



Energy Bill – Introduction, Content and Some Public Resources

Contents

1. Introduction – the advent of the Energy Bill.....	3
1.1 Queen’s Speech/Government department	3
1.2 Introduction of the Bill to Parliament	3
1.3 Policy commitments	3
1.4 Powering up Britain	3
1.5 Progress of the Bill	3
2. Content, extent and commencement of the Energy Bill	4
2.1 Long title	4
2.2 High level content	4
2.3 Measures in the Bill.....	5
2.4 Extent and commencement	5
3. Some publicly available resources	6
3.1 Publications tab in the Energy Bill page on the Parliament site.....	6
3.2 DESNZ policy statements and draft regulations	6
3.3 DESNZ factsheets	6
3.4 DESNZ collection	6
3.5 House of Commons Library and House of Lords Library.....	6

1. Introduction - the advent of the Energy Bill

1.1 Queen's Speech/Government department

- a. The Energy Bill was first proposed in the Queen's Speech on **10 May 2022**, at which time it was known as the Energy Security Bill. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (**BEIS**) published the news story 'BEIS in the 2022 Queen's Speech' on 11 May 2022 – this discusses the Energy Bill.
- b. Note that on 7 February 2023 BEIS was replaced by three other government departments, including the newly formed Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (**DESNZ**), which took over BEIS's energy responsibilities.

1.2 Introduction of the Bill to Parliament

On **6 July 2022**, the Energy Bill was introduced to Parliament (in the House of Lords), as was announced by BEIS that day in a press release headed 'Plans to bolster UK energy security set to become law'. The Bill has the aim of providing a cleaner, more affordable, and more secure energy system, and has been described by the government as *"the most significant piece of energy legislation in a generation"*¹.

1.3 Policy commitments

It was noted at the time of its publication that the Energy Bill was intended to deliver on key commitments set out in the following documents, which were published prior to the Bill's introduction to Parliament:

- a. the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, 18 November 2020;
- b. the Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener, 19 October 2021; and
- c. the British Energy Security Strategy, 7 April 2022.

1.4 Powering up Britain

The Energy Bill is referred to in a number of places in subsequent government energy-related publications, including 'Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan' and 'Powering Up Britain: The Net Zero Growth Plan', both as published on 30 March 2023 and available with related documents on DESNZ's 'Powering up Britain' site.

1.5 Progress of the Bill

Progress of the Energy Bill on its journey through Parliament can be tracked on the Energy Bill page of the UK Parliament site (see 'Stages' below) – this page is divided into:

- a. Details;
- b. News;
- c. Stages; and
- d. Publications (here you can access the Bill, explanatory notes and more – see 3.1 below).

¹ From the 'Energy Security Bill overarching factsheet'.

2. Content, extent and commencement of the Energy Bill

2.1 Long title

The long title for the Energy Bill (the amended version made available on 11 July 2023) is as follows: “*A Bill to make provision about energy production and security and the regulation of the energy market, including provision about the licensing of carbon dioxide transport and storage; about commercial arrangements for carbon capture and storage and for hydrogen production and transportation; about new technology, including low-carbon heat schemes and hydrogen grid trials; about the Independent System Operator and Planner; about gas and electricity industry codes; about financial support for persons carrying on energy-intensive activities; about heat networks; about energy smart appliances and load control; about the energy performance of premises; about energy savings opportunity schemes; about the resilience of the core fuel sector; about offshore energy production, including environmental protection, licensing and decommissioning; about the civil nuclear sector, including the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and pensions; and for connected purposes*”.

2.2 High level content

The Energy Bill (version as of 11 July 2023) comprises the following **15 Parts**, some of which are divided into Chapters (only Parts and Chapters are listed below):

a. Part 1 – Licensing of Carbon Dioxide Transport and Storage:

- Chapter 1 – Licensing of Activities;
- Chapter 2 – Functions with Respect to Competition;
- Chapter 3 – Reporting Requirements;
- Chapter 4 – Special Administration Regime;
- Chapter 5 – Transfer Schemes;
- Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous and General.

b. Part 2 – Carbon Dioxide Capture, Storage Etc and Hydrogen Production:

- Chapter 1 – Revenue Support Contracts;
- Chapter 2 – Decommissioning of Carbon Storage Installations;
- Chapter 3 – Strategy and Policy Statement;
- Chapter 4 – Carbon Dioxide Storage Licences;
- Chapter 5 – Carbon Storage Information and Samples;
- Chapter 6 – General.

c. Part 3 – Licensing of Hydrogen Pipeline Projects

d. Part 4 – New Technology:

- Chapter 1 – Low-Carbon Heat Schemes;
- Chapter 2 – Hydrogen Grid Conversion Trials;
- Chapter 3 – Miscellaneous.

e. Part 5 – Independent System Operator and Planner [(i.e. Future System Operator)]

f. Part 6 – Governance of Gas and Electricity Industry Codes

g. Part 7 – Market Reform and Consumer Protection

This Part contains provisions on: Principal objectives of the Secretary of State and GEMA; Competition; Multi-purpose interconnectors; Support for energy-intensive industries; Electricity storage; Reduction targets (carbon emissions and home-heating costs); and Smart meters.

h. Part 8 – Heat Networks:

- Chapter 1 – Regulation of Heat Networks;
- Chapter 2 – Heat Network Zones.

i. Part 9 – Energy Smart Appliances and Load Control:

- Chapter 1 – Introductory;
- Chapter 2 – Energy Smart Appliances;
- Chapter 3 – Licensing of Load Control.

j. Part 10 – Energy Performance of Premises**k. Part 11 – Energy Savings Opportunity Schemes****l. Part 12 – Core Fuel Sector Resilience:**

- Chapter 1 – Introduction;
- Chapter 2 – Powers for Resilience Purposes;
- Chapter 3 – Enforcement;
- Chapter 4 – General.

m. Part 13 – Offshore Wind Electricity Generation, Oil and Gas:

- Chapter 1 – Offshore Wind Electricity Generation;
- Chapter 2 – Oil and Gas.

n. Part 14 – Civil Nuclear Sector:

- Chapter 1 – Civil Nuclear Sites;
- Chapter 2 – Civil Nuclear Constabulary;
- Chapter 3 – Relevant Nuclear Pension Schemes;
- Chapter 4 – Great British Nuclear.

o. Part 15 – General

This Part includes (amongst other things) provisions on the making of regulations, interpretation, extent and commencement.

p. Schedules

The *Energy Bill* (version as of 11 July 2023) also contains 22 Schedules (not listed here).

2.3 Measures in the Bill

There are many measures in the *Energy Bill* which are provided for across the various Parts of the Bill (see above) and its supporting Schedules.

These measures are summarised in the government's 'Energy Security Bill overarching factsheet' (first published on 6 July 2022 and since updated), which divides the measures into the following three categories:

- Leveraging private investment in clean technologies and building a homegrown energy system;
- Reforming our energy system to protect consumers from unfair pricing; and
- Ensuring the safety, security and resilience of the UK's energy system.

2.4 Extent and commencement

Clause 328 (*Extent*) of the *Energy Bill* (version as of 11 July 2023) deals with the extent of the Bill.

Note: the territorial extent of a Bill is the jurisdictions which the Bill forms part of the law of (the application of a Bill is about where the Bill produces a practical effect). Clause 329 (*Commencement*) of the Bill addresses when the provisions within the Bill (when enacted) will come into force.



3. Some publicly available resources

3.1 Publications tab in the Energy Bill page on the Parliament site

In the Publications section of the Energy Bill page on the site of the UK Parliament you will find (amongst other documents):

- a. the Energy Bill itself;
- b. the accompanying Explanatory Notes;
- c. the Delegated Powers Memorandum;
- d. amendment papers;
- e. briefing papers (see 3.5);
- f. the Impact Assessments; and
- g. Hansard reports and minutes of proceedings.

3.2 DESNZ policy statements and draft regulations

DESNZ maintains a 'Guidance' page with the title 'Energy Security Bill: policy statements and draft regulations' which contains links to policy statements on the Energy Bill and indicative draft statutory instrument regulations relating to it.

3.3 DESNZ factsheets

A further 'Guidance' page maintained by DESNZ is the 'Energy Security Bill: factsheets' page. This comprises links to the 'Energy Security Bill overarching factsheet' and, at the time of writing on 14 July 2023, thirty four other factsheets² on aspects of the Energy Bill (all available via the above link).

² Factsheets are added by the government from time to time.

3.4 DESNZ collection

DESNZ also maintains the 'Collection: Energy Security Bill', as first published on 6 July 2022, which contains links to the above policy statements and draft regulations and factsheets.

3.5 House of Commons Library and House of Lords Library

a. House of Commons Library briefing papers

- [Energy Bill 2022-23: Overview](#);
- [Energy Bill 2022-23, Parts 1, 2 & 3: Carbon storage, hydrogen, and new technologies](#);
- [Energy Bill 2022-23, Parts 4 – 6: Electricity and gas markets](#);
- [Energy Bill 2022-23, Parts 7 – 10: Heat networks, smart appliances, load control and energy performance of buildings](#);
- [Energy Bill 2022-23, Parts 11 and 12: Offshore wind, oil and gas](#);
- [Energy Bill 2022-23, Part 13: Provisions on civil nuclear regulation](#); and
- [Energy Bill \[HL\] 2022-23 Committee stage report](#) (published 1 September 2023).

b. House of Lords Library briefing paper

[Energy Bill: HL Bill 39 of 2022-23](#).



