county council,
 - (c) a London borough council, or
 - (d) the Common Council of the City of London.
- (5) "Adult" means a person aged 18 or over.

2 Providing information and advice

- (1) A local authority must establish and maintain a service for providing people with information and advice relating to care and support for adults and support for carers.
- (2) The service must provide information and advice on the following matters in particular—
 - (a) the system provided for by this Part and how the system operates in the authority's area,
 - (b) the choice of types of care and support, and the choice of providers, available in the authority's area,
 - (c) how to access the care and support that is available, and
 - (d) how to raise concerns about the safety of an adult who has needs for care and support.
- (3) In providing information and advice under this section, a local authority must in particular seek to ensure that what it provides is sufficient to enable adults to make plans for meeting needs for care and support that might arise.

Draft Care and Support Bill (easy read)

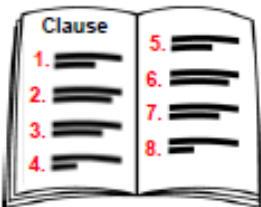


What the draft **Bill** will do for care and support



The sorts of things that councils should think about are:

- keeping people fit and well in their body and mind



There are a lot of details in this draft Bill with **53 clauses** about care and support.



- making sure people are safe and not **abused** or **neglected**



If you need to know more about any subject please look for it on the contents page at the front of the full version of the Bill. Or if you know which clause you want, you can look up the clause number.



- making sure people have control over their lives

Well-being

Clause 1



The draft Bill starts with an important new law. This says that all decisions by councils to do with your care and support must think about your **well-being** and how to make life better for you.



- work, learning, training and hobbies



Well-being is about getting the care and support you want to make life better for you.



- friends and family.



A modern lay out for legislation?

(4) In this section –

“1949 Act” means the Marriage Act 1949;

“armed forces overseas marriage Order” means an Order in Council under Part 3 of Schedule 6;

“person” –

- (a) includes a religious organisation;
- (b) does not include a registrar, a superintendent registrar or the Registrar General;

“relevant marriage” means –

- (a) a marriage of a same sex couple solemnized in accordance with –

- (i) section 26A or 26B of the 1949 Act (marriage in a place of worship or in another place according to religious rites or usages),
- (ii) Part 5 of the 1949 Act (marriage in a naval, military or air force chapel),
- (iii) section 1 of the Marriage (Registrar General’s Licence) Act 1970 (deathbed marriage), where the marriage is according to religious rites or usages, or
- (iv) an armed forces overseas marriage Order, where the marriage is according to religious rites or usages,

including any ceremony forming part of, or connected with, the solemnization of such a marriage; and

- (b) a marriage ceremony read or celebrated in accordance with section 46 of the 1949 Act in respect of a same sex couple (religious ceremony after registrar’s marriage of same sex couple);

and a reference to conducting a relevant marriage is to be read accordingly.



2.4 In this section—

1949 Act means the Marriage Act 1949;

armed forces overseas marriage Order means an Order in Council under Part 3 of Schedule 6;

person—

- includes a religious organisation;
- does not include a registrar, a superintendent registrar or the Registrar General;

relevant marriage means—

- a** a marriage of a same sex couple solemnized in accordance with—
- section 26A or 26B of the 1949 Act (marriage in a place of worship or in another place according to religious rites or usages),
 - or • Part 5 of the 1949 Act (marriage in a naval, military or air force chapel),
 - or • section 1 of the Marriage (Registrar General's Licence) Act 1970 (deathbed marriage), where the marriage is according to religious rites or usages,
 - or • an armed forces overseas marriage Order, where the marriage is according to religious rites or usages, including any ceremony forming part of, or connected with, the solemnization of such a marriage;

and

- b** a marriage ceremony read or celebrated in accordance with section 46 of the 1949 Act in respect of a same sex couple (religious ceremony after registrar's marriage of same sex couple);

and a reference to conducting a relevant marriage is to be read accordingly.



- (5) In section 110 of the Equality Act 2010 (liability of employees and agents), after subsection (5) insert—
- “(5A) A does not contravene this section if A—
- (a) does not conduct a relevant marriage,
 - (b) is not present at, does not carry out, or does not otherwise participate in, a relevant marriage, or
 - (c) does not consent to a relevant marriage being conducted,
- for the reason that the marriage is the marriage of a same sex couple.
- (5B) Subsection (5A) applies to A only if A is within the meaning of “person” for the purposes of section 2 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013; and other expressions used in subsection (5A) and section 2 of that Act have the same meanings in that subsection as in that section.”.
- (6) In Schedule 3 to the Equality Act 2010 (services and public functions: exceptions), after Part 6 insert—

“PART 6A

MARRIAGE OF SAME SEX COUPLES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Marriage according to religious rites: no compulsion to solemnize etc

- 25A (1) A person does not contravene section 29 only because the person—
- (a) does not conduct a relevant marriage,
 - (b) is not present at, does not carry out, or does not otherwise participate in, a relevant marriage, or
 - (c) does not consent to a relevant marriage being conducted,
- for the reason that the marriage is the marriage of a same sex couple.
- (2) Expressions used in this paragraph and in section 2 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 have the same meanings in this paragraph as in that section.”.



2.5 In section 110 of the Equality Act 2010 (liability of employees and agents), after subsection (5) insert—

- 5A** A does not contravene this section if A—
- a** does not conduct a relevant marriage,
 - or **b** is not present at, does not carry out, or does not otherwise participate in, a relevant marriage,
 - or **c** does not consent to a relevant marriage being conducted, for the reason that the marriage is the marriage of a same sex couple.
- 5B** Subsection (5A) applies to A only if A is within the meaning of “person” for the purposes of section 2 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013; and other expressions used in subsection (5A) and section 2 of that Act have the same meanings in that subsection as in that section.”

2.6 In Schedule 3 to the Equality Act 2010 (services and public functions: exceptions), after Part 6 insert—

Part 6A: Marriage of same sex couples in England and Wales

25A Marriage according to religious rites: no compulsion to solemnize etc

- 1 A person does not contravene section 29 only because the person—
- a** does not conduct a relevant marriage,
 - or **b** is not present at, does not carry out, or does not otherwise participate in, a relevant marriage,
 - or **c** does not consent to a relevant marriage being conducted, for the reason that the marriage is the marriage of a same sex couple.
- 2 Expressions used in this paragraph and in section 2 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 have the same meanings in this paragraph as in that section.”

The design of Bills and Acts and Good Law

Language

- Plain, modern, intelligible

Structure

- Logical, telling the story
- Aids to navigation – headings, overviews, signposts
- Alternatives to traditional – steps, tables, formulae

Layout

- Readable, intuitive, clear



To find out more...

Visit: www.gov.uk/good-law

Email: GoodLaw@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

Good law blog: www.good-law.tumblr.com

On Twitter: [#goodlaw](https://twitter.com/goodlaw)