

Transport Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill

The government is today (20 October 2022) introducing the [Transport Strikes \(Minimum Service Levels\) Bill](#). This meets the Prime Minister's commitment to introduce this bill within her first 30 days of Parliament sitting and delivers on a commitment in the 2019 Conservative Party manifesto.

The bill paves the way for the introduction of minimum levels of service on transport services, like those already seen in other countries including France and Spain. The bill will ensure that specified transport services – which could include, for example, rail, tubes and buses – will not completely shut down when unions impose strikes.

This bill will balance the right to strike with ensuring commuters can get to their place of work and people can continue to make vital journeys to access education and healthcare during strikes. The bill sets out the legal framework for establishing minimum service levels. It will allow relevant employers and trade unions to negotiate and reach agreement between themselves on minimum service levels referred to as minimum service agreements (MSAs), provide for circumstances in which the MSA can be changed and include enforcement arrangements to ensure parties follow due process in their negotiations.

The bill also provides for an independent determination process should employers and unions fail to reach agreement on an appropriate minimum service level after 3 months, whereby if an agreement has not been reached the Central Arbitration Committee will determine the minimum service level.

The bill also includes a power for the Secretary of State to set interim minimum service levels by regulations which will apply where neither an MSA has been agreed nor an independent determination reached. These regulations will also be consulted upon and will need to be agreed by both Houses of Parliament before they are made.

Under the bill there will also have to be a minimum 3-month gap between these regulations being made and their coming into force. The specific details of how minimum service levels would apply to transport services will be set out in secondary legislation following appropriate consultation. A minimum service level would only be applied to an individual transport service once that secondary legislation has been agreed by Parliament.

The provisions of the bill extend and apply to England, Wales and Scotland. The bill's provisions relate to the reserved matter of employment rights and duties and industrial relations, and the subject matter of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, and do not engage the legislative consent process.

Prime Minister Liz Truss's statement in Downing Street: 20 October 2022



Prime Minister Liz Truss's resignation statement – YouTube

I came into office at a time of great economic and international instability. Families and businesses were worried about how to pay their bills.

Putin's illegal war in Ukraine threatens the security of our whole continent.

And our country had been held back for too long by low economic growth.

I was elected by the Conservative Party with a mandate to change this.

We delivered on energy bills and on cutting national insurance.

And we set out a vision for a low tax, high growth economy – that would take advantage of the freedoms of Brexit.

I recognise though, given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party.

I have therefore spoken to His Majesty The King to notify him that I am

resigning as Leader of the Conservative Party.

This morning I met the Chair of the 1922 Committee Sir Graham Brady.

We have agreed there will be a leadership election to be completed in the next week.

This will ensure we remain on a path to deliver our fiscal plans and maintain our country's economic stability and national security.

I will remain as Prime Minister until a successor has been chosen.

Thank you.

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1. 20 October 2022

Added video and image.

2. 20 October 2022

First published.

Gender equality lecture in Ashgabat

World news story

British Ambassador delivers a lecture on gender equality to the youth of central Asia in Ashgabat.



His Majesty's Ambassador Ms Lucia Wilde and Ms Jessie Kirk, Social Development Adviser at the FCDO and an expert on gender issues, delivered the interactive lecture 'Gender in the context of conflict and peacebuilding'.

Preventive Diplomacy Academy students from the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) attended, as well as graduates from across central Asia. Young SDG Ambassadors from Turkmenistan were also in the audience.

The Ambassador spoke of the importance of female role models. Jessie spoke about the action governments can take to improve gender equality. Students also gave their own insightful and inspiring presentations on their work on gender around central Asia.

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DOH, NHSC collaborate on standards development for Philippine CDC

Gearing towards the establishment of the Philippine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Health (DOH), the British Embassy Manila and the United Kingdom's National Health Service Consortium for Global Health (NHSC) – represented by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) – met and discussed collaborative efforts on October 18-19, 2022 on the development of policies, programs, standards, guidelines, and monitoring and evaluation systems on the forecasting, prevention, and control of diseases, injuries, and disabilities of national and international concern. This is the first of the multiple learning exchanges in collaboration with the UK and the NHS Consortium this year, focusing on health systems strengthening and health policy development.

During his first State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. revived the call for the creation of a Center for Disease Control and a Virology Institute in the country. Towards this, the DOH is working with several national and international partners, to facilitate the development of better strategies for improved evidence-based policy making once the measure is enacted into law.

The Universal Health Care Law set the stage for the CDC by mandating the DOH to ensure the quality of health services through the development of evidence-based public health and clinical care standards. The DOH established the National Practice Guidelines Program (NPGP) to oversee and manage the development, adoption, and dissemination of clinical practice guidelines, which will guide rational prioritization, service delivery, and financing of standards of care, which contribute to the overall vision of a Healthy Pilipinas.

“As the DOH continues to strengthen our National Practice Guidelines Program, we understand the value of collaboration and knowledge exchange with

international partners such as NICE, which has already established itself as a world leader in evidence-based healthcare. Hence, we welcome this timely opportunity to gain a better understanding of the best practices for guideline development, implementation, and evaluation, and to foster a lasting relationship that will continue to empower evidence-informed standard setting and policy-making across the entire health sector, especially towards planning for the Philippine CDC,” said Health Officer-in-Charge Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire.

“Chief among the lessons that the COVID-9 pandemic has taught us is the value of a prepared healthcare system that is guided by evidence-based interventions and strengthened by global relationships. With this, the DOH will continuously work with our international and national partners to strengthen the country’s public health emergency preparedness and response and expand health security capacity,” added the OIC.

Ambassador Laure Beaufile shares, “Strengthening health systems is an important part of the UK’s work here in the Philippines. We are delighted to be able to share our expertise and experience in public health. The collaboration between the Department of Health in the Philippines and NHS Consortium for Global Health, and in particular with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) supports the Philippines’ priorities in health policy development. It demonstrates the shared commitment of the UK and the Philippines to continue our collaboration in delivering stronger, universal healthcare.”

Since 2012, NICE has been collaborating and sharing technical resources with the Department of Health on methods and process guidelines for Health Technology Assessment development. Through the UK’s Better Health Programme in the Philippines from 2019 to 2022, the NHS Consortium for Global Health has enabled further system-to-system collaboration with NICE to support health systems and health policy development, broadening UK-Philippines collaboration in Health.

Hugh McGuire, senior scientific adviser, NICE International, adds, “It has been an invaluable opportunity to build on our already strong relationships between the Philippines Department of Health and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, and the support of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Better Health Programme, the NHS Consortium for Global health and the British Embassy in Manila.”

Judith Richardson, director of health and social care, NICE, adds, “The last 2 days have been a fantastic opportunity for peer to peer interaction where both the UK and Philippines are learning from each other’s experiences in HTA and guidelines development.”

Crime news: extension of fee rises after MOJ and CBA deal

News story

Crime fee increases now being applied to most current cases following agreement between the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Criminal Bar Association (CBA).



Crime fee increases introduced from 30 September 2022 apply to new cases claimable by litigators and advocates. They will now apply to the vast majority of existing Crown Court cases as well.

How do I claim the new fees?

Increases will automatically be applied to ongoing cases where the following both apply:

- representation orders were granted between 17 September 2020 and 29 September 2022
- main hearing takes place on or after 31 October 2022

This applies to schedules 1 and 2 of the Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) (Amendment) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2022. So, it will only affect claims made under the Litigators' and Advocates' Graduated Fee Schemes.

Processing new fee claims

These changes will put more pressure on our operational processes in the short-term. We are recruiting additional staff to deal with the extra work that will be generated. This is likely to cause delays while the new starters are trained to deal with the revised processes.

Why is this happening now?

The increases to existing cases follow the agreement between the Ministry of

Justice (MOJ) and the Criminal Bar Association (CBA) in response to the Bar's strike action. Members of the CBA have accepted the government's proposals and have returned to work.

The fee increases introduced on 30 September reflected the government's interim response to recommendations by Sir Christopher Bellamy following the Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid.

Where can I find out more?

Details of the revised fees and hourly rates are set out in the Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.

In addition to updated regulations, you can view revised Crown Court guidance on GOV.UK. There is also a table of fee claim scenarios.

Further information

[Crown Court fee guidance](#)

[Criminal Legal Aid \(Remuneration\) \(Amendment\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2022](#) – for changes applying the increase to current cases.

[Criminal Legal Aid \(Remuneration\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2022](#) – for revised fees and hourly rates

[Written ministerial statement from the Lord Chancellor](#)

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