



# LEGISLATION UPDATE

May 2026

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## Introduction and disclaimer

The main legal texts published between 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2026 are listed below, separated by main area of work: Quality, Environment, Information Security and Health & Safety.

The legal texts identified in this Newsletter do not represent all the legislation published in relation to these 4 topics. AvISO Consultancy selects the legislation which it believes will apply to the Companies with which it works. In addition, AvISO Consultancy does not take responsibility for the accuracy of any information provided and would recommend that you take appropriate legal advice in relation to any new legislation which might apply to your business, as appropriate.

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| QUALITY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                             |
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| Commercial Payments Bill (Update)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Changes in the legal register</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| <p><b>Jurisdiction:</b> United Kingdom</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Bill under Parliamentary consideration</p> <p><b>Commencement:</b> To be confirmed (subject to Royal Assent and commencement regulations)</p> <p><b>Introduces:</b> New statutory framework for commercial payment practices and transparency</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The Commercial Payments Bill (Update) introduces a strengthened legislative framework aimed at improving payment practices between businesses, with a particular focus on late payments to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).</p> <p>The updated Bill builds on existing reporting requirements under the Reporting on Payment Practices and Performance Regulations 2017 and proposed reforms to the Small Business Commissioner regime. It introduces enhanced transparency obligations, compliance mechanisms, and enforcement powers, with the objective of promoting fair and timely payment across supply chains.</p> <p>The update reflects ongoing Government policy to address persistent late payment issues, improve liquidity for SMEs, and ensure greater accountability among large organisations.</p> <p><b>Key provisions</b></p> <p><b>1. Strengthened payment reporting requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expands statutory reporting obligations for large companies on payment practices.</li><li>• Requires more detailed disclosure of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Average payment times</li><li>○ Proportion of invoices paid within specified periods</li><li>○ Use of payment terms exceeding agreed standards</li></ul></li><li>• Introduces requirements for board-level sign-off of reported data.</li></ul> <p><b>2. Mandatory maximum payment periods (proposed)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduces a statutory maximum payment period for business-to-business transactions (subject to final legislative agreement).</li><li>• Provides powers to restrict the use of extended payment terms in specified sectors or contract types.</li></ul> |                                                                                                             |



- Supports alignment with fair payment codes and voluntary standards.

### **3. Enhanced powers for the Small Business Commissioner**

- Expands the Commissioner's remit to:
  - Investigate systemic late payment practices
  - Issue binding determinations in certain circumstances
  - Require corrective action by non-compliant organisations
- Introduces potential for public naming of organisations demonstrating poor payment performance.

### **4. Enforcement and penalties**

- Introduces civil penalties for failure to comply with reporting or payment requirements.
- Provides enforcement powers to relevant authorities, including:
  - Requests for information and records
  - Compliance notices and financial penalties
- Strengthens the evidential status of reported payment data in enforcement action.

### **5. Supply-chain transparency and fair practice measures**

- Requires organisations to assess and manage payment practices across their supply chains.
- Encourages adoption of fair payment standards, including prompt payment commitments.
- Supports integration with procurement and corporate governance frameworks.

### **Purpose and context**

The Commercial Payments Bill (Update) is intended to address long-standing concerns regarding late payment practices in the UK economy by:

- Improving transparency around payment performance
- Strengthening enforcement mechanisms
- Supporting the financial stability of SMEs
- Promoting fairer commercial relationships across supply chains

The reforms form part of a wider programme aimed at improving business productivity, economic resilience, and corporate accountability.

### **Implications for stakeholders**

- **Large organisations and contracting bodies**
  - Must review and update payment terms, processes, and supplier agreements.
  - Will need to ensure accurate and timely reporting of payment data.



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- May be subject to enhanced scrutiny, enforcement, and reputational risk.
- **Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**
  - May benefit from improved payment timelines and enforcement mechanisms.
  - Should monitor payment performance data when selecting clients or partners.
- **Procurement, finance, and compliance teams**
  - Must align internal systems with revised reporting and payment requirements.
  - Should integrate payment practice controls into governance and risk frameworks.
  - Need to ensure consistency between contractual terms and statutory obligations.
- **Regulators and oversight bodies**
  - Will gain expanded powers to investigate, enforce, and monitor compliance.
  - Must support implementation through guidance, monitoring, and enforcement activity.

## INFORMATION SECURITY

### Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill (Update)

Changes in the legal register

☐ yes ☒ no

**Jurisdiction:** United Kingdom

**Status:** Bill progressing through Parliament

**Commencement:** To be confirmed (expected phased commencement following Royal Assent)

**Amends:** Network and Information Systems Regulations 2018 and associated cyber resilience frameworks

#### Summary

The Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill (Update) reflects continued legislative development of the UK's enhanced cyber security regime, with further clarification of scope, regulatory expectations, and implementation approach.

The updated position confirms the Government's intention to significantly expand and modernise the existing Network and Information Systems (NIS) framework, responding to evolving cyber threats, increased reliance on digital infrastructure, and systemic risks arising from complex supply chains.

The Bill introduces strengthened duties, extended regulatory coverage, and enhanced enforcement powers, with an increased emphasis on governance, resilience, and operational continuity. The update highlights further policy alignment with national security priorities and international cyber resilience frameworks.



## Key provisions

### 1. Expanded scope of regulated entities (confirmed approach)

- Confirms extension of the NIS regime to additional sectors and service providers.
- Clarifies inclusion of:
  - Managed service providers and managed security service providers
  - Data centres and cloud service providers
  - Critical suppliers supporting essential services
- Introduces greater flexibility for designating entities based on risk and criticality.

### 2. Strengthened cyber security and resilience duties

- Reinforces requirement for organisations to implement “appropriate and proportionate” security measures.
- Expands expectations to include:
  - Formal governance and board-level accountability
  - Operational resilience and service continuity planning
  - Secure system design and lifecycle management
- Clarifies link between risk management, resilience planning, and regulatory compliance.

### 3. Enhanced incident reporting and monitoring requirements

- Introduces more stringent and timely incident-reporting obligations.
- Expands reporting scope to include:
  - Significant incidents affecting availability or integrity
  - Near-misses and emerging vulnerabilities (proposed approach)
- Supports development of improved national cyber threat intelligence and coordination.

### 4. Supply-chain cyber security obligations

- Strengthens requirements for managing third-party and supplier risks.
- Introduces expectations for:
  - Due diligence and assurance processes
  - Contractual security requirements
  - Ongoing monitoring of critical suppliers
- Aligns with broader government policy on supply-chain resilience and systemic risk reduction.

### 5. Regulatory powers, enforcement and oversight

- Expands powers of competent authorities to:
  - Request information and documentation
  - Conduct inspections and audits



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- Issue compliance and enforcement notices
- Introduces potential for increased financial penalties and enforcement action.
- Supports greater coordination between regulators and national security bodies.

## Purpose and context

The Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill (Update) is intended to deliver a strengthened and more comprehensive cyber resilience framework by:

- Addressing gaps in the existing NIS Regulations 2018
- Improving protection of critical national infrastructure and digital services
- Enhancing governance and accountability for cyber risk
- Reducing supply-chain vulnerabilities and systemic threats

The update reflects ongoing policy development and engagement with stakeholders, supporting a phased transition to a more robust and risk-based cyber security regime.

## Implications for stakeholders

- **Operators of essential services and digital service providers**
  - Must prepare for expanded regulatory scope and strengthened compliance obligations
  - May need to enhance governance, risk management, and incident response arrangements
- **Managed service providers and critical suppliers**
  - Likely to be brought within scope of regulation for the first time
  - Will need to demonstrate compliance with security and reporting requirements
- **Boards, senior management, and governance functions**
  - Increased accountability for cyber resilience and risk oversight
  - Expected to integrate cyber security into organisational strategy
- **IT, cyber security and compliance teams**
  - Must review and update policies, controls and monitoring processes
  - Need to ensure readiness for enhanced reporting and audit requirements
- **Regulators and government bodies**
  - Will assume expanded oversight and enforcement responsibilities
  - Must support implementation through guidance, coordination and monitoring activity



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## HEALTH & SAFETY

### The Employment Rights Act 2025 (Commencement No. 4 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2026

#### Changes in the legal register

☐ yes ☒ no

**Jurisdiction:** United Kingdom

**Commencement:** To be confirmed (in accordance with the Regulations)

**Commences:** Further provisions of the Employment Rights Act 2025

**Amends:** Employment Rights Act 2025 commencement framework

#### Summary

The Employment Rights Act 2025 (Commencement No. 4 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2026 bring into force additional provisions of the Employment Rights Act 2025 as part of the Government's staged implementation programme.

The Regulations continue the phased introduction of employment law reforms by commencing further sections of the Act and establishing associated transitional and saving provisions to ensure continuity between the previous and new legal frameworks.

The approach reflects the wider implementation strategy for the Employment Rights Act 2025, under which substantive rights and employer duties are introduced incrementally through successive commencement instruments during 2026 and beyond.

#### Key provisions

##### 1. Commencement of additional provisions

- Brings further sections of the Employment Rights Act 2025 into force.
- Continues the staged activation of rights and duties across employment, equality and workforce governance areas.
- Supports progressive implementation alongside earlier commencement regulations.

##### 2. Employment protections and workplace rights (ongoing implementation)

- Contributes to the phased rollout of employment protections introduced under the Act.
- Supports the continuation of reforms relating to:
  - worker protections and contractual rights
  - employer obligations and workplace standards
- Ensures alignment between newly commenced provisions and existing legislation.

##### 3. Transitional and saving provisions

- Provides arrangements to manage the transition from the previous legal regime.



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- Ensures that rights, processes and obligations initiated before commencement are preserved where required.
- Avoids unintended retrospective effects and supports legal certainty.

#### **4. Interaction with earlier commencement regulations**

- Builds on provisions already commenced under earlier instruments.
- Ensures continuity and coherence across multiple phases of implementation.
- Supports consistent interpretation and application across employment frameworks.

#### **Purpose and context**

These Regulations are intended to:

- Support the continued phased implementation of the Employment Rights Act 2025
- Ensure the orderly introduction of new employment rights and employer duties
- Maintain legal certainty through transitional and saving provisions
- Align new provisions with the wider employment law framework

The Regulations form part of a multi-stage programme introducing employment law reforms across 2026–2027, requiring organisations to monitor ongoing changes rather than treating implementation as a single event.

#### **Implications for stakeholders**

- **Employers**
  - Must monitor newly commenced provisions and review policies, procedures and contracts accordingly
  - Need to ensure alignment between existing practices and phased legislative changes
- **Workers and trade unions**
  - May gain additional rights and protections as further provisions come into force
  - Should remain aware of staged implementation affecting contractual and workplace arrangements
- **HR, legal and compliance teams**
  - Must track commencement timelines and ensure correct application of transitional provisions
  - Should update internal guidance, training and documentation on an ongoing basis
- **Regulators and tribunals**
  - Must apply a combination of legacy and newly commenced provisions during the transition period
  - Require clarity on commencement dates and applicable legal frameworks



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| <b>The Building Safety (Responsible Actors Scheme and Prohibitions) (Amendment) Regulations 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Changes in the legal register</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| <p><b>Jurisdiction:</b> England</p> <p><b>Commencement:</b> To be confirmed (in accordance with the Regulations)</p> <p><b>Amends:</b> Building Safety (Responsible Actors Scheme and Prohibitions) Regulations 2023</p> <p><b>Made under:</b> Building Safety Act 2022</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The Building Safety (Responsible Actors Scheme and Prohibitions) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 introduce amendments to the existing Responsible Actors Scheme (RAS) framework, which governs the obligations of developers in relation to the remediation of life-critical fire safety defects in residential buildings.</p> <p>The Regulations update and refine the operation of the Scheme, including eligibility requirements, compliance expectations, and enforcement provisions. The amendments are intended to strengthen regulatory oversight, improve clarity for participating organisations, and support effective delivery of remediation commitments.</p> <p>The update forms part of the Government's ongoing implementation of the Building Safety Act 2022 and broader post-Grenfell building safety reforms.</p> <p><b>Key provisions</b></p> <p><b>1. Amendments to Responsible Actors Scheme eligibility and scope</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updates criteria for entry into the Scheme.</li><li>• Clarifies the categories of developers and entities that may be designated as responsible actors.</li><li>• Refines the scope of buildings and development activity falling within the Scheme.</li></ul> <p><b>2. Strengthened remediation obligations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reinforces requirements for participating developers to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Identify and remediate life-critical fire safety defects</li><li>◦ Fund or undertake necessary remediation works</li></ul></li><li>• Clarifies expectations regarding timelines, delivery and compliance with remediation commitments.</li></ul> <p><b>3. Prohibition measures and compliance controls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amends provisions relating to prohibitions applied to non-compliant developers.</li><li>• Maintains restrictions on:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Carrying out development</li></ul></li></ul> |                                                                                                             |



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- Obtaining building control approvals or planning permissions in certain cases
- Strengthens mechanisms for ensuring compliance with Scheme requirements.

#### **4. Administrative and procedural updates**

- Introduces clarifications to Scheme administration, including:
  - Notification processes
  - Reporting requirements
  - Interaction between developers and regulatory bodies
- Supports greater transparency and consistency in enforcement.

#### **5. Enforcement and regulatory oversight**

- Confirms regulatory powers to:
  - Monitor compliance with Scheme obligations
  - Issue enforcement actions where necessary
- Supports strengthened oversight of building safety risks and remediation activity.

#### **Purpose and context**

The Regulations are intended to:

- Strengthen the effectiveness of the Responsible Actors Scheme
- Ensure developers meet obligations to address historical building safety defects
- Improve accountability and regulatory clarity across the construction and development sector
- Support the delivery of safe, compliant residential buildings

The amendments contribute to the wider building safety reform programme established under the Building Safety Act 2022, with a focus on remediation, accountability and long-term risk management.

#### **Implications for stakeholders**

- **Developers and responsible actors**
  - Must ensure compliance with updated Scheme requirements and obligations
  - May be subject to prohibitions where requirements are not met
  - Need to review remediation strategies, funding arrangements and governance processes
- **Building owners and residents**
  - May benefit from strengthened remediation requirements and improved delivery of safety works
  - Should expect clearer accountability for addressing building safety defects
- **Construction, planning and building control professionals**



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- Must consider restrictions affecting non-compliant developers
- Need to ensure projects align with Scheme requirements and regulatory expectations
- **Regulators and local authorities**
  - Will apply updated enforcement powers and oversight mechanisms
  - Must monitor compliance and support implementation of remediation obligations

**The Goods Vehicles (Testing, Drivers' Hours and Tachographs etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2026**

**Changes in the legal register**

☐ yes ☒ no

**Jurisdiction:** United Kingdom

**Commencement:** To be confirmed (in accordance with the Regulations)

**Amends:** Goods Vehicles (Testing) Regulations and legislation relating to drivers' hours and tachograph requirements

**Made under:** Road traffic and transport legislation

## Summary

The Goods Vehicles (Testing, Drivers' Hours and Tachographs etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 introduce amendments to the regulatory framework governing vehicle testing, drivers' hours, and tachograph use for goods vehicles.

The Regulations update and refine existing requirements to improve road safety, regulatory clarity, and alignment with evolving operational practices in the transport and logistics sector. The amendments also support enhanced monitoring, enforcement, and consistency in compliance obligations across operators.

The changes form part of the ongoing modernisation of the UK's transport regulatory framework following EU exit and respond to operational and technological developments in vehicle monitoring and driver compliance systems.

## Key provisions

### 1. Amendments to goods vehicle testing requirements

- Updates provisions relating to periodic testing and inspection of goods vehicles.
- Introduces clarifications to testing intervals, inspection standards, or administrative processes.
- Supports improved vehicle safety and compliance assurance across the fleet lifecycle.

### 2. Drivers' hours and working-time compliance

- Refines requirements governing drivers' hours and rest periods.
- Reinforces obligations to comply with statutory limits on driving time and required breaks.
- Supports consistent interpretation and enforcement of drivers' hours rules.



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## 3. Tachograph requirements and data management

- Updates provisions relating to the use of tachographs in goods vehicles.
- Clarifies requirements for:
  - Installation and calibration of tachograph devices
  - Recording and retention of driver activity data
- Supports increased accuracy and reliability of compliance data.

## 4. Enforcement and compliance monitoring

- Reinforces regulatory powers to:
  - Inspect vehicles and records
  - Verify compliance with drivers' hours and tachograph rules
- Supports a risk-based approach to enforcement and roadside checks.

## 5. Administrative and technical updates

- Introduces amendments to improve clarity and consistency within the regulatory framework.
- Aligns terminology, definitions and procedural requirements with current transport practices.
- May reflect updates to digital systems or record-keeping expectations.

### Purpose and context

The Regulations are intended to:

- Improve road safety through strengthened vehicle testing and driver compliance requirements
- Ensure effective monitoring of drivers' hours and fatigue-related risks
- Support accurate and reliable recording of driver activity through tachograph systems
- Provide clarity and consistency within the transport regulatory framework

The amendments form part of a wider programme to modernise transport legislation and ensure ongoing effectiveness following legislative and technological changes.

### Implications for stakeholders

- **Transport operators and fleet managers**
  - Must ensure vehicles meet updated testing and inspection requirements
  - Need to review compliance with drivers' hours and record-keeping obligations
- **Drivers**
  - Must comply with updated requirements for driving time, rest periods and tachograph use
  - May require updated training on revised procedures or controls



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- **Compliance, transport and operations teams**
  - Must review internal policies, monitoring systems and audit processes
  - Should ensure tachograph data is accurate, complete and retained appropriately
- **Maintenance providers and testing bodies**
  - Need to align inspection and testing practices with updated regulatory requirements
  - Must ensure compliance with revised standards and procedures
- **Regulators and enforcement authorities**
  - Will apply updated enforcement powers and compliance monitoring approaches
  - Must ensure consistent application of rules across the transport sector

**The Chemicals (Health and Safety) (Amendment, Consequential and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/484)**

**Changes in the legal register**

☐ yes ☒ no

**Jurisdiction:** Great Britain

**Laid before Parliament:** 24 February 2026

**Made:** 21 April 2026

**Commencement:** 21 May 2026 (21 days after being made)

**Made under:** Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023

**Competent authority:** Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

## Summary

The Chemicals (Health and Safety) (Amendment, Consequential and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 amend Great Britain's retained EU-derived chemicals regulatory framework following the UK's exit from the European Union.

The Regulations revoke, replace, or introduce alternative provision for elements of key chemicals regimes administered by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), including those relating to classification, labelling, biocidal products, and the import and export of hazardous substances.

The amendments are supported by transitional provisions to ensure regulatory continuity and legal certainty, while modernising the framework and improving operational effectiveness across chemicals legislation.

## Key provisions

### 1. Amendments to GB Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) regime

- Revokes, replaces, or modifies aspects of the GB CLP framework.
- Updates classification, labelling and packaging requirements for substances and mixtures.



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- Reflects development of a standalone GB regulatory system following EU exit.

## **2. Amendments to GB Biocidal Products Regulation (GB BPR)**

- Updates regulatory provisions governing the placing on the market and use of biocidal products.
- Adjusts approval, authorisation and oversight processes to reflect post-EU operational requirements.

## **3. Amendments to GB Prior Informed Consent (PIC) regime**

- Revises controls on the export and import of hazardous chemicals.
- Ensures continued regulatory oversight of international trade in chemicals.

## **4. Revocation and replacement of retained EU provisions**

- Revokes or replaces elements of retained EU law relating to chemicals regulation.
- Introduces alternative provisions where appropriate to maintain a functional GB framework.
- Ensures clarity and continuity following removal of EU-derived legislation.

## **5. Transitional and saving provisions**

- Includes transitional arrangements to manage the move from previous requirements to the amended regime.
- Preserves the validity of existing approvals, authorisations and compliance activities where required.
- Prevents unintended retrospective impacts on dutyholders.

### **Purpose and context**

The Regulations are intended to:

- Update and rationalise Great Britain's chemicals regulatory framework
- Maintain high standards of protection for human health and the environment
- Improve regulatory clarity, efficiency and flexibility
- Support the UK's ongoing programme of post-EU legislative reform

The amendments reflect operational experience since EU exit and feedback from stakeholders on the functioning of GB chemicals regimes.

### **Implications for stakeholders**

- **Manufacturers, importers and downstream users**
  - Must review classification, labelling, authorisation and notification processes
  - Need to ensure compliance with updated GB CLP, BPR and PIC requirements
  - Should prepare for transitional provisions and revised regulatory expectations
- **Employers and dutyholders under health and safety law**



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- Must ensure hazardous substance management aligns with the amended framework
- May need to update COSHH assessments, control measures and training arrangements
- **Health, safety and environmental compliance teams**
  - Should update legal registers, procedures and internal documentation
  - Need to ensure safety data sheets, labelling and classification information remain current
  - Must monitor further HSE guidance supporting implementation
- **Regulators and compliance functions**
  - Will apply updated regimes and enforcement mechanisms
  - Must support transition through guidance, oversight and compliance monitoring

## ENVIRONMENTAL

### The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 11) Regulations 2026

#### Changes in the legal register

☐ yes ☒ no

**Commencement:** In accordance with the Regulations (phased commencement)

**Commences:** Further provisions of the Environment Act 2021

**Made under:** Environment Act 2021

#### Summary

The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 11) Regulations 2026 bring into force additional provisions of the Environment Act 2021 as part of the continued staged implementation of the UK's environmental governance framework.

The Regulations activate further elements of the Act relating to environmental protection, regulatory oversight and environmental improvement measures, building on earlier commencement instruments.

The staged commencement approach reflects the complexity of the Act and the requirement to align new legal duties with supporting secondary legislation, regulatory bodies and implementation frameworks.

#### Key provisions

##### 1. Commencement of additional environmental provisions

- Brings further sections of the Environment Act 2021 into force.
- Continues the phased implementation of the Act across multiple thematic areas.



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- Supports progressive activation of environmental duties and regulatory powers.

## **2. Environmental governance and oversight**

- Supports the ongoing development of environmental governance structures established under the Act.
- Contributes to the operation of oversight, monitoring and reporting arrangements.
- Reinforces mechanisms for ensuring accountability in environmental protection.

## **3. Environmental targets, planning and improvement measures**

- Enables further implementation of environmental target-setting and improvement frameworks.
- Supports integration of statutory objectives into policy and operational practice.
- Facilitates alignment between national environmental targets and regulatory processes.

## **4. Interaction with existing environmental legislation**

- Ensures consistency between newly commenced provisions and existing environmental law.
- Supports integration with related frameworks, including permitting, waste, water and biodiversity regimes.
- Avoids duplication or conflict across overlapping legislative instruments.

## **5. Transitional and saving provisions**

- Provides arrangements to manage transition between pre-existing legal requirements and newly commenced provisions.
- Ensures continuity of ongoing regulatory processes and compliance activities.
- Preserves the application of previous provisions where necessary to avoid unintended consequences.

### **Purpose and context**

The Regulations are intended to:

- Support the continued phased implementation of the Environment Act 2021
- Enable effective operation of new environmental governance and regulatory frameworks
- Ensure legal certainty through transitional and saving provisions
- Align environmental objectives with operational and regulatory systems

These Regulations form part of a wider programme delivering long-term environmental reform in the UK, requiring organisations to monitor ongoing legislative developments and implementation stages.

### **Implications for stakeholders**

- **Organisations with environmental obligations**
  - Must monitor the commencement of new duties and assess applicability



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- May need to update environmental management systems and compliance processes
- **Environmental, sustainability and compliance teams**
  - Should review regulatory requirements as further provisions come into force
  - Need to ensure alignment with environmental targets, reporting and governance expectations
- **Public bodies and regulators**
  - Will implement and oversee newly commenced provisions
  - Must ensure effective monitoring, enforcement and reporting mechanisms
- **Developers, operators and regulated sectors**
  - May be affected by new requirements relating to permits, environmental standards or reporting
  - Should assess potential impacts on operations, planning and risk management

## The Biodiversity Gain Site Register (Amendment) Regulations 2026

### Changes in the legal register

☐ yes ☒ no

**Jurisdiction:** England

**Commencement:** To be confirmed (in accordance with the Regulations)

**Amends:** Biodiversity Gain Site Register Regulations 2024 (or underlying BNG framework)

**Made under:** Environment Act 2021

### Summary

The Biodiversity Gain Site Register (Amendment) Regulations 2026 introduce amendments to the statutory framework governing the Biodiversity Gain Site Register, which supports the delivery of biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements in England.

The Regulations refine the operation of the Register, including requirements for the registration, management and monitoring of biodiversity gain sites. The amendments are intended to improve clarity, functionality and regulatory effectiveness, ensuring that off-site biodiversity gains are properly recorded and maintained.

The update forms part of the wider implementation of the Environment Act 2021 biodiversity net gain regime, which requires developers to deliver measurable improvements in biodiversity as part of qualifying developments.

### Key provisions

#### 1. Amendments to registration requirements

- Updates requirements for registering biodiversity gain sites.



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- Clarifies eligibility criteria for land entered onto the Register.
- Refines information requirements for site registration and verification.

## **2. Biodiversity gain site management and monitoring**

- Strengthens provisions relating to the management of registered biodiversity sites.
- Reinforces requirements to maintain biodiversity enhancements over the required period.
- Supports improved monitoring and reporting of habitat condition and performance.

## **3. Administrative and procedural updates**

- Introduces clarifications to registration processes, including:
  - Application and approval procedures
  - Updates to registered site information
- Improves consistency in how the Register is maintained and administered.

## **4. Compliance and enforcement framework**

- Supports enforcement of biodiversity gain obligations linked to registered sites.
- Reinforces accountability for developers, landowners and responsible bodies.
- Aligns register requirements with planning and development controls.

## **5. Integration with the wider BNG regime**

- Ensures alignment with biodiversity net gain requirements under the Environment Act 2021.
- Supports linkage between:
  - Development approvals
  - Biodiversity gain plans
  - Off-site compensation measures
- Avoids duplication or inconsistency across planning and environmental frameworks.

### **Purpose and context**

The Regulations are intended to:

- Improve the effectiveness and transparency of the Biodiversity Gain Site Register
- Support delivery and long-term maintenance of biodiversity net gain outcomes
- Strengthen accountability for off-site biodiversity enhancements
- Ensure consistency between planning, environmental and biodiversity frameworks

The amendments form part of the broader rollout of the biodiversity net gain regime, which represents a significant shift in how environmental impact is managed within the planning system.

### **Implications for stakeholders**



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- **Developers and planning applicants**
  - Must ensure biodiversity gain requirements are met and appropriately recorded
  - Need to ensure off-site gains are registered and compliant with updated requirements
- **Landowners and site operators**
  - Must manage registered biodiversity sites in line with long-term obligations
  - May be subject to monitoring and reporting requirements
- **Environmental, planning and compliance teams**
  - Should ensure alignment between biodiversity gain plans and registration requirements
  - Must maintain accurate records supporting compliance with BNG obligations
- **Local planning authorities and regulators**
  - Will oversee application of the Register within the planning system
  - Must ensure compliance with biodiversity gain requirements and enforcement where necessary

**Planning and Development (Short Term Letting – Planning and Development Act 2000) (Amendment) Regulations 2026**

**Changes in the legal register**

☐ yes ☒ no

**Jurisdiction:** Republic of Ireland

**Commencement:** To be confirmed (in accordance with the Regulations)

**Amends:** Planning and Development Act 2000 and associated short-term letting regulations

**Made under:** Planning and Development Act 2000

## Summary

The Planning and Development (Short Term Letting – Planning and Development Act 2000) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 introduce amendments to the regulatory framework governing short-term letting arrangements in the Republic of Ireland.

The Regulations update provisions relating to the use of residential properties for short-term rental purposes, with a focus on strengthening planning controls, improving compliance, and supporting housing policy objectives.

The amendments form part of wider Government efforts to regulate short-term letting activity, particularly in areas experiencing housing supply pressures, and to ensure that planning legislation is effectively applied to this sector.

## Key provisions

### 1. Amendments to planning controls for short-term letting



- Updates the framework governing when short-term letting constitutes a material change of use.
- Clarifies circumstances requiring planning permission for short-term rental activity.
- Supports consistent application of planning rules across local authority areas.

## **2. Registration, notification and administrative requirements**

- Refines requirements for property owners engaging in short-term letting.
- May introduce or clarify procedures for registration, notification or approval.
- Supports improved transparency and monitoring of short-term rental activity.

## **3. Compliance and enforcement measures**

- Reinforces the role of planning authorities in monitoring compliance.
- Supports enforcement action where properties are used in breach of planning rules.
- Aims to improve consistency in how non-compliance is identified and addressed.

## **4. Alignment with housing and planning policy objectives**

- Ensures that short-term letting activity aligns with broader housing policy goals.
- Supports protection of long-term residential housing stock.
- Contributes to balancing tourism-related demand with housing availability.

## **5. Administrative and procedural updates**

- Introduces clarifications to definitions, processes and scope of application.
- Improves legal certainty for property owners, planning authorities and operators.
- Supports effective implementation of planning controls in practice.

### **Purpose and context**

The Regulations are intended to:

- Strengthen planning control over short-term letting activity
- Support housing supply and availability in high-demand areas
- Improve transparency and compliance within the short-term rental sector
- Ensure consistent application of planning legislation across Ireland

The amendments form part of a continuing programme of planning and housing reform, reflecting ongoing policy focus on managing the impact of short-term letting on residential property markets.

### **Implications for stakeholders**

- **Property owners and short-term letting operators**
  - Must ensure compliance with updated planning requirements
  - May require planning permission depending on use and location



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Need to monitor registration and administrative obligations</li><li>• <b>Developers and property managers</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Must consider planning restrictions when designing or managing residential developments</li><li>○ Should assess viability of short-term letting within planning constraints</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Planning authorities and regulators</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Will apply updated enforcement and monitoring powers</li><li>○ Must ensure consistent interpretation of planning rules across jurisdictions</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Compliance, legal and governance teams</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Should review property portfolios and usage against updated requirements</li><li>○ Must ensure internal controls reflect planning and housing-related obligations</li></ul></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                             |
| <b>The Contracts for Difference (Sustainable Industry Rewards and Contract Budget Notice Amendments) Regulations 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Changes in the legal register</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| <p><b>Jurisdiction:</b> United Kingdom</p> <p><b>Commencement:</b> To be confirmed (in accordance with the Regulations)</p> <p><b>Amends:</b> Contracts for Difference (CfD) framework and related Budget Notice provisions</p> <p><b>Made under:</b> Energy Act and associated secondary legislation</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The Contracts for Difference (Sustainable Industry Rewards and Contract Budget Notice Amendments) Regulations 2026 introduce amendments to the UK's Contracts for Difference (CfD) regime, with a focus on integrating sustainability considerations into allocation and support mechanisms.</p> <p>The Regulations update provisions relating to Sustainable Industry Rewards (SIR) and Contract Budget Notices, refining how financial support for low-carbon generation projects is structured and allocated. The amendments are intended to support the UK's decarbonisation strategy, improve supply chain resilience, and encourage investment in domestic clean energy capability.</p> <p>The changes form part of the Government's wider programme to strengthen the energy transition framework and align subsidy mechanisms with industrial and climate policy objectives.</p> <p><b>Key provisions</b></p> <p><b>1. Introduction and development of Sustainable Industry Rewards (SIR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides for or refines mechanisms to incorporate sustainability incentives within the CfD regime.</li></ul> |                                                                                                             |



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- Supports recognition of wider economic and industrial benefits, including:
  - Domestic supply chain development
  - Workforce and skills contributions
- Aligns CfD support with broader industrial strategy objectives.

## **2. Amendments to Contract Budget Notice framework**

- Updates rules governing the setting and publication of CfD budget notices.
- Refines how funding allocation rounds are structured and communicated.
- Supports transparency and predictability in CfD allocation processes.

## **3. Allocation and eligibility considerations**

- Introduces or clarifies criteria relevant to CfD participation.
- May include sustainability-related factors within allocation methodologies.
- Supports balanced assessment of cost, deliverability and wider policy outcomes.

## **4. Administrative and procedural updates**

- Introduces amendments to improve clarity and operation of CfD processes.
- Refines procedures associated with allocation rounds, contracts and notifications.
- Ensures consistency across regulatory documentation and implementation frameworks.

## **5. Alignment with energy and climate policy objectives**

- Supports delivery of the UK's net zero commitments.
- Reinforces the role of CfDs in accelerating deployment of low-carbon technologies.
- Aligns financial support mechanisms with long-term energy system planning.

### **Purpose and context**

The Regulations are intended to:

- Strengthen the effectiveness of the Contracts for Difference regime
- Integrate sustainability and industrial strategy considerations into funding mechanisms
- Improve transparency and governance of allocation rounds and budget notices
- Support investment in low-carbon energy infrastructure and supply chains

The amendments reflect the evolving role of CfDs as a central policy tool for delivering secure, low-carbon electricity generation while supporting economic and industrial objectives.

### **Implications for stakeholders**

- **Low-carbon energy developers**
  - Must consider updated allocation criteria and funding structures



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ May benefit from incentives linked to sustainability and supply chain contributions</li><li>• <b>Supply chain and industrial participants</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ May gain increased opportunities through Sustainable Industry Rewards</li><li>○ Should align operations with emerging sustainability and localisation expectations</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Energy, sustainability and compliance teams</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Must monitor changes to CfD rules and allocation processes</li><li>○ Should assess implications for project financing, procurement and reporting</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Government bodies and regulators</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Will oversee implementation of updated allocation and funding mechanisms</li><li>○ Must ensure transparency, consistency and effective delivery of policy outcomes</li></ul></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/549)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Changes in the legal register</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| <p><b>Jurisdiction:</b> United Kingdom</p> <p><b>Commencement:</b> To be confirmed (in accordance with the Regulations)</p> <p><b>Commences:</b> Further provisions of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025</p> <p><b>Made under:</b> Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/549) bring into force additional provisions of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 as part of the ongoing staged implementation of planning and infrastructure reform in the UK.</p> <p>The Regulations activate further elements of the Act relating to planning, infrastructure delivery and associated regulatory processes, while introducing transitional provisions to ensure continuity between previous and updated legal frameworks.</p> <p>The staged commencement approach reflects the complexity of planning reform and the need to align new statutory provisions with operational systems, guidance and regulatory oversight structures.</p> <p><b>Key provisions</b></p> <p><b>1. Commencement of additional planning and infrastructure provisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brings further sections of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 into force.</li><li>• Continues the phased rollout of reforms affecting planning procedures and infrastructure delivery.</li></ul> |                                                                                                             |



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- Supports progressive implementation across planning, development and infrastructure frameworks.

## **2. Planning system and infrastructure delivery reforms**

- Contributes to the implementation of reforms aimed at improving planning efficiency and decision-making.
- Supports updates to procedures associated with:
  - Development consent and approvals
  - Infrastructure project delivery
  - Interaction with planning authorities and statutory consultees
- Aligns with broader Government objectives to streamline planning processes.

## **3. Transitional provisions and continuity arrangements**

- Provides arrangements for managing the transition between pre-existing planning law and newly commenced provisions.
- Ensures that applications, approvals and processes already underway continue under the appropriate legal framework.
- Avoids retrospective application of new requirements.

## **4. Interaction with existing planning and infrastructure legislation**

- Ensures coherence between newly commenced provisions and existing planning legislation.
- Supports integration with established frameworks, including development consent regimes and infrastructure planning processes.
- Avoids duplication or inconsistency across overlapping legislative instruments.

## **5. Administrative and procedural updates**

- Introduces clarifications to implementation, sequencing and application of provisions.
- Supports effective administration by planning authorities, regulators and stakeholders.
- Improves legal certainty and operational clarity.

### **Purpose and context**

The Regulations are intended to:

- Support the continued phased implementation of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025
- Enable effective operation of planning and infrastructure reform measures
- Ensure legal certainty through transitional provisions
- Align legislative changes with practical planning and infrastructure delivery processes

The Regulations form part of a wider programme of planning reform aimed at improving infrastructure delivery, reducing delays and enhancing the effectiveness of the planning system.



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## Implications for stakeholders

- **Developers and infrastructure promoters**
  - Must monitor commencement of new provisions affecting planning applications and projects
  - May need to adapt project timelines and approval strategies
- **Planning authorities and regulators**
  - Must apply a combination of existing and newly commenced provisions during transition
  - Need to ensure consistent interpretation and application of updated rules
- **Construction, engineering and project teams**
  - Should account for transitional arrangements in project planning and delivery
  - May need to update documentation, approvals and compliance processes
- **Legal, compliance and governance functions**
  - Must track phased commencement and ensure correct legal framework is applied
  - Should update planning, infrastructure and risk registers accordingly