



## DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 0236, 26 October 2018

# Beauty and the built environment

By Suzanna Hinson  
Philip Abraham

## Summary

This pack has been prepared ahead of the debate to be held in Westminster Hall on Tuesday 30 October at 2.30pm on beauty and the built environment. The debate will be opened by John Hayes MP.

## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Press Articles</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	News items	4
2.2	Press releases	5
<b>3.</b>	<b>Parliamentary material</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	PQs	10
3.2	Debates	12
<b>4.</b>	<b>Useful links and further reading</b>	<b>13</b>

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Background

The National Planning Policy Framework provides the framework for producing local plans for housing and other developments, which in turn provide the background against which applications for planning permission are decided. This only applies in England.

The July 2018 [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) provides guidance on achieving well designed places and includes a section that states that developments should be 'visually attractive':

127. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

[...]

b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping.<sup>1</sup>

For more information on the NPPF see the Library briefing paper on '[What next for planning in England? The National Planning Policy Framework](#)'.

A number of reports and articles have suggested that aspects of developments which some may consider to constitute 'beauty', including quality of design and access to green space, can have social and economic benefits (see section 4 on further reading for details).

On 19 October 2018, in response to a [Parliamentary question](#) from John Hayes MP on beauty in the built environment, the Minister for Housing, Communities, and Local Government Kit Malthouse MP said the Government were promoting "design quality and beauty":

The Government recognises the importance to communities of design quality in the built environment for new development. A design team and an architectural adviser to Government have been established, in order to promote design quality and beauty across policy and programmes.

Design quality is an integral part of the recently revised National Planning Policy Framework, which states that development should be "visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping". The importance of beauty is also highlighted in Government programmes, including the Garden Cities, Towns and Villages programme.

The Government is taking a proactive approach to sharing evidence of beauty in the built environment, and my department hosted the Government's first design quality conference in April this year. New planning guidance will emphasise the importance of community engagement in plan making and design of projects, and the need to focus on qualities such as the appearance of new development, that appeal to residents and neighbours.<sup>2</sup>

There have been calls for beauty in the built environment to be expanded in the UK's policy. For example, in 2015, the policy think tank ResPublica published a report which argued that "everyday" beauty was

---

<sup>1</sup> [National Planning Policy Framework](#), July 2018, p.38

<sup>2</sup> [PQ 178233](#), Building regulations, 11 October 2018

“evaded” in the UK’s then national policy framework and suggested introducing a “Community Right to Beauty.”<sup>3</sup>

The report suggested amendments to the *Localism Act 2011* to transfer the proposed ‘Right to Beauty’ into law. ResPublica made a number of suggestions to enhance ‘beauty’ including making ‘beauty’ a material planning consideration, creating designations for Areas of Outstanding Urban Beauty, and increasing community powers for influence over local developments.

---

<sup>3</sup> ResPublica, [A Community Right to Beauty: Giving communities the power to shape, enhance and create beautiful places, developments and spaces](#), July 2015

## 2. Press Articles

### 2.1 News items

*Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.*

Politics Home

#### **Beauty in the built environment: the role of neighbourhood planning**

7 October 2016

<https://www.politicshome.com/news/uk/communities/housing/opinion/woodland-trust/79637/beauty-built-environment-role-neighbourhood>

BBC News

#### **UK income levels severely limit access to natural beauty**

23 July 2015

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-33628747>

Independent

#### **Poor Britons miss out on beautiful surroundings and should have the legal right to improve look of their neighbourhoods, says report**

23 July 2015

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/poor-britons-miss-out-on-beautiful-surroundings-and-should-have-legal-right-to-improve-look-of-their-10408029.html>

BBC News

#### **Can you prescribe nature?**

8 July 2015

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-33368691>

Building Design

#### **Gove laments lack of beauty in the built environment**

17 May 2013

<https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/gove-laments-lack-of-beauty-in-the-built-environment/5054898.article>

Guardian

### **Can buildings really be more beautiful than nature?**

28 November 2012

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/shortcuts/2012/nov/28/buildings-more-beautiful-than-nature>

Independent

### **Architecture and our duty to beauty**

20 September 2010

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/architecture/architecture-and-our-duty-to-beauty-2083734.html>

## 2.2 Press releases

**RIBA**

### **RIBA responds to revised NPPF**

**25 July 2018**

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) makes an initial response to the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) by the Government yesterday, 24 July 2018.

RIBA President Ben Derbyshire says:

“The RIBA’s welcomes the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) by Government yesterday. Time and the fulfillment of these proposals will be the real test for the NPPF. But we are pleased to see commitments to the Climate Change Act, to Garden City principles and that our call for increased transparency in viability tests has been formally incorporated. We will now be urging Government to closely monitor confidentiality exemptions to ensure this is not abused.

“The Government have also highlighted the importance of quality design to address any concerns about the potential impact of higher density development and the importance of well-designed housing generally. The RIBA welcomes this awareness and urges further action on how to design high density homes that are desirable. This includes urging the Government to give planners the resources, tools and power to raise the bar of quality design in the system.

“It is vital that we now ensure these proposals make a real impact on the quality of the built environment. The new NPPF must be accompanied by appropriate guidance for local planning departments on proactive placemaking that delivers sustainable wellbeing as well as aesthetic quality. We will continue to work with the enhanced team

now at the Ministry for Housing, Communities and local Government to help get this right.”

## **Design Council**

### **Not at the heart of the NPPF but definitely in the mind**

#### **July 2018**

In our response to the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) we made a clear case that to create, radical, lasting reform the policy needed design at its heart. On 24 July, the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published its revised NPPF and we were pleased to see that design plays a much more prominent role.

It may not be quite at the heart of the NPPF but it is definitely in the mind of MHCLG who clearly understand the important role design will play if they are to deliver on the government’s goal of delivering 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s.

The change between the draft NPPF and the updated NPPF is significant. The first draft discussed how, “Planning policies and decisions should support the creation of high quality buildings and places. Plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable.”, vitally the updated version goes further saying that, “the creation of high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities.” There is also a bolstering of the language about community engagement, with a focus on “effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process”. Outside of the framework itself, the refocusing on design was a key part of the department’s communications on the day.

There are also welcome changes to not just create places that are “safe, inclusive and accessible, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users” but also to “promote health and well-being”. Our Healthy Placemaking report published during the consultation period shows that while healthy placemaking is recognised in, public health and placemaking policy, it is not understood or implemented consistently across the sector and it continues to be seen as a cost to local development rather than an investment. The change to the NPPF is an important step in creating places that improve people’s standards of living, reduce preventable disease and alleviate pressures on health and social care. More work still needs to be done to embed healthy placemaking within policy, commissioning and practice, engaging all parties delivering the built environment, but this is a movement in the right direction.

The long-term challenge that the government has set itself is ambitious. The number of houses it plans to build every year over the coming years has not been seen for over a generation. If this government wants to reverse the series of “many failures by many people over many years” identified by the Prime Minister when the NPPF was launched it has to maintain its focus on design. Design can play a key role in the “radical lasting reform” government seeks: driving greater understanding of the needs of populations; building public support for developments; creating sustainable solutions across the country and enabling innovation in the construction industry. It is only by realising these opportunities that we will know it is serious about creating lasting change.

## **House of Lords National Policy for the Built Environment Committee**

### **[Short-sighted Government housing policy will not meet objectives](#)**

**19 February 2016**

The National Policy for the Built Environment Committee today asserts the importance of delivering a better built environment and criticises current government policy as unlikely to meet demand for either the quantity or quality of houses we need. The Committee is concerned about the quality of new developments, and about the risk of housing delivery being prioritised at the expense of other elements of the built environment.

- [Report: Building Better Places \(PDF\)](#)
- [Report: Building Better Places \(HTML\)](#)
- [Evidence volume](#)
- [Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment](#)

Chairman of the Committee, [Baroness O'Cathain](#) said:

"It is increasingly clear that we need to build more houses in England and we wholeheartedly support that objective. However if we build those houses in the wrong place, to a poor standard, without the consent of local communities we are only storing up future misery for the people in those houses and others nearby.

"That is why we are recommending local authorities are once again empowered both to build new homes of their own, and to ensure all developments are of a suitably high quality. Spending a little bit extra on good quality design at the outset can avert massive costs to people, society and Government in the long-run.

"The Government should review the National Planning Policy Framework to make sure developers aren't using financial viability to play fast and loose with design quality and sustainability. If developers submit substandard plans local authorities should be able to ask them to

think again without builders falling back on questionable viability assessments to get their way.

"We are also calling on the Government to appoint a Chief Built Environment Advisor to work across government departments to integrate planning policy and act as a champion for higher standards and good practice. It's important that the Government sets a good example and leads from the front on design quality.

"Ensuring we have a better built environment in the coming decades is one of the key challenges facing government. It impacts on every area of our lives. The Government must now take that challenge seriously. We hope in responding to our report they will recognise that the drive for more homes must not come at the expense of quality. Everyone deserves a home but they also deserve a good quality home, in a good quality place, that meets their needs as individuals and families. We don't think the Government's policy as it stands will deliver that."

Recommendations included in the report

- The Government should reconsider the proposal to include 'starter homes' within the definition of affordable housing as starter homes cease to include any element of affordability after five years.
- The Government should reconsider additional elements of the Housing and Planning Bill which would undermine the maintenance of mixed communities.
- The Government should appoint a Chief Built Environment Advisor to champion higher standards in the built environment across government departments.
- The Government should reverse its decision to do away with the zero carbon homes requirement and Code for Sustainable Homes.
- We need a new strategy for managing our historic built environment that recognises that our historic built environment is a 'unique national and local asset, central to place-making' and a 'cultural and economic asset rather than an obstacle to successful future developments'.
- The Government should make design review mandatory for all major planning applications, in order to offset the long-term burdens and costs of poor quality design.
- Local Authority planning departments need to be better resourced and the planning profession needs to rediscover the prestige it once had. The Committee calls for more bursaries for planning students, and a greater emphasis on 'proactive planning' from local authorities.

**ResPublica**

**[Backing Beauty Commission](#)**

## July 2015

Our [Backing Beauty](#) Commission is **a campaign to put beauty, placemaking and community participation at the heart of local planning and wider public policy**. Through conversations with national and local policymakers and officials, as well as professional planners and developers, the campaign will work towards achieving a culture change which would see higher priority given to the concept of beauty, as discerned by local people, in decisions about the future of places.

Our 2015 report, [A Community Right to Beauty](#), argued for **the restoration and democratisation of beauty in public policy**. It featured on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, with Dame Fiona Reynolds, former Director General of the The National Trust, accompanied by a social media campaign which saw users share their favourite beautiful places. *Backing Beauty* aims to continue the conversation this report has started.

We believe the increasing political priority being given to housing is a significant opportunity to put visual appeal and conformity with community hopes for the look and feel of their area at the heart of any new development or regeneration. ***Backing Beauty will therefore call for further powers to be devolved to local authorities and communities***, in the context of city devolution as well as existing schemes such as Neighbourhood Planning,

You can find out more about the campaign at its dedicated website, [www.webackbeauty.org.uk](http://www.webackbeauty.org.uk), where you can also sign up for updates on the Commission's progress and activity via its monthly newsletter, and see which organisations and individuals are supporting our campaign. You can also follow the Commission on [Twitter](#) and you can join the conversation on social media using the hashtag **#webackbeauty**.

## 3. Parliamentary material

### 3.1 PQs

#### [Building Regulations](#)

**Asked by: Hayes, John**

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of aesthetics of the built environment on people's quality of life.

**Answering Member:** Kit Malthouse | Department: **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**

Within the Housing White paper, we made a commitment to building the right homes in the right places. Following this the revised National Planning Policy Framework states that "good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, and creates better places in which to live and work" and that new development should be "visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping".

The Department has not carried out a systematic review of the impact of the aesthetics of the built environment on people's quality of life. However, we are in the process of gathering evidence of good practice in relation to design quality, which we are sharing with the wider sector through events, such as the design quality conference that we hosted in April this year. I have also challenged the development community to consider whether they are building the conservation areas of the future.

**24 October 2018 | PQ 180313**

#### [Building Regulations](#)

**Asked by: Hayes, John**

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what priority the Government has given to beauty in the built environment.

**Answering Member:** Kit Malthouse | Department: **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**

The Government recognises the importance to communities of design quality in the built environment for new development. A design team and an architectural adviser to Government have been established, in order to promote design quality and beauty across policy and programmes.

Design quality is an integral part of the recently revised National Planning Policy Framework, which states that development should be "visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping". The importance of beauty is

also highlighted in Government programmes, including the Garden Cities, Towns and Villages programme.

The Government is taking a proactive approach to sharing evidence of beauty in the built environment, and my department hosted the Government's first design quality conference in April this year. New planning guidance will emphasise the importance of community engagement in plan making and design of projects, and the need to focus on qualities such as the appearance of new development, that appeal to residents and neighbours.

**19 October 2018 | PQ 178233**

[Architecture: Planning](#)

**Asked by:** Aldous, Peter

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the National Planning Policy Framework on the quality of design in the built environment;

(2) what measures he is taking to deliver upon the commitment outlined in A Housing Strategy for England, Chapter 7, to improve standards of design for new houses in England.

**Answering Member:** Mr Foster | Department: **Department for Communities and Local Government**

The Government attach great importance to the design of the built environment. The National Planning Policy Framework contains a strong set of policies on designs enshrining good design as a core planning principle and sending a clear message to councils to reject development of poor design.

Local authorities and organisations, including the Royal Institute for British Architects, have welcomed the framework stating that a clear message has been sent to developers, planning officers and committees that poor-quality development will no longer be accepted.

The policies on design in the framework must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans. It is through the local and neighbourhood plan process that design policies that will influence development locally, are tested and adopted. We have made good progress on local plans, with seven out of 10 councils now having a published local plan, compared to three out of 10 in May 2010. As of April 2013 over 500 communities are taking up the right to make a legally binding neighbourhood plan for their area.

To meet Housing Strategy commitments we have also provided funding to Design Council that has enabled it to work with partners to establish ways of delivering design support to communities, councils and developers and encouraged industry to innovate, for example through the annual Housing Design Awards.

**20 June 2013 | HC Deb Col 761W**

## 3.2 Debates

### **National Policy for the Built Environment**

**HL Deb 24 January 2017 | Vol 778 c 97**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2017-01-24/debates/6FEFB89B-8B7B-403D-B886-2BAE5C5C9636/NationalPolicyForTheBuiltEnvironment>

### **Architecture and the Built Environment**

**HL Deb 28 July 2014 | Vol 755 c1474**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2014-07-28/debates/14072823000143/ArchitectureAndTheBuiltEnvironment>

### **Built Environment: Design Quality**

**HL Deb 22 November 2010 | Vol 722 c961**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2010-11-22/debates/1011228000450/BuiltEnvironmentDesignQuality>

### **Historic towns and cities**

**HC Deb 19 October 2010 | Vol 516 c205WH**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2010-10-19/debates/10101927000002/HistoricTownsAndCities>

## 4. Useful links and further reading

UK Green Building Council, *BLOG: What does the concept of beauty have to do with the built environment?*, 15 October 2018

<https://www.ukgbc.org/news/what-does-the-concept-of-beauty-have-to-do-with-the-built-environment/>

UKGBC CEO Julie Hirigoyen writes about visualising beauty in the spaces we create, and her recent experience talking at a Respublica event in Birmingham.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, *National Planning Policy Framework: Chapter 12. Achieving well-designed places*, July 2018

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/740441/National\\_Planning\\_Policy\\_Framework\\_web\\_accessible\\_version.pdf#page=40](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf#page=40)

The creation of high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities.

BBC Future, *The hidden ways architecture affects how you feel*, 6 June 2017

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170605-the-psychology-behind-your-citys-design>

As more of us flock to urban living, city designers are re-thinking buildings' influence on our moods in an era of "neuro-architecture".

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, *Green Space and Health*, 17 October 2016

[https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0538?utm\\_source=directory&utm\\_medium=website&utm\\_campaign=PN538](https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0538?utm_source=directory&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=PN538)

A range of bodies, including Government agencies, have promoted the possible physical and mental health benefits of access to green space. This POSTnote summarises the evidence for physical and mental health benefits from contact with nature, such as reducing rates of non-communicable diseases, and the challenges for urban green spaces.

Savills, *Why beauty is the next big theme for the built environment*, 29 November 2016

<https://www.savills.co.uk/blog/article/211356/commercial-property/why-beauty-is-the-next-big-theme-for-the-built-environment.aspx>

Appearance, of course, plays a significant role in urban design: including green spaces, using interesting and varied materials and design features to generate emotions in users is par for the course. But attaining 'beauty' itself is rarely on the agenda and it doesn't deserve to be: shouldn't the de facto position be that we automatically aspire to beautiful office buildings and environments, with those that deliver on practical requirements but little else, being the exception, rather than the norm?

Department for Transport, Speech by John Hayes, *The journey to beauty*, November 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-journey-to-beauty>

The rarity with which the case for beauty is articulated is explained partly by timidity, and partly by unwillingness to challenge modernist determinism; by the surrender of many decent people to the Whiggish notion that the future is bound to be better than now and, in any case, there isn't much we can do about altering it.

The aesthetics of our built environment – including our transport architecture – has suffered from what Sir Roger Scruton has called the Cult of Ugliness.

House of Lords Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment, *Building better places*, 19 February 2016

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldselect/ldbuilt/100/100.pdf>

The built environment affects us all. The planning, design, management and maintenance of the built environment has a long-term impact upon people and communities. It is widely acknowledged that the quality of life, prosperity, health and wellbeing of an individual is heavily influenced by the 'place' in which they live or work.

ResPublica, *A Community Right to Beauty: Giving communities the power to shape, enhance and create beautiful places, developments and spaces*, July 2015

<https://www.respublica.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Right-to-Beauty-Final-1.pdf>

This paper argues for a Community Right to Beauty – a new community right that will give people more powers and incentives to shape, enhance and create beautiful places. In recent years, 'beauty' has been considered at best an addendum to public policy; a luxury that sits on

the outskirts of social justice and discernment of the common good. But this is to misunderstand its true meaning. Beautiful places exist everywhere – in the urban, the rural, and all that sits in between – and are vital to the social and economic prosperity of a locality.

Journal of Architecture (Vol 20, No 2), *A model for everyday experience of the built environment: the embodied perception of architecture*, April 2015

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13602365.2015.1026835?src=recsys&journalCode=rjar20>

Architecture's daily impact on its users is the result of neither concentration nor focused attention. Preoccupied with everyday tasks, most people do not stop to observe the architectural object as a work of art.

Nature, *City living marks the brain*, June 2011

<https://www.nature.com/news/2011/110622/full/474429a.html>

Epidemiologists showed decades ago that people raised in cities are more prone to mental disorders than those raised in the countryside.

Building Green, *Beauty in Buildings: What's the Use?*, March 2011

<https://www.buildinggreen.com/blog/beauty-buildings-whats-use>

When the Modernists declared that form follows function, did they really intend for the built environment to look so ... dreary? Maybe beauty is an essential building function--not just something for the interior designer to work out at the end.

Forestry Commission, *Does beauty still matter? Experiential and utilitarian values of urban trees*, April 2010

[https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Trees-people-and-the-built-environment\\_Schroeder.pdf/\\$FILE/Trees-people-and-the-built-environment\\_Schroeder.pdf](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Trees-people-and-the-built-environment_Schroeder.pdf/$FILE/Trees-people-and-the-built-environment_Schroeder.pdf)

A major focus of early research on the social aspects of urban forestry was on how people perceive and value the beauty of trees in cities and towns. Since then, researchers have found that besides aesthetic enjoyment, the presence of urban forest vegetation may provide additional benefits such as stress relief, recovery from mental fatigue, stronger social ties, improved health and longevity, and reduced crime

Ipsos MORI/ Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, *People and places: Public attitudes to beauty*, November 2010

<https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/people-and-places.pdf>

This study was commissioned by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to provide a basis for examining how people relate to the places where they live. Recognising the Government's commitment to promote a Big Society, the project uses the idea of beauty as a stimulus for debate about the quality of the local environment and how best to involve people in shaping the look and feel of the places where they live.

The Lancet, *Effect of exposure to natural environment on health inequalities: an observational population study*, November 2008

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(08\)61689-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(08)61689-X/fulltext)

Studies have shown that exposure to the natural environment, or so-called green space, has an independent effect on health and health-related behaviours.

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, *The Cost of bad design*, 2006

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118134605/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/the-cost-of-bad-design.pdf>

At CABE, we think positively. We showcase good design, highlighting the best homes, public buildings and green spaces. But unfortunately, the world in which we work means we can't always accentuate the positive. We're here to make things better. We have a job to do because of the poor design and bad buildings that surround us – houses where no-one wants to live, hospitals that make patients ill, and parks that people avoid at all costs.

### About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email [papers@parliament.uk](mailto:papers@parliament.uk). Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email [hcinfo@parliament.uk](mailto:hcinfo@parliament.uk).

### Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).