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**C**ampaign for an **E**nglish **P**arliament

# **Think of England Number 118: February 2022**



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Number 118 February 2022

Contents:

Editorial

England in the UK Constitution :

**Current English Affairs:** Roads and Transport, Tourism, Health and Welfare, Education, Police and Courts, Environment, Agriculture

**Governing England:** Education, Police and Courts

**England's history:** The execution of Lady Jane Grey

**English culture:** Trial of the Pyx.

**English produce:** Swede

**Recipe:** Mashed swede

**RECOMMENDED READING:** Englishness: the Political Force Transforming Britain, by Ailsa Henderson and Richard Wyn Jones (2021) Hutchinson £25 pp528



## Campaign for an English Parliament Aims, Principles and Policies.

We campaign for an English Parliament, meaning a parliament for the people of England, for whom England is their chosen or inherited home and who are legally entitled to vote.

We campaign for an English Parliament with powers at least as great as those of Scotland's, i.e. a Parliament and Executive (Government) that can make Acts (primary legislation) on the same domestic issues (e.g. health, welfare & education) that are devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

The CEP works with academics, business groups, trades unions, think tanks and the media to create the conditions whereby UK MPs see that there is no alternative to the re-establishment of the English Parliament.

The CEP is a pressure group. It is not a political party. It does not contest elections.

The CEP is not and will not be affiliated to or formally linked with any political party

**Editorial:** It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Thompson (Tom) Jackson (1932-2021). He was a longstanding member of 21 years and patron. Tom joined the Campaign for an English Parliament in 2000 and was soon elected to serve on our National Council (NC) and served on the NC until 2006. I knew Tom both as a member of the NC and as a member of the campaign and remember him as a true gentleman. He will be greatly missed.



The House of Lords Constitution Committee's report has failed to respect England as it makes no national recognition of England. The English devolved entities will have nothing like the power over their internal affairs that the rest of the UK has and will either be in competition with each other for the attention of Whitehall or will be ignored. Moreover future ones will have no democratic support as they will be imposed by the supra-national UK government. Meanwhile, annoying the rest of the UK, Westminster will still be dominated by MPs from England having neither remit nor interest in the affairs of England as a nation. Johnson's 'council of the Nations' will have no seat for England. They talk of four nations and four administrations as if that governing England were the same as those of the rest of the UK.

So the supra-national UK department DEFRA has decided to end the use of the term "areas of outstanding natural beauty", which covers 34 protected places in England to be replaced by "national landscapes". Dark satanic mills?

Times journalist, Rachel Sylvester, ignorantly conflates Britain with England in her article on education in England.

I do not usually include Private Members' Bills awaiting a second reading as they are almost always thrown out unless the UK government supports them. However there are three illustrated here that are pertinent.

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**England and the UK Constitution** [https://www.scottishreview.net/](https://www.scottishreview.net/DennisSmith571a.html)

**DennisSmith571a.html**

What does it mean to be British?

Review by D Smith of the (very expensive) book by Alissa Henderson and R. Wyn Jones

The best book on Scottish politics that I have read in a long time is *Englishness: the Political Force Transforming Britain*, by Ailsa Henderson and Richard Wyn Jones (2021). This is not as paradoxical as it sounds: it explores the inextricable tangles of Englishness, Britishness and Scottishness. It is impressive both for the sharpness of its analysis and the solidity of its empirical foundations, based on extensive social surveys carried out for the Future of England Survey.

Henderson and Wyn Jones focus primarily on a key group of voters who identify strongly as English. They are, in a sense, English nationalists, but their nationalism is crucially different from the Scottish and Welsh variants. Where Scottish and Welsh nationalists broadly reject Britishness, English nationalists adopt a complex and potentially unstable fusion of Englishness at home and Britishness abroad.

Armed with this distinction, Henderson and Wyn Jones offer a plausible interpretation of how the 2015 Westminster General Election and the 2016 Brexit referendum were won and lost. In each case, the votes of the same English nationalist group were decisive. In 2015, Conservative posters depicting Ed Miliband in the pocket of the SNP swung middle English voters against Labour. In this case, English nationalists voted to save England from control by the Scots. In 2016, broadly the same group voted to save Britain from control by the Europeans. (Note the switch here from England to Britain.)

This version of Englishness also has paradoxical implications for constitutional change. This desire to take back control is strongly linked to an insistence on English Votes for English Laws (EVEL), a potentially revolutionary idea in terms of the UK constitution. (*now revoked. Ed.*)

As demonstrated by the different Covid lockdown rules applied to the countries of the UK, England already exists as a de facto political unit. But any attempt to go further and create a de jure English state 'would immediately run up against the structural constraint that is the institutional fusion of English and UK-wide governmental institutions'. Creating an English Parliament, for example, would require radical constitutional surgery.

In popular and media culture, the elision of England and Britain remains commonplace. So long as it persists, however, English nationalists have the option of switching, more or less consciously, between two different identities. They can switch between a British nationalism that glories in its imperial past and an 'anti- or post-colonial nationalism' which 'views England as being maligned and maltreated by the internally imperial British state'.

English nationalists form 'a part of the population that simply does not believe that the state is interested in them or that they can effect meaningful change to its direction'. In a sense, this is old news: these people are well known in the media as 'the left behind', the 'red wall' voters who abandoned Labour in 2019. What gives it new solidity is the detailed social analysis of their beliefs and aspirations



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-5995604>

11 January: An English football club, Chester FC, which was due to face Brackley Town at the Deva Stadium, has postponed its next home game after it was accused of breaking Welsh Covid rules. The Welsh government has been in talks with the club's bosses because of the location of Chester FC. But the club has now said it does not feel it has reached a "definitive resolution" after a debate about where it lies geographically. The Welsh government insists that, as the ground lies in Wales, it is subject to its rules, but has declined to comment on this latest development.

Chester, whose Bumpers Lane home straddles the England and Wales border, has staged two home games since rules capping the number of spectators at events in Wales took effect on 26 December. The side hosted AFC Telford and AFC Fylde - both in front of 2,000-plus crowds - and has been warned about playing further home matches with crowds.

Chester's pitch is in Wales, but the Chester had insisted it had been told it was not eligible for financial support - from the £3m available for clubs in Wales impacted by fan restrictions - as it was an English club. Entrance to the stadium site is in England and the club is affiliated only to the English Football Association. In a statement, the club said it met the Welsh government and councils in Flintshire and Chester, but has not come to an agreement, so would be obtaining further legal advice.

The club has warned of "massive" financial implications if it was told it had to ban spectators. Chester is supporter-owned and "there's no rich benefactor that can write a check for £10,000 if it was a fine".

**BORIS Johnson is to hold a new 'council of nations' meeting as part of his plans to level up the country.**

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/politics/19846308.boris-johnson-chair-new-council-nations-bid-strengthen-union/13th January>:

By Hannah Rodger @HRwritesnews Westminster Editor, The Herald

Michael Gove announced the plans today, saying he hoped they would help to resolve issues between the UK

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and devolved governments and strengthen the power of the United Kingdom. However critics have questioned how the new structure is any different to previous arrangements, with the government yet to put a specific timescale on how often the Prime Minister will meet with the leaders of the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments. Currently a Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) Plenary session, which is a meeting attended by the Prime Minister and heads of devolved governments, is supposed to take place once a year however between 2002 and 2008 none were held. The last meeting, according to records, appears to have taken place in 2018. Other meetings between high-level ministers have been held, particularly during the Brexit negotiation period.

The new plan will involve a Prime Minister-led council, as well as ministerial sub groups which are designed to "oversee and strengthen relations between all of the UK's governments". Issues they may discuss will be those which affect people across the country where they cover devolved and reserved policy, or shared responsibility.



### Boris Johnson to hold council of nations to improve relations

Friday January 14 2022, 12.01am, The Times

The government's review of dealings with the Northern Ireland executive, Scottish government and Welsh government has led to a three-tier system for ministers from around the UK. Michael Gove, the minister for intergovernmental relations, says all four administrations have agreed rules to avoid disputes and resolve any that arise. Below the council chaired by the prime minister, which will meet at least once a year, the second tier will consist of two inter-ministerial standing committees, one chaired by Gove and the other focused on finance. The third tier of inter-ministerial groups will deal with subjects such as health, transport and education.

### Leaders' forum gives devolved governments a table to bang on

Kevin Pringle: Sunday January 16 2022, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

The Whitehall machine saw fit to publish a review of intergovernmental relations between UK ministers and the three devolved administrations last month. Needless to say, a report seeking constructive engagement between governments in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast received scant coverage. However, in a quieter way it may have greater long-term significance over whether or not the Union has a future.

The first point is that the review was undertaken jointly by the UK and devolved governments, and all four administrations have agreed to work according to the new system. While this is a good start, I suspect that it's acceptable to all because it contains something for everyone. For example, the report talks about "respecting the reserved powers of the UK government and parliament and the devolved competences of the Scottish government, Welsh government, Northern Ireland executive and their legislatures", which might be seen as putting what Westminster does out of bounds for Holyrood, and vice versa.

On the other hand it also upholds "their shared role in the governance of the UK", which ministers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland could justifiably invoke when they object to Westminster government decisions they oppose and which cause harm in their jurisdictions, such as the removal of the £20 universal credit uplift from the poorest families in the land. Overall, structures of this kind play to the political advantage of the devolved administrations, particularly in Scotland, as they foster an ethos of parity of esteem with Westminster, which is drastically out of kilter with the reality of a disparity of power.

Nonetheless, there are innovations in this framework that should be tested to the limit. Not least the dispute resolution process, where there is the ultimate option of referring "portfolio-level" policy disagreements for third-party advice or mediation. That could open up a chink in the ability of UK ministers to say "no" to devolved counterparts with impunity.

### Calling for respect and co-operation to build a stronger Union for the 21st century

The House of Lords Constitution Committee's News Article: 20 January 2022

Following its inquiry into the future governance of the UK, the Constitution Committee has published its report: Respect and Co-operation: Building a Stronger Union for the 21st century.

The Constitution Committee's inquiry considered the current balance of powers within the UK, the challenges for multi-level governance, the approach to devolution within England, the role of Whitehall and the UK funding arrangements, among other matters.

As the Union marks its centenary in 2022 the Committee believes for confidence to be maintained in the Union, its current strains need to be addressed without delay. The report strongly supports the development of devolution within England to help improve economic performance and address regional inequalities.

The Committee recommends the Government examine how funding arrangements could more effectively address relative needs across the UK.

The House of Lords should strengthen its scrutiny of bills that engage the Sewel convention.

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The Government should develop a principled devolution framework, in cooperation with English devolved authorities, to provide a clear baseline for further devolution of powers within England.

The Government should introduce greater fiscal devolution to English devolved authorities, which will require the Treasury to relinquish a degree of control over expenditure.

### **The Union will flourish if devolved areas are respected**

Andrew Dunlop (Lord Dunlop is a Conservative peer and former under-secretary of state for Scotland and Northern Ireland) : January 20 2022, 12.01am, The Times  
The cross-party House of Lords constitution committee published its report on the UK's future governance.

The reforms of intergovernmental structures, including a new prime minister and heads of devolved government council, are welcome. Their success depends on how they're operated, with a critical leadership role for the prime minister of the day.



### **A member's response to yet another article suggesting the imposition of divisive sub-national government within England, instead of an English parliament, to save the Union.**

Another breathtakingly brazen example of the British Political, Academic and Media Establishment's claim that the people of England do not know what is best for them, should under no circumstances be offered what has been afforded to and lauded for the other nations of the UK i.e. SINGLE, unifying and effective national parliaments, and should instead, have a regional system of deeply divisive sub-national government imposed on them i.e. the break up of England.

Only a Welshman, Professor Richard Wyn Jones, ever seems to provide fact-based unbiased evidence/opinion of what the majority in England actually want, which is England as a WHOLE to be democratically represented as a single national entity (via its own parliament) for the unshamed benefit and betterment of the country and all its people; north south east and west.

It has never been clearer that these "leaders", "experts" and "professional commentators" are staggeringly out of touch, do not have the best interests of England and its people at heart and appear entirely comfortable perpetuating one of the last, apparently acceptable, faces of prejudice; Anglophobia.

As for Labour (and much of the Left), it is irredeemably Anglophobic.

Having contemptuously ignored England and the people of England in the devolution process, Labour lauds the national parliaments afforded to the other UK nations, whilst, solely for its own ends, fanatically advocates deeply divisive sub-national government within England.

It views devolution within England, instead of a unifying SINGLE English Parliament, as a back door to the power (at any cost) it craves, and would gleefully preside over the break up of England and diminishment of Englishness as a consequence.

### **Current English Affairs: Roads and Transport, , Health and Welfare, Education, Environment**

#### **Smart motorway rollout paused amid safety fears**

Ben Clatworthy, Transport Correspondent: Wednesday January 12 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Campaigners have repeatedly said the distance between emergency laybys on smart motorways is unsafe because of the time it takes drivers in distress to reach a safe stopping place. There were 36 fatalities on smart motorways in the four years to 2019, including broken-down vehicles being hit from behind. The Department for Transport has agreed to give £900 million to improve safety. This includes 150 new emergency refuge areas to sections of smart motorway already open or under construction at a cost of £390 million. It means a doubling in the number of available places to stop and will reduce the distance between them to 0.75 miles in the majority of cases. The original smart motorway prototype on the M42 had refuge areas 0.5 miles apart.

Grant Shapps, the transport secretary, said no new smart motorways, on which the hard shoulder is used as a permanent live traffic lane, would be built until a full five years of safety data had been collected on stretches introduced before 2020. The announcement was welcomed by motoring groups as a "watershed decision" in halting the spread of the roads, although 100 miles that are 50 per cent complete will still open. Shapps told *The Times*: "What I can assure people is that all these stretches will open with the full stopped vehicle detection in place. They'll also have all the other bells and whistles that are designed to ensure that we don't have what was happening all too often, which was smart motorways that weren't really smart."

A highly critical report from the Commons transport select committee in November accused ministers and civil servants of pressing ahead with the rollout despite "major concerns". At present, refuge areas allowing cars to pull off in an emergency are sited up to 1.6 miles apart, while variable speed limits are used to keep traffic flowing and lanes are closed with a red X on gantries if a vehicle breaks down. The select committee said the government's decision in March 2020 to make all future smart motorways "all-lane-running", with the hard shoulder

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removed, was premature and safety risks should have been addressed before their launch.

Work on the conversion of “dynamic” hard shoulder stretches, which open and close depending on traffic volumes, to all-lane-running sections will also be paused. No new stretches will be designed or built until at least 2024-25.

### Smart motorway plan for night-only hard shoulders

Saturday January 15 2022: Ministers are considering turning the inside lane of smart motorways into a hard shoulder at night in an effort to reduce the risk of collisions. The proposal, from the AA, would apply to all lane-running schemes where the hard shoulder is used as a permanent traffic lane. Under the plans, a red X would be displayed on gantries at night, making the inside lane in effect a hard shoulder.

Footage emerged this week of vehicles narrowly avoiding a broken-down van in the inside lane of the M1 in South Yorkshire in the dark. Many smart motorway stretches lack lighting and vehicles can be hard to spot.



### Smart motorways were a tragic misjudgment

Janice Turner: Friday January 14 2022, 9.00pm, The Times

The concept of “smart” motorways has always intrigued me. You’re hurtling along at 70mph in your metal tube, mere metres from hundreds of other hurtling metal tubes, on the most overcrowded roads in Europe. In 2006, after a trial on the M42, New Labour’s transport secretary Ruth Kelly announced “safety fears that some people have haven’t materialised at all”. Both the economy and environment, she raved, would benefit from an extra lane. But that bit of M42, with proper camera monitoring, plus speed signs and refuge lay-bys every 300 yards, was the smart motorway Potemkin village. Politicians of both parties were seduced.

The coalition government’s 2010 spending review cut every corner. Emergency lay-bys were built only every 1.5 miles. The automated systems for spotting broken-down cars don’t work because traffic is too dense: there are endless false positives. CCTV cameras are broken or left pointing to the sky. Human eyes are not watching over motorists. They can’t. To save money, the gantries were built further apart. If you break down on a smart motorway, Highways England admitted in 2016, it will be an average of 17 minutes before anyone notices. Seventeen minutes stuck in a motorway lane. Do you get out of your car? Or stay put? What if you have children to extricate from car seats, or your old mum? If you’re lucky you might clamber the crash barrier on to a verge. Otherwise you just pray drivers see you, and emergency services can get through, since they can’t scoot up the hard shoulder to reach you.

The warnings were there all along. Motoring organisations were uneasy, the AA stopped sending crews to smart motorway incidents. Dashboard footage showed terrifying near-misses, cars swerving broken-down vehicles in the dark. A smart motorway turns a minor prang into the most terrifying moment of your life. All accidents are scary but here you are also powerless. Then the smart motorway deaths started to rack up: 63 in five years. On a single 16-mile stretch of the M1 in south Yorkshire there were five fatalities in ten months. One was Jason Mercer, who’d been exchanging insurance details with a van driver just outside Sheffield, when a Mercedes lorry killed them both. They couldn’t scale the barrier, there was a 30ft drop.

### Concerns have been raised about Randstad’s lack of expertise in tutoring

Nicola Woolcock, Education Editor: Thursday January 13 2022, 12.01am, The Times

A leading academic in social mobility has called for a review into the “scandalous” failure of the national tutoring programme, which is being run by a Dutch human resources firm. Lee Elliot Major, the professor of social mobility at Exeter University, said that it was a lost opportunity to help children who had fallen behind during lockdown. Only 72,000 courses began under schemes co-ordinated by Randstad including 52,000 tutoring courses, 10 per cent of the 524,000 target set for the company. The awarding of the contract to Randstad led to complaints that it had no experience in the field. It won the contract after the tutoring programme was launched at the end of 2020. Questions have been raised about Randstad’s ability to deliver the scheme effectively. Some heads say that they find the system confusing and difficult to navigate.

Elliot Major said in response to the latest figures: “The government’s flagship recovery programme is facing failure, with scandalously low numbers of pupils being helped. Not enough has been done to convince teachers about the benefits of the national tutoring programme. “An urgent review by ministers is now needed — the fear is that this will be a huge lost opportunity for the hundreds of thousands of pupils, particularly those from poorer backgrounds, who have suffered severe learning loss.”

Karen Guthrie, the director of the national tutoring programme, told MPs yesterday that she was keen to make the scheme available to schools and suggested that teacher shortages had caused low take-up. Guthrie told the education select committee that some schools may not be accessing the government’s flagship tuition scheme. Last month, Nick Bent, the chief executive of the Tutor Trust, one of the partners delivering tutoring, told MPs

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that Randstad did not “have enough staff or the right expertise” and there were “problems” with the tuition hub.

Robin Walker, the schools minister, told the committee that the funding for tuition should be within the discretion of schools, so they could work out which pupils get the most benefit from interventions.

Graham Archer, the director of education recovery, said that he wanted to see the academic mentors route and tuition partners pillar, both led by Randstad, “accelerate” sharply this term. He said that the department was working closely with Randstad “to make sure their engagement with schools, the simplicity and clarity of what they are doing, is improved”.



### Forget mayors, let's level up our educational divide

Rachel Sylvester: Monday January 31 2022, 12.01am, The Times

There are two statistics that have shocked me most while chairing the Times Education Commission. The first is that a third of pupils in England in effect fail their GCSEs — they do not achieve at least a grade four in English and maths, the minimum requirement for most jobs and training courses. These children are being all but written off aged 16 and most are from poorer families.

The second figure that I cannot shake from my mind is that 40 per cent of the attainment gap that exists between advantaged and disadvantaged pupils at the age of 16 emerges before children even get to school. Nearly a third of five-year-olds are not reaching a good level of development, and disadvantaged pupils are already 4.6 months behind at the end of the reception year. By the time they take their GCSEs, poorer students are typically more than 18 months behind their wealthier peers. If Boris Johnson is serious about “levelling up” then he should be addressing the educational divide in the forthcoming white paper rather than creating more local mayors.

Last year I visited Estonia, which has the best education system in Europe, according to the OECD. Children do not start school until seven but almost all go to high-quality affordable kindergartens before that. They are legally entitled to a place from the age of 18 months and nurseries are heavily subsidised so that parents never pay more than 20 per cent of the minimum wage (less than £500 a month). There is a preschool curriculum to encourage learning through play and nursery teachers must have a degree. At the end of kindergarten, children get a school readiness card describing their skills and development. Those who need extra support are referred to a specialist, such as a speech therapist, before they even start formal education. The policy has narrowed social divides and improved pupils' wellbeing.

Britain, (*England. Ed.*) by contrast, treats early-years provision as a babysitting service rather than the crucial first steps of education. Nursery staff are often paid less than supermarket workers. Places are underfunded and instead of being a driver of social mobility the system is increasing inequality. Nurseries often charge extra for lunch and so children from poorer families open packets of crisps while wealthier infants tuck into a hot meal. Working parents of three and four-year-olds are eligible for 30 hours of free childcare if they have a household income of up to £200,000, but unemployed parents can get only 15 hours. This means that some of the children who most need support are not getting it.

Rishi Sunak acknowledged in his Budget speech that the earliest years a child's life are “the most important” but his flagship announcement involved funding for 75 “family hubs”, when about 1,000 Sure Start centres have closed. The failure to prioritise preschool education is a false economy. The Duchess of Cambridge's Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood found that the social cost of failing to intervene early enough is more than £16 billion a year in England because of higher rates of crime, unemployment and mental illness that could have been avoided.

### Antisocial visitors to national parks face 'Asbo orders'

Rhys Blakely, Science Correspondent: Saturday January 15 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Ministers plan to give England's national parks new powers to stop “antisocial and hostile behaviour” after the pandemic led to a surge of visitors to the country's most spectacular landscapes. National park authorities would be able to issue Asbo-style “public space protection orders” to dictate what people can or cannot do in prescribed places. At present only local authorities have the power to issue such orders. The proposals are part of the government's response to a review, published in September 2019, led by Julian Glover, a journalist and former government adviser under David Cameron, which called for a wholesale reorganisation of how England's national parks and areas of outstanding beauty are governed.

Proposals released yesterday by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) also include ending the use of the term “areas of outstanding natural beauty”, which dates from 1949 and covers 34 protected places in England. It would be replaced by “national landscapes”.

Last year Natural England revised the countryside code and ran a £50,000 advertising campaign hoping to

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“improve people’s understanding of the countryside and promote socially and environmentally responsible behaviour”. At the time critics said the budget was too small to make an impact.

Defra confirmed plans to create a new “national landscapes partnership” to oversee England’s ten national parks and 34 areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). This will aim to achieve greater co-ordination between National Parks England, the National Association for AONBs, National Trails and National Parks Partnerships. Defra said it had rejected Glover’s call to establish a National Landscapes Service to oversee England’s most picturesque areas.

### Bed-blocking patients who refuse to leave hospital could face legal action

Telegraph: Lizzie Roberts, HEALTH REPORTER 14 January 2022 • 6:00pm

More than one in seven beds in English hospitals are currently occupied by patients who are deemed medically fit to leave, official NHS data show, with around 12,000 stuck on January 9.

NHS England guidance, sent just before Christmas, said if a patient “with mental capacity” was refusing to leave because they did not accept the follow-on care offered, the trust should follow the local discharge policy, which could involve legal action.

Patient groups warn the guidance appears to lay blame with the patients, rather than “sparsity” of social care currently available, for the bed-blocking issue, limiting social care options for patients fit to leave hospital.

### Families demand investigation into hundreds of patient suicides

Ben Webster: Monday January 24 2022, 12.01am, TheTimes

MPs and bereaved families are calling for an investigation into failures by a health trust after an analysis found that since 2016, 369 of its patients had taken their own lives and coroners had called 15 times for it to improve its care. Seven of the deaths took place on the wards of the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, *The Sunday Telegraph* reported. Coroners repeatedly warned the trust to take action to prevent future deaths. They identified failures including incorrect discharges and a lack of supervision of mental health patients. In 2020 a coroner raised concerns with the trust over the death of Christopher Swain, 38, who was also found hanged in his room in Langley Green Hospital in Crawley. The coroner said that during his time there, “no formal review, care plan or adequate risk assessment was carried out in respect of his mental health”.

The Department of Health and Social Care said it had no plans at present to request a specific investigation into patient deaths at the trust but an inquiry had been established last year into deaths in mental health inpatient units in Essex. It said NHS England was providing funding to every local area by 2023/24 to support local suicide prevention planning. The funding also includes investment in a national quality improvement programme to improve safety and suicide prevention in mental health services across the NHS.

### Committees: UK Parliament

#### Business: Committees

#### Education Committee

The Education Committee is holding an inquiry on the effectiveness of the careers advice given to students. The inquiry will be a root and branch review of how well the current system for careers education, information, advice and guidance is working (CEIAG). It will have a particular focus on CEIAG for young people and children, exploring whether current careers advice provides sufficient guidance about career choice, employment, training, and further and higher education opportunities to young people. It will also look at how arrangements for CEIAG could better support disadvantaged or left-behind groups to access career opportunities that may otherwise not be available to them.



### Transport Committee report recommendations has forced change to Government policy

12 January 2022: Following the Transport Committee’s inquiry into smart motorways, the Government will immediately pause the rollout of all-lane running motorway schemes. Where work is already under way on smart motorways, additional emergency refuge areas and Stopped Vehicle Detection will be installed where possible, in a £390 million retrofit programme.

In its response to the Committee’s report on the rollout and safety of smart motorways, published today, the Government will now move to collect five years of safety and economic data for every all-lane running scheme introduced before 2020. The Committee’s report had concluded that the March 2020 decision to make all new motorways all-lane running was premature as the evidence base was insufficient.

The safety improvements set out in the Government’s 2020 action plan are to be independently evaluated by the Office for Rail and Road. Chair of the Transport Committee, Huw Merriman MP, said: “This is the Committee’s

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second inquiry into Smart Motorways. Back in 2016, our concerns about safety were not addressed. Assurances were given and not delivered. This time, Ministers have accepted all our key recommendations and we welcome today's response.

## Health and Social Care Committee

Work of the Department Inquiry: MPs will scrutinize Sajid Javid, the Health and Social Care Secretary, on his plans to deal with the multiple crises facing the sector in this one-off session. The session is expected to cover the Government's workforce strategy, including provisions set out in the Health and Care Bill. Staff pay, employee burnout, and integrating social care and NHS workforce planning are on the agenda.

## Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee

26 January 2022: In its 26th report of Session 2021-22 the House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee has raised concerns about two instruments laid before Parliament by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) which make changes to building regulations and planning law.

The Building Regulations etc. (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2021 make changes to provide a "meaningful and achievable" increase to the energy efficiency standards for buildings. The Explanatory Memorandum (EM) that accompanies the instrument includes links to consultation responses and Impact Assessments which provide further information. However, the Committee found that the EM assumes an extensive understanding of the current Building Regulations and does not provide a proper stand-alone explanation of the full effects of the instrument or how the changes are expected to operate. The Committee had to obtain substantial additional information from the Department and strongly felt that members of the public should not have to consult other sources of information when reading the instrument.

The Committee also considered the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (England) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 2021. This instrument, amongst other changes, makes permanent a time-limited permitted development right which was originally introduced in 2021 and allows for one moveable structure (a marquee or gazebo for example) to be erected and used in the area surrounding pubs, cafés, restaurants, or historic visitor attractions without the need for planning permission. The Committee remains concerned that some of the temporary measures originally introduced to address these effects are now being made permanent despite the adverse impact they may have on members of the public. Under the new arrangements, people who have concerns about a development will be unable to raise concerns through the planning process.

## UK Statutory Instruments (Regulations) for England

The Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Approved Devices, Charging Guidelines and General Provisions) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 71

The Traffic Management Act 2004 (Commencement No. 10 and Savings and Transitional Provisions) (England) Order 2022 No. 66 (C. 3)

The Protection of Animals at the Time of Killing (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 33

The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2022 No. 27

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 No. 25

The Private Storage Aid for Pigmeat (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 No. 21

The Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Non-Domestic Rating Multipliers) (England) (No. 2) Order 2021 No. 1495

## Government Bills

### Report Stage

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill: Government Bill  
Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 11 January 2022

Long title: A Bill to make provision in relation to freedom of speech and academic freedom in higher education institutions and in students' unions; and for connected purposes.

Skills and Post-16 Education Bill [HL]: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 31 January 2022

Long title: A Bill to make provision about local skills improvement plans; to make provision relating to further education; to make provision about functions of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education and relating to technical education qualifications; to make provision about student finance and fees; to make provision about assessments by the Office for Students; to make provision about the funding of certain post-16 education or training providers; and for connected purposes



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## Consideration of Lords' amendments

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Commons, Sessions 2019-21, 2021-22: Last updated: 31 January 2022

Long title: A Bill to make provision about the police and other emergency workers; to make provision about collaboration between authorities to prevent and reduce serious violence; to make provision about offensive weapons homicide reviews; to make provision for new offences and for the modification of existing offences; to make provision about the powers of the police and other authorities for the purposes of preventing, detecting, investigating or prosecuting crime or investigating other matters; to make provision about the maintenance of public order; to make provision about the removal, storage and disposal of vehicles; to make provision in connection with driving offences; to make provision about cautions; to make provision about bail and remand; to make provision about sentencing, detention, release, management and rehabilitation of offenders; to make provision about secure 16 to 19 Academies; to make provision for and in connection with procedures before courts and tribunals; and for connected purposes.

## Committee Stage

Representation of the People (Young People's Enfranchisement) Bill [HL]

Private Members' Bill (Starting in the House of Lords)

Last updated: 31 January 2022

Long title: A Bill to reduce the voting age to 16 for UK parliamentary elections and all local elections in England

## 3<sup>rd</sup> reading

Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill [HL]: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 28 January 2022

Long title: A Bill to make provision about the rent payable under long leases of dwellings; and for connected purposes

## Second reading private member's bill

Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill: Private Members' Bill (Presentation Bill): Christopher Chope

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 20 January 2022

Long title: A Bill to require the Chancellor of the Exchequer to report to Parliament on proposals to replace the Barnett Formula used to calculate adjustments to public expenditure allocated to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with a statutory scheme for the allocation of resources based on an assessment of relative needs; and for connected purposes.

Public Bodies (Representation from Devolved Nations) Bill:

Private Members' Bill (Presentation Bill) Wendy Chamberlain:

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 17 January 2022

Long title: A Bill to require the Government to have regard to the desirability of boards of public bodies including at least one person with relevant experience in at least one of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

House of Lords (Elected Senate) Bill: Private Members' Bill (Presentation Bill) Paul Maynard

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 6 January 2022

Long title: A Bill to replace the House of Lords with an elected senate; and for connected purposes.

**England's heroine:** Hannah More (2 February 1745 – 7 September 1833) was an English religious writer, philanthropist, poet and playwright in the circle of Johnson, Reynolds and Garrick, who wrote on moral and religious subjects. Born in Bristol, she taught at a school her father founded there and began writing plays. She became involved in the London literary elite and a leading Bluestocking member. She joined a group opposing the slave trade. Hannah More was the fourth of five daughters of Jacob More (1700–1783), a schoolmaster from a strong Presbyterian family in Harleston, Norfolk, who had joined the Church of England. In 1758 Jacob established a girls' boarding school at Trinity Street, Bristol, for the elder sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, to run, while he and his wife moved to Stony Hill in the city to open a school for boys. Hannah More became a pupil in the girls' school when she was twelve and taught there in early adulthood.

In the 1780s Hannah More became a friend of James Oglethorpe, who had long been concerned with slavery as a moral issue and who was working with Granville Sharp as an early abolitionist. By 1790 she was close to William Wilberforce and Zachary Macaulay, sympathising with their evangelical views. Her poem *Slavery* appeared in 1788. For many years she was a friend of Beilby Porteus, Bishop of London and a leading abolitionist, who drew her into a group of anti-slave traders that included Wilberforce, Charles Middleton and also James Ramsay at Teston in Kent.



Painting by H. W. Pickersgill (1821)

**England's history:** The Execution of Lady Jane Grey (c. 1537 – 12 February 1554), later known as Lady Jane

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Dudley (after her marriage) and as the "Nine Days' Queen.

Jane was the great granddaughter of Henry VII through his younger daughter Mary, and was a first cousin once removed of Edward VI. She had an excellent humanist education and a reputation as one of the most learned young women of her day. In May 1553, she married Lord Guildford Dudley, a younger son of Edward's chief minister John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland. In June 1553, Edward VI wrote his will, nominating Jane and her male heirs as successors to the Crown, in part because his half-sister Mary was Catholic, while Jane was a committed Protestant and would support the reformed Church of England, whose foundation Edward laid. The will removed his half-sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, from the line of succession on account of their supposed illegitimacy.

After Edward's death, Jane was proclaimed queen on 10 July 1553 and awaited coronation in the Tower of London. However, support for Mary grew quickly, and most of Jane's supporters abandoned her. The Privy Council of England suddenly changed sides and proclaimed Mary as queen on 19 July 1553, deposing Jane. Her primary supporter, her father-in-law the Duke of Northumberland, was accused of treason and executed less than a month later. Jane was held prisoner in the Tower and was convicted of high treason in November 1553, which carried a sentence of death—though Mary initially spared her life. However, Jane soon became viewed as a threat to the Crown when her father, Henry Grey, 1st Duke of Suffolk, became involved with Wyatt's rebellion against Queen Mary's intention to marry Philip II of Spain. Both Jane and her husband were executed on 12 February 1554.



**English culture:** The Trial of the Pyx is a judicial ceremony to ensure that newly minted coins from the Royal Mint conform to their required dimensional and fineness specifications. Although coin quality is now tested throughout the year under laboratory conditions, the event has become an annual historic tradition.

First held in the 12th century, the event takes place in the hall of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in London, where the Deputy Master of the Mint (CEO of the Royal Mint) is in effect put on trial before a High Court judge as metallurgical assayers and selected leaders from the financial world sample coins from the mint's output. The boxes in which coins are stored form the ceremony's namesake: the word *pyx* derives from the Greek meaning wooden box.

According to records from the *Dialogus de Scaccario*, in 1179 the weight and fineness of coinage received by England's Exchequer was examined for regulatory purposes under the supervision of the Baron of the Exchequer. At this time the Master of the Mint was ordered to put aside one coin for every ten pounds of silver minted so that they might be tested every three months. Found in the Red Book of the Exchequer, a section thought to be written in May 1279 titled "forma nova monete" ("A new form of currency") set forth procedures for a regular series of trials whereby the Master of the Mint became liable for failings in the currency standards. Coins were to be put into a box with two keys, each held by the master and warden and its contents tested four times a year.

In 1282, in the reign of Edward I, a writ was issued ordering barons to carry out *pyx* trials throughout the realm.

Prior to the Coinage Act 1870 trials took place at the Palace of Westminster and coins were stored in Westminster Abbey's Pyx Chapel. The Act moved the venue for the trial to Goldsmiths' Hall, the headquarters of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths who carry out the testing.

Every year around February, the event begins with a meeting held in Goldsmiths' Hall. Attending the gathering are the Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, three of their supporting Wardens, the Head of the Assay Office, Liverymen, The Deputy Master of the Mint. The presiding judge is the Queen's Remembrancer, the Senior Master of the Queen's Bench. It is his or her responsibility to ensure that the trial be held in accordance with the law and to deliver the jury's final verdict to Her Majesty's Treasury. Where and when a trial is to take place is at the Treasury's discretion, though there must be a trial in any year during which the Royal Mint issues coins.



Trial of the Pyx in the Livery Hall at Goldsmiths' Hall

**English produce:** Swede

swede is a root vegetable, a form of *Brassica napus*. Other names include Swedish turnip, neep (from Old English *næp*, Latin *napus*) and turnip. In north-east England, turnips and swedes are colloquially called *snadgers*, *snaggers* (archaic) or *narkies*. However, the name "turnip" usually refers to the related white turnip. The species *Brassica napus* originated as a hybrid between the cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) and the turnip (*Brassica rapa*). Swede roots are eaten as human food in a variety of ways, and the leaves can be eaten as a leaf vegetable. The roots and tops are also used for livestock, either fed directly in the winter or foraged in the field during the other seasons. England had a tradition of carving the roots into lanterns at Halloween.

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The first known printed reference to the swede comes from the Swiss botanist Gaspard Bauhin in 1620, where he notes that it was growing wild in Sweden. It is often considered to have originated in Scandinavia, Finland or Russia. According to the Natural Resources Institute of Finland, it was most likely bred on more than one occasion in Northern Europe, around the 16th century. Studies have shown it was developed independently in both Finland and Sweden, from turnip and cabbage in connection with seed cultivation. There are contradictory accounts of how it arrived in England. According to John Sinclair the root vegetable arrived in England from Germany around 1750. However an article on the topic in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* suggests that it was then introduced more widely to England in 1790.



In England, swede is boiled together with carrots and served either mashed or pureed with butter and ground pepper. The flavored cooking water is often retained for soup, or as an addition to gravy. Swede is also a component of the popular condiment Branston Pickle and is also one of the four traditional ingredients of the pasty originating in Cornwall.

Swedes grows best in cool climates and are grown throughout England particularly in East Anglia, Yorkshire and the West Country. They can be produced within 60 days. Swede can be served as an accompanying vegetable or included in stews. They can also be made into soup, mashed or puréed. Grated raw swede can be included in salads or sliced thinly and drizzled with French dressing or mayonnaise. Swede do not need peeling before cooking, simply wash and trim the tops if cooking whole. Alternatively, cut into even-sized pieces before cooking. Swede can be boiled whole or chopped and steamed or roasted. To boil, bring a pan of water to the boil and cook whole swede for 20-30 minutes or until tender. Coat in melted butter or cheese sauce to serve. To roast chopped swede, preheat the oven to 200C, gas mark 6. Parboil chunks for 5 minutes in boiling salted water. Add 150 ml olive oil to a roasting tin and preheat in the oven for 5 minutes. Add the drained swede to the tin and coat in the oil. Roast for 30-45 minutes, basting occasionally with the oil, until crunchy and golden brown.

### Recipe: Mashed swede

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/swedemash\\_78187](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/swedemash_78187)

Nothing says comfort like a steaming, buttery bowl of swede mash. It is a classic accompaniment to roasts, sausages and cold meats.

Preparation time: less than 30 mins, Cooking time: 10 to 30 mins,

Serves: Serves 4-6

### Ingredients

1 swede (around 750g/1lb 10oz), peeled and cut into 2.5cm/1in chunks  
½ tsp fine sea salt, plus extra to season



50g/2oz butter  
freshly ground black pepper

### Method

Put the swede in a large, lidded saucepan. Fill with enough cold water to almost cover the chunks. Add the butter and ½ tsp salt, cover and place over a high heat. Bring to the boil then reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for 12-15 minutes, or until the swede is just tender, stirring occasionally.

Remove the lid, increase the heat and boil hard for a further 5 minutes, or until the swede is soft and the liquid has reduced to around 5 tbsp. Remove the pan from the heat and mash until smooth. Return to a low heat, season with more salt and pepper and cook for a further minute. Serve.

### OUR PRECIOUS UNION! Theresa May June 2017 (Sucking England dry)

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