



**POLITICAL  
INTELLIGENCE**

# Labour's First 100 Days

Dods Political Intelligence



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## Introduction

The race is over, but for Labour, the hard part begins now. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer’s campaign emphasised the scale of the challenge the country faces in many sectors and how urgently change is needed. Now the spotlight turns to Labour’s governance as they begin the implementation of their policy.

This Dods Political Intelligence Report rounds up all the commitments Labour have pledged to enact in their first 100 days in power. The report also includes comment from our team of consultants for some of the highest-priority policy areas.

The following pages are broken down by sector, based on commitments made in policy strategies, briefs, announcements, statements, speeches, and media reports. Dods does not vouch for the accuracy of the media reports but includes hyperlinks to the original source where available.



## Financial Services and the Economy

Introduce legislation to strengthen the OBR through giving it new powers in the first King's Speech – [link](#)

Every fiscal event making significant changes to taxation or spending will be subject to an independent OBR forecast – [manifesto p.18](#)

Publish a roadmap for business taxation for the next parliament to give long-term stability for businesses – [manifesto p.28](#)

Cap corporation tax at the current level of 25 percent for the entire parliament – [manifesto p.28](#)

Commit to one major fiscal event a year – [manifesto p.28](#)

Implement '[Labour's Plan to Make Work Pay: Delivering a New Deal for Working People](#)' in full, introducing legislation within 100 days – [manifesto p.45](#)

Hold a global investment summit in first 100 days - [link](#)

### Emily Evans, Political Consultant for the Economy and Financial Services

"Some of the policies and pledges that Labour have managed to achieve the most buzz with are those related to taxation. They have promised to end tax breaks for private schools, and have said they will not increase income tax, national insurance, or VAT. However, tax changes usually have to wait for a Budget which is then followed by a Finance Bill to enact all the changes. Chancellor Rachel Reeves indicated during the campaign that there would be no Budget until the Autumn, and that any fiscal event would be dependent on a full forecast from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR). The OBR requires ten weeks' notice to provide an independent forecast. So, while there will be a King's Speech on 17 July, we will likely have to wait until September at the earliest for any major tax or spending changes.

Labour has committed to economic stability, certainty, and predictability, and so will not want to rush into a fiscal event without adequate preparation. But they will still want to hit the ground running with their economic pledges, given that they made their entire campaign about boosting economic growth. We know that they want to strengthen the OBR, giving it new scrutinizing powers. That will almost certainly be in the first King's Speech, setting a new framework for scrutiny when the Budget does come in the Autumn. Also in the name of stability, they have committed to just one major fiscal event a year. While that will not require mention in the King's Speech, they will likely make it clear in the early days of the new Government.

We have been promised the delivery of their 'Plan to Make Work Pay' in full, with legislation to be introduced in the first 100 days, so that will almost certainly make it into the King's Speech. The headline measures there include banning 'exploitative' zero hours contracts – a row back from their earlier pledge to ban zero hours contracts outright – and the end of 'fire and rehire' practices.

"Outside of the new powers for the OBR and employment legislation, we may have to be patient and wait for the Autumn to see real changes to the economy. Labour have pledged a major global investment summit in their first 100 days in Government. But their other pledges – publishing a roadmap for business taxation, and capping corporation tax – are all things we will have to wait for in the Budget. All eyes turn to September."

## Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

“Immediately” update the National Policy Planning Framework to undo Conservative changes, including restoring mandatory housing targets - [link](#)

“Immediately” scrap Section 21 eviction powers - [link](#)

[The Times](#) reports Labour will implement a review of green belt land to be reclassified for development by the end of July

[The Times](#) reports Labour will bring back a version of the Renters Reform Bill

### Fionnuala Quinn, Senior Political Consultant for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

“Labour have committed to updating the National Planning Policy Framework in their first 100 days. This was last updated in late 2023. In Labour’s refresh of the NPPF, they will likely reintroduce mandatory housebuilding targets, with the aim of delivering more homes, as well as introducing ‘grey belt’ guidelines in this document. Starmer’s ‘grey belt’ classification will need to be built into the NPPF, as this term is new and planning authorities will require greater detail on the meaning of this new term before embedding it into their own local plans.

Whilst on the NPPF, it is useful to add that Labour are keen to position themselves as champions of the economy. The update of the NPPF is likely to also be framed as an economy-boosting measure, as the new planning system would seek to meet the needs of a “modern economy”, with labs and gigafactories also set to be delivered.

The scrapping of Section 21 is something that both Labour and the Conservatives have committed to, but the Tories did not manage to see this through before Parliament dissolved. The Conservatives, in the midst of a backbench rebellion over the Renters (Reform) Bill, scaled back the timeline for ditching Section 21. The Conservatives committed to delivering court reforms before Section 21 could be scrapped, but provided no definitive timelines for when this would be in place. Labour, contrastingly, have committed to delivering this reform immediately.

The number of households seeking homelessness assistance due to receiving a Section 21 reached a record high in 2022/23, with 24,260 households being owed a homelessness duty because of this no-fault eviction notice. The scrapping of this form of eviction is likely to reduce demand for homelessness assistance. Paired with the potential delivery of additional housing, this could be promising for those in the housing and homelessness sectors.

Labour may well pursue the Renters (Reform) Bill from the previous Parliament because much of the legwork to get this through has already been completed. The Bill was about half way through its parliamentary-scrutiny journey. Whilst Labour will be keen to introduce their own version of this Bill, it is likely that the Bill would largely have support in the House as measures to do with this Bill have been discussed now for well over a year.

Housing has been an especially important issue in the general election. Labour’s win in this election should open the door to new housing regulation and housing delivery, but the details behind their plans remain to be seen.”

## Energy and Climate Change

[The Guardian](#) reports the “Energy Independence Act” to establish the framework for Labour’s energy and climate policies, including Great British Energy (GBE) will be in the first King’s Speech. GBE will be part-funded by a three-percentage point increase to the Energy Profits Levy and an extension of the sunset clause.

Overtake the ban on onshore wind farms “within weeks” - [link](#)

**Jack Green-Morgan, Political Consultant for Energy, Utilities and Net Zero**

“Great British Energy (GBE) was Labour’s flagship energy policy during the 2024 general election. Labour has claimed the state-owned energy company – which will act as an investment company to incentivise private sector co-investment in renewables – will help reduce UK emissions, bring manufacturing jobs to the regions, and bring down energy bills.

In the context of persistently high energy bills, the perceived failure of the last Conservative Government to “level-up” the country, and the broad political consensus on the need to cut emissions, GBE is likely to enjoy support from both the public and the majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

However, a major consideration for delivering GBE will be ensuring the proposed “Energy Independence Bill” includes practical reforms that will allow GBE to succeed. For example, without reform to the grid connections process or planning, Labour may struggle to convert investment into rapid deployment of renewable generation.

While vital for the success of GBE, the ability to deploy new renewable generation quickly is also important for Labour because they have pledged to decarbonise the UK’s electricity system by 2030.

So, the success of Great British Energy and the 2030 decarbonisation target are both dependent on rapid construction of new infrastructure and new renewable generation. This will require deploying all available renewable technologies at pace, including onshore wind turbines and large-scale solar arrays.

Repealing the de facto ban on onshore wind turbines and constructing solar farms or transmission and distribution infrastructure at the pace and scale required might face some opposition. Labour has picked up a considerable number of rural seats which have traditionally voted Conservative. In these constituencies, opposition runs strong to development which might threaten the countryside’s character or reduce agricultural land use.

The Labour Party could therefore be victims of their electoral success. New Labour MPs in these rural constituencies, conscious of their fragile majorities, may become voices of dissent against Starmer’s plans for energy infrastructure. While this caucus of MPs is unlikely to be large enough to fatally undermine any of the necessary reforms, they may be capable of dilution, which could have knock-on effects on GBE, as well as Labour’s ambitious 2030 decarbonisation target.”

## Foreign Affairs Defence and International Development

100 day “sprint” review of security threats, both foreign and domestic - [link](#)

Introduce legislation for the Armed Forces Covenant and Armed Forces Commissioner in the first King’s Speech - [link](#)

Long-term peace and security in the Middle East will be an immediate focus – [manifesto p.128](#)

David Lammy [said](#) Labour would publish a summary of the legal advice on arms sales to Israel.

[The Times](#) reports there will be 100 days of “NATO tests” and a broader year-long review of defence.

### Harry Banton, Deputy Head of UK Political Intelligence, Political Consultant for Foreign Affairs, Defence and International Development

“Labour inherits a perilous international position with a conflict raging in Europe and the Middle East which both have significant domestic implications. The conflict in Gaza has exacerbated supply chain and economic pressures, and so is detrimental to Starmer’s mission to deliver the highest growth in the G7.

The conflict in Gaza also exposes some of the fault lines in Starmer’s coalition, which he worked so hard to overcome in the road to his victory in the 2024 General Election. George Galloway’s win in Rochdale was the most publicised example of the struggles Labour dealt with in opposition but far from the only one from this campaign. Now in power, Labour will need to quickly find a sustainable footing for their position on Gaza; they can no longer hide under the cover of opposition. Expect a quick ramp up of pressure from activists on the new Government in relation to arms exports to Israel.

Broader defence reform will take longer, and Labour appears to recognise the complexity of the task ahead of them, hence the first 100 days being dominated by reviewing security threats and internal capability, but with access to information which would be deemed too sensitive for them in opposition.

Depending on the outcomes of these reviews, there could be significant consequences for the UK’s defence industry and the conflict in Ukraine. Labour have been supportive of the Government’s strategy towards Ukraine, but often critical of its implementation, particularly in the scaling-up of the UK’s defence industry.

Labour’s pitch to veterans and service personnel includes some totemic pledges such as legislation for the Armed Forces Covenant and an Armed Forces Commissioner in the first King’s Speech. However, there is little detail on how this will translate to tangible benefits for the military community. Labour is unlikely to encounter opposition to this move, given that the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives have made similar pledges in their own manifestos.



## Home Affairs, Justice and Equalities

Launch a “border squad” to tackle small boats - [link](#)

100-day review of security threats, both foreign and domestic - [link](#)

Scrap the Rwanda Scheme - [link](#)

[The Times](#) reports that there will be a Crime and Policing Bill to tackle antisocial behaviour and county lines gangs in the first King’s Speech.

## Retail and Employment

Legislation for New Deal for Working People – [link pg.3](#)

Implement ‘Back to Work Plan’ - [link](#)

## Transport and Infrastructure

[The Times](#) reports that a Railways Bill will legislate to allow Labour to take the railway network back into public ownership as franchises expire.

## Education

Introduce VAT on private school fees in the first budget - [link](#)

## Health and Social Care

“Crack teams” will be deployed to tackle NHS waiting lists from day one - [link](#)

Tackle the immediate crisis in dentistry with a rescue plan to provide 700,000 more urgent dental appointments and recruit new dentists to areas that need them most – [manifesto p.101-2](#)

Begin negotiations with the British Medical Association to end strikes - [link](#)

Meet with the British Dental Association the Monday after the election to kickstart reforming contracts - [link](#)

[The Financial Times](#) reports Labour will bring back the Tobacco and Vapes Bill in the first King’s Speech.

Labour [supported](#) Amendment 119CA to the Victims and Prisoners Bill, requiring the Government to setup a compensation scheme for victims of the Infected Blood Scandal within three months of the act receiving royal assent.

[The Times](#) reports that there will be a Mental Health Bill in the first King’s Speech.



## About Dods Political Intelligence

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- [Insight - Dods Consultancy](#) – our sector-specialist consultants provide analysis, bespoke research, and impartial guidance on the latest policy developments and trends.
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