

LIGC DRAFT Motions June 2026

Motion 1: Sir Norman Bettison – Hillsborough (*Southern France, Isle of Man, Ireland*)

- The LI SF, I & IOM branch notes the findings of the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) investigation relating to Sir Norman Bettison and the circumstances surrounding his application for the post of Chief Constable of Merseyside in 1998.

The branch further notes the IOPC view that, had Sir Norman Bettison still been serving, he would have had a case to answer for gross misconduct for deliberate dishonesty in relation to his explanation of his involvement in the aftermath of the Hillsborough disaster during the application process for the post of Chief Constable and his continued misleading and inaccurate press statements minimising his role during the post-disaster investigations.

The branch holds the view that Sir Norman Bettison is unfit to hold a knighthood and this honour should be forfeited at the earliest possible opportunity in order to preserve the integrity of the honours system and to express the importance of this action to Hillsborough families and survivors. The branch also believes that consideration should be given to removal of his police pension.

The branch therefore requests the Labour Party write to the Cabinet Office to urge them to:

- (i) withdraw Sir Norman Bettison's knighthood, in light of the IOPC findings, on the basis that he is not worthy to hold this title and in order to preserve the integrity of the honours system; and
- (ii) consider options to remove Sir Norman Bettison's police pension.

Motion 2: Extension of FOIA rights (a Public Information Transparency Obligation bill) (Netherlands)

Labour International CLP notes that public bodies increasingly rely on broadly interpreted exemptions and restrictive cost limits to avoid releasing information, reducing accountability over decisions and the use of public money. It notes that, outside of FOIA, public records are currently released under a 20-year rule (which is often extended) in central government and believes this should be reduced further to improve transparency and accountability. It further notes being in receipt of reports that ICO rulings more frequently favour secrecy of information rather than transparency.

Labour International CLP resolves: that freedom of information should apply to all public bodies and to any organisation or individual receiving public funds, benefit (in kind or actual) or privilege; that exemptions should be far more narrowly drawn and independently assessed; and that constitutional bodies, including government authorities, the Royal Household or associated organisations where public funds, legal privileges or functions are involved, should face a higher transparency duty. It further believes that cost limits be revised significantly upwards (especially for public and constitutional bodies) and that it should be a criminal offence to withhold or destroy records without strong independent oversight and independent prior-approval, and that appeals should be heard by a body free from government interference.

Background information

Specific measures which could be proposed in a Public Information Transparency Obligation bill could be:

1. Extend FOI coverage to all public bodies and all organisations and individuals receiving public funds and benefits.
2. Oppose any lowering of FOI cost thresholds and propose a mechanism to prevent cost being used to avoid disclosure.
3. Propose a mechanism to prevent national security from being used unnecessarily to avoid compliance, while protecting genuinely sensitive information.
4. Place a higher burden of transparency on public and constitutional bodies, including the NHS, government bodies and the Royal Household.
5. Support a criminal offence for withholding or destroying public records without independent scrutiny and approval.

6. Create an independent appeals body with decisions and appeals resolved within six months, with the public body required to justify any redaction by showing the highest risk.
 7. All information from public and constitutional bodies will be presented within one year to the National Archives for management who will manage the release date for such information, which shall be a maximum of ten years.
 8. Abolish the exclusion that allows requests to be denied “where disclosure would be likely to prejudice relations between any administration in the UK and any other such administration.”
 9. Enforce laws that communications by those engaged in public business must use publicly owned communication devices which are automatically and immutably backed up.
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- The ICO and FOI guidance confirm that exemptions and cost limits are key parts of the current system, but they are also the points most often used to refuse requests.
 - The Public Records framework already moves government records to public release on a 20-year basis, so a 10-year target would be a significant but clear extension of existing transparency practice.
 - Section 77 of the Freedom of Information Act already makes deliberate destruction or concealment of records after an FOI request a criminal offence, which supports the case for stronger enforcement and clearer penalties and extension in relation to deletions made before an FOIA request is received.

Motion 3: Building on National insurance (*Southern France, Isle of Man, Ireland*)

People's security faces new challenges so the National Insurance we contribute to needs reinforcement.

For example the UK's private rental sector is part of the UK's housing mix, providing housing across a broad bandwidth.

The policy of neglect by the previous Conservative governments in providing adequate social housing. Created an unhealthy reliance on the private rental sector.

Successive Conservative Governments replaced more cost-effective social housing with private rental accommodation.

Creating the additional need for increased State rental support for low-income groups to make up the shortfall in rents paid to private Landlords.

We now need an investigation and a focus on private rental age groups from 45 to 68 years of age.

To highlight any potential age pension time bomb awaiting future incoming Governments.

It's not inconceivable that this group might expand due to the present shortfalls in social housing provision.

Accompanied by a need for more government support, as more people could head into retirement with lower incomes and savings, due to a life time, paying higher private rents.

In a similar manner, many may face high costs for adult social care.

Therefore this Motion calls on the Government with timely immediacy to enable UK citizens to pay more contributions into their own personal State National Insurance

So the State Pension paid from NI contributions can become more versatile in providing some extra help in old age towards paying a myriad of age-related issues.

This Motion, therefore, calls for an investigation into enabling more weekly National Insurance payments to be allowed. To top up each individual's own personal National Insurance pot, if they so wish. Thus allowing them to receive extra pension payments. When they need it later in life



Further, to increase the range of standard NI benefits to include social care

And, in addition to voluntary contributions, redefine normal contributions on a progressive scale without a top limit and make all income earned and unearned subject to NI apart from the state pension.

Finally, ring fence NI contributions for the above uses separate from any other Government spending.

**Motion 4: Prerogative Powers And Dissolution of State /
Monarchy Relationship Motion (*Southern France, Isle of Man, Ireland*)**

Prerogative powers are powers which have belonged to the monarch since the Middle Ages, but in modern times are exercised largely by government ministers. The last occasion they were invoked was on March 11th in 1708, Queen Anne withheld her Royal Assent to the Scottish Militia Bill passed by both houses of Parliament. In doing so, she prevented the act from becoming law, effectively killing the bill. This would be the last time a British monarch exercised veto power over legislation.

Although the Queen did act through the Governor-General to dissolve both the parliament and senate of Australia in November 1975, dismissing Gough Whitlam the labour prime minister and appointing Malcom Fraser the liberal party opposition as prime minister. Such interference in contemporary democracy should be considered as outrageous with all powers imbedded in the monarchy in relation to the commonwealth repealed by statute.

There exist disused 'Prerogative Powers' and delegated 'Prerogative Powers' Identifying 'Prerogative Powers' is a legal and constitutional bewilderingly complex subject.

There also exists a principle "The Supremacy of Statute Law" which functions where a conflict exists between 'Prerogative' and 'Statute', Statute prevails, in other words Acts of Parliament prevail over 'Prerogative'.

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9877/>

LI calls for all prerogative powers to be transferred to Statutory law by a Act of parliament.

LI considers that Britain as a democratic society has evolved to a point where;

'Prerogative Powers' no longer have a place in a British democracy and that the Monarchy is to exist independently from the State, answerable and subject of the State as a British Citizen or British Resident. -Such customs as **"Royal Assent"** would become obsolete, Bills of parliament on becoming an Act of parliament on their third reading would no longer require **"Royal Assent"** (the Monarch's signature) to become law.

-The **'Kings Assent'** and the **'Princes Assent'** makes provisions affecting the hereditary revenues, the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall, and personal property or personal interests of the Crown, those provisions reserve the right to require parliament to modify legislation if the legislation has an adverse effect on the revenues of the Crown. With the abolition of 'Prerogative Powers' the 'King's Assent' and 'Princes Assent' would also be **abolished**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/kings-or-princes-consent/kings-and-princes-consent>

This motion calls for the dissolution of the relationship between the State and the Monarchy. Britain would no longer be a 'Constitutional Monarchy' but a 'Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy'. The state would become responsible for opening/dissolving parliament, the designated leader of political parties would automatically become Prime Minister upon winning a general election and select his/her ministers. Suitable legal oversight would be created to replace the function of head of state hitherto exercised by the Monarch; ex. an elected head of state or the Supreme Court with a function of overseeing the British constitution (to be defined by parliament).

The reigning monarch would fulfil a new role of representation but not as head of state. This new role would be defined by government and a restricted number of royal household members would be supported by a reinstated **civil list** replacing the **Sovereign grant** (as currently operated).

2-The ‘**Crown Estates**’ “Who are they? Across communities, countryside, coast and seabed, they own and manage land for the benefit of the nation. They are an independent business sitting between the public and private sectors, acting in the national interest both today, and for future generations.

The Crown Estate is constituted as a statutory corporation under the Crown Estate Act, 1961, as amended by the Crown Estate Act 2025 (together referred to as "the Act"). It is a body established in perpetuity under the Act as a trust estate. Is the Crown Estate owned by the government? The Crown Estate is owned by the Monarch “in right of the Crown”. This means that while the King owns the estate during his reign, it is not his private property and he does not manage or make decisions about its assets.

LI calls for the ownership of the ‘Crown Estate’ to be transferred to ‘The British People’ in perpetuity as a trust estate and managed as a ‘Sovereign Wealth Fund’ by the government.

LI calls for the ownership of the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall to be terminated by Act of parliament and the ownership transferred to the above mentioned perpetual trust managed as a Sovereign Wealth Fund on behalf of the British people.

Further reading referencing King / Queens consent and constitutional matters;

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/social-historical-sciences/constitution-unit/constitution-unit-publications/constitution-unit-explainers/what-royal-prerogative>

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2021/feb/10/how-the-queen-lobbied-for-changes-in-the-law-to-hide-her-wealth-podcast>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/14/ministers-sought-king-charles-consent-pass-conservation-laws>

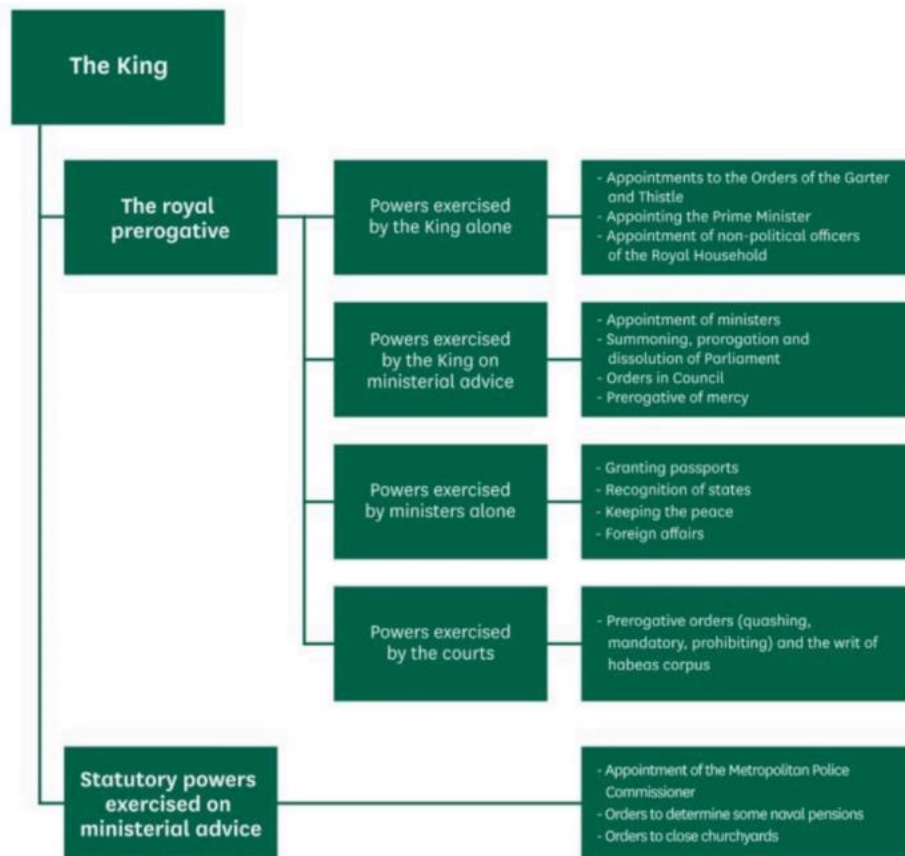
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/feb/08/queen-power-british-law-queens-consent>

<https://giftarticle.ft.com/giftarticle/actions/redeem/45444ce0-3a0f-4483-acd0-9eea2dcb9f14>

<https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/2026/06/05/the-government-is-right-to-update-the-cabinet-manual-wide-consultation-can-help-it-do-so/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/jun/05/andrew-sublet-three-cottages-while-paying-peppercorn-rent-to-crown-estate>

Royal powers and ministerial advice



Motion 5: Resignation of Defence Secretary (*CENE*)

We note with concern the resignation of the Defence Secretary, Mr Healy, and support the reasoning he has given in his letter of resignation.