



House of Lords
House of Commons

Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

Fifty-first Report of Session 2024–26

HC 291-li / HL Paper 275

*The Town and Country Planning (Entertainment Resort
Complex, Bedford) Special Development (No. 2) Order 2025*

*The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
(Commencement No. 7) Order 2025*

Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

The Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (JCSI) is appointed to consider statutory instruments made in exercise of powers granted by Act of Parliament. Instruments not laid before Parliament are included within the Committee's remit; but local instruments and instruments made by devolved administrations are not considered by JCSI unless they are required to be laid before Parliament.

The role of the JCSI, whose membership is drawn from both Houses of Parliament, is to assess the technical qualities of each instrument that falls within its remit and to decide whether to draw the special attention of each House to any instrument on one or more of the following grounds:

- i. that it imposes, or sets the amount of, a charge on public revenue or that it requires payment for a licence, consent or service to be made to the Exchequer, a government department or a public or local authority, or sets the amount of the payment;
- ii. that its parent legislation says that it cannot be challenged in the courts;
- iii. that it appears to have retrospective effect without the express authority of the parent legislation;
- iv. that there appears to have been unjustifiable delay in publishing it or laying it before Parliament;
- v. that there appears to have been unjustifiable delay in sending a notification under the proviso to section 4(1) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, where the instrument has come into force before it has been laid;
- vi. that there appears to be doubt about whether there is power to make it or that it appears to make an unusual or unexpected use of the power to make;
- vii. that its form or meaning needs to be explained;
- viii. that its drafting appears to be defective;
- ix. any other ground which does not go to its merits or the policy behind it.

The Committee usually meets weekly when Parliament is sitting.

Current membership

House of Lords

[Lord Brady of Altrincham](#) (Conservative; Life peer)

[Lord Carter of Haslemere](#) (Crossbench; Life peer)

[Baroness Kennedy of Cradley](#) (Labour; Life peer)

[Lord Meston](#) (Crossbench; Excepted Hereditary)

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House of Commons

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[David Pinto-Duschinsky](#) (Labour; Hendon)

[Gareth Snell](#) (Labour; Stoke-on-Trent Central)

Powers

The full constitution and powers of the Committee are set out in House of Commons Standing Order No. 151 and House of Lords Standing Order No.74, relating to Public Business.

Publication

This Report, together with formal minutes relating to the report, was Ordered by the House of Commons and by the House of Lords, on 11 March 2026, to be printed.

It was published on 13 March 2026. All publications of the Committee are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/jcsi.

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Instruments reported

At its meeting on 11 March 2026 the Committee scrutinised a number of instruments in accordance with Standing Orders. It was agreed that the special attention of both Houses should be drawn to two of those considered. The instruments and the grounds for reporting are given below. The relevant departmental memoranda are published as appendices to this report.

1 S.I. 2025/1322: Reported for requiring elucidation, defective drafting and failure to comply with proper legislative practice

The Town and Country Planning (Entertainment Resort Complex, Bedford) Special Development (No. 2) Order 2025

Procedure: Made negative

- 1.1 The Committee draws the special attention of both Houses to this Order on the grounds that it requires elucidation in two respects, is defectively drafted in three respects and fails to comply with proper legislative practice in two respects.**
- 1.2** This Order grants planning permission for an entertainment resort complex and associated development (subject to various conditions set out at Schedule 3) on a site in Bedford.
- 1.3** Condition 2(4) provides that the Secretary of State may not approve “under this paragraph” any modification of the zonal plan that would result in a zone extending beyond the boundary of the Order land. The use of the words “under this paragraph” suggests that this is something that could be approved under another paragraph but the Committee noted that this appears to contradict article 7(3), which provides that no modification may be made in respect of the Map. In the Committee’s view, it seemed logical that the zonal boundaries of the site should not be modified to go beyond the boundary of the Order land and therefore, the Committee asked the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to explain whether

the Secretary of State may approve any modification of the zonal plan that would result in a zone extending beyond the boundary of the Order land under any paragraph other than Condition 2(4).

- 1.4** In a memorandum printed at Appendix 1, the Department confirms that no provision would allow modification of the zonal plan to allow zones to extend beyond the Order land as that would require a change to the Map, explaining (as the Committee also noted) that that cannot be modified. Notwithstanding the ambiguity introduced by the wording of Condition 2(4), **the Committee is content to report Condition 2(4) for requiring elucidation, provided by the Department’s memorandum.**
- 1.5** Condition 8 sets out the requirements for habitat creation and enhancement plans, with sub-paragraphs (4) and (5) detailing the specific requirements for these plans. This includes an OS plan showing the location of any dark corridors and wildlife crossing or underpass features. The definition of a “dark corridor”, set out at paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 is—

A continuous corridor of—

- a.** *trees, habitats, and other flora, or*
- b.** *man-made materials,*

where the levels of illuminance between sunset and sunrise do not exceed certain limits, enabling bats to navigate between roosts and feeding areas and be protected from predators, and their population numbers and geographical distribution to be maintained.

- 1.6** The Committee was unsure what the “certain limits” of illuminance must be to enable a suitable dark corridor to be provided. Whilst Condition 8(7) (b) does specify some levels of illuminance, given that these are restricted to illuminance “arising from authorised development”, the Committee wondered whether these were intended to be the “certain limits” of illuminance referred to in the definition in paragraph 1. The Committee asked the Department to explain
- 1.7** In its memorandum, the Department explains that the definition of a “dark corridor” in paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 is a ‘conceptual’ one, referring to its generic nature conservation functions. It goes on to state that the specific requirements of dark corridors are addressed within the conditions dealing substantively with how they are to be provided on the Order land, noting that this includes the details in Condition 8(7), including the particular illuminance levels set out in Condition 8(7)(b), as well as the requirements set out in Condition 10. Given that aside from Condition 8(7)(b) the requirements set out in the remainder of Condition 8(7) and Condition 10 do not specify the limits of the levels of illuminance required for a dark corridor, the Committee remains unclear what those limits are. In the Committee’s

view, the relationship between the definition in paragraph 1 and Conditions 8 and 10 should have been clearer. The result of relying on a general, abstract definition is that what amounts to a “dark corridor” is not clearly tethered to the relevant conditions. **The Committee accordingly reports the definition of “dark corridor” in paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 for defective drafting.**

- 1.8** The Committee further noted that one of the designated requirements for a habitat creation and enhancement plan according to Condition 8(4) is the location of any wildlife crossing or underpass feature. No definition is provided within the instrument for either of these terms and while the Committee felt able to construe the ordinary meaning of each term, it was not clear how they differed from each other. The Committee therefore asked the Department to explain the intended meaning of “underpass feature”, noting that this appears to be intended to be different to a “wildlife crossing.”
- 1.9** In its memorandum, the Department explains that there are many different ways to assist wildlife in crossing from one area of habitat to another after their previous routes have been cut off or made hazardous by development, noting that an underpass is one potential solution if a road is the obstacle or hazard in question. Whilst the Committee appreciates that this is the commonly understood definition of an underpass, in the circumstances it remains unclear how this differs from a wildlife crossing. In the Committee’s view, by including both of these terms as clear alternatives without defining either term or making it clear how they differ from each other, this is likely to only create uncertainty about what is required to be included in this regard in a habitat creation and enhancement plan. The Department goes on to note that an alternative way of wording Condition 8(4)(a)(iii)(bb) would be “wildlife crossings, including underpasses”. The Committee agrees that this offers more clarity as to what this element of a plan is expected to entail. **The Committee accordingly reports Condition 8(4)(a)(iii)(bb) of the Order for defective drafting, partially acknowledged by the Department.**
- 1.10** Condition 15 addresses archaeological mitigation on site, setting out the conditions that must be complied with before construction work may begin in a designated area. Condition 15(2) confirms that the designated areas for such purposes are identified in Table 3–1 and P1 on the environmental controls document. Given that those areas cannot be identified without sight of such Tables, the Committee asked the Department to explain why a link to the relevant documents is not provided in the instrument, also noting that at the time that the Committee scrutinised this instrument the environmental controls document did not appear to include such Tables.
- 1.11** In its memorandum, the Department explains that the environmental controls document was produced in two parts, with the relevant Tables for this Condition appearing in Part 1 rather than Part 2. The Department

acknowledges that by an oversight, the particular webpage on the gov.uk website where the reference documents were made available after the Order was made included a link to Part 2 of the environmental controls document but not Part 1. Whilst the Department asserts that Part 1 had been made available on another gov.uk webpage and provides links to both pages in its memorandum, the Committee notes that unlike the first webpage, which clearly identifies the documents by reference to this Order, the second webpage contains no such detail to confirm that the documents may be relied upon as accurate copies of the reference documents set out at Schedule 1.

- 1.12** As the Committee has stressed on a number of previous occasions and set out at paragraphs 4.1 to 4.8 of the Committee's First Special Report of Session 2017–19, Transparency and Accountability in Subordinate Legislation, access information for documents given an importance by legislation must be given in the instrument itself (either in the footnotes or the Explanatory Note). Whilst the Committee had ultimately been able to locate the link to the documents via the gov.uk website when scrutinising this Order, this had not included both parts of the environmental controls document thereby rendering it impossible to fully understand this Condition. The Committee welcomes the Department's undertaking to rectify this omission as soon as possible. **The Committee accordingly reports Condition 15 for failure to comply with proper legislative practice, acknowledged by the Department.**
- 1.13** Condition 20 sets out the monitoring reports that the site controller must carry out in terms of the construction workforce for the site. Condition 20(1) confirms when the monitoring must begin and how frequently this must be carried out but does not confirm for how long this must continue. Whilst the Committee reasonably assumed this would be once the construction is complete, there is nothing in the Order that makes clear when the development would be treated as being complete. The Committee therefore asked the Department to explain.
- 1.14** The Department confirms in its memorandum that it is not intended that the obligation set out in Condition 20(1) should ever come to an end. It explains that the Order is structured to give permission for certain classes of development rather than a specific pre-defined programme of development, potentially authorising development activity extending continuously over the lifetime of the entertainment resort complex. The Committee notes the Department's explanation that this continuous redevelopment over time is characteristic of theme parks. **The Committee accordingly reports Condition 20(1) for elucidation, provided by the Department's memorandum.**

- 1.15** Condition 73 provides that Grand Opening of the site must not take place unless the parts of Footpath 1 and 2 that are within the Order land have been permanently stopped up. Given that this Condition requires sight of the footpaths identified as Footpath 1 and Footpath 2 on the definitive map and statement maintained by Bedford Borough Council, the Committee asked the Department to explain why a link providing accessibility details for that definitive map and statement has not been included in this instrument.
- 1.16** In its memorandum, the Department explains that, so far as it is aware, the definitive map and statement maintained by Bedford Borough Council is not available online. Nevertheless, the Department accepts that it would have been helpful to have provided a footnote summarising the information about access to the map and statement that is provided on the Council’s website and has included a link to this within its memorandum. The Committee has long held the view that where an instrument gives significance to a document, it should provide accessibility details for that document and agrees that it would have been helpful for such a footnote to have been provided within the Order. **The Committee accordingly reports Condition 73 for failure to comply with proper legislative practice, acknowledged by the Department.**
- 1.17** Conditions 82 to 84 deal with fireworks, pyrotechnics and other displays. Condition 82 sets out requirements in relation to firework displays, with subparagraph (3) defining a “firework display” as an outdoor display involving the use of category F4 fireworks within the meaning of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015. A footnote also directs the user to the definitions of “firework” and “pyrotechnic article” in those Regulations. Schedule 2 to this instrument, also refers (at Class 2(b)(iv)(bb)) to the provision of facilities for storing hazardous substances, including “fireworks and pyrotechnic articles, as defined in regulation 2(1) and regulation 3 of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015”. Noting these cross-references, the Committee asked the Department to explain whether the reference to “pyrotechnic effects” at Conditions 84(1)(a) should instead be a “display of pyrotechnic articles”.
- 1.18** In its memorandum, the Department asserts that the terms “firework display” and “pyrotechnic effects” should both be read as having their natural meanings. It further notes that a more specific meaning was given to “firework display” in Condition 82 to address concerns about the noise and disturbance they produce. Condition 84, on the other hand, the Department asserts addresses more general theme park entertainments involving a mixture of high-tech and practical special effects, such as lasers, and pyrotechnics, such as smoke. In the Committee’s view, the specific meaning ascribed to “firework display” in Condition 82 is no different to the ordinary meaning of the term. Rather, it is the detail provided as to their location on the site and their regularity, that appears to have been

intended to address public concerns in this regard. Similarly, it seems to the Committee that the term “pyrotechnic articles” would also reflect the Department’s intention in Condition 84 whilst also maintaining the same term used elsewhere in the Order. Within its memorandum, the Department has accepted that the legislative intention might be more precisely conveyed if the relevant condition had instead referred to “displays involving the use of pyrotechnic articles as defined in regulation 3(1) of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulation 2015 that are not firework displays as defined in condition 82(3)”. The Committee agrees that this would have been more accurate and reiterates its position that consistency in drafting is an important principle in order to avoid confusion and to facilitate legal certainty. **The Committee accordingly reports Condition 84(1)(a) for defective drafting, partly acknowledged by the Department.**

2 S.I. 2025/1341: Reported for failure to comply with proper legislative practice

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (Commencement No. 7) Order 2025

Procedure: Not subject to Parliamentary procedure

- 2.1 The Committee draws the special attention of both Houses to this Order on the ground that it fails to comply with proper legislative practice in one respect.**
- 2.2** This Order brings section 246 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 into force on 1 April 2026. This instrument also includes italic date information which states that this Order comes into force on 1 April 2026. Noting that this is a commencement instrument that is not required to be laid before Parliament, and so does not require italic date information about when it comes into force, the Committee asked the Department for Education to explain why italic date information is provided.
- 2.3** In a memorandum printed at Appendix 2, the Department acknowledges the error and explains that this was an inadvertent drafting mistake. Consistently with Statutory Instrument Practice (5th Edition), the Committee considers that commencement instruments in particular do not normally require an italic coming into force date given that the operative effect of the instrument is to commence other legislation. Whilst there was no uncertainty here, including italic date information in a commencement instrument such as this creates a risk of confusion and was in this case

unnecessary. **The Committee accordingly reports this Order for failure to comply with proper legislative practice, acknowledged by the Department.**

Instruments not reported

At its meeting on 11 March 2026 the Committee considered the instruments set out in the Annex to this Report, none of which were required to be reported to both Houses.

Annex

Draft instruments requiring affirmative approval

S.I. Numbers	S.I. Title
Draft	Draft Aviation Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2026
Draft	Draft Chemicals (Health and Safety) (Amendment, Consequential and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026
Draft	Draft Buckinghamshire Council (Adult Education Functions) Regulations 2026
Draft	Draft Surrey County Council (Adult Education Functions) Regulations 2026
Draft	Draft Warwickshire County Council (Adult Education Functions) Regulations 2026
Draft	Draft Conservation of Habitats and Species (Offshore Wind) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2026
Draft	Draft Controlled Drugs (Drug Precursors) (Amendment and Revocation) Regulations 2026
Draft	Draft Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990 (Amendment) Order 2026

S.I. Numbers	S.I. Title
Draft	Draft Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Regulations 2026
Draft	Draft National Employment Savings Trust (Amendment) Order 2026
Draft	Draft Merchant Shipping (Port State Control) Regulations 2026
Draft	Draft Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements (Amendment) Regulations 2026

Instruments subject to annulment

S.I. Numbers	S.I. Title
S.I. 2026/74	The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities) (Providing Targeted Support) (Amendment) Order 2026
S.I. 2026/85	The Sham Marriage and Civil Partnership (Referral of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships) (Amendment) Regulations 2026
S.I. 2026/95	The Immigration (Certificate of Entitlement to Right of Abode in the United Kingdom) (Amendment) Regulations 2026
S.I. 2026/96	The Local Authorities (Changes to Years of Ordinary Elections) (England) Order 2026
S.I. 2026/97	The Civil Procedure (Amendment) Rules 2026
S.I. 2026/99	The Air Navigation (Amendment) Order 2026
S.I. 2026/103	The Copyright and Performances (Application to Other Countries) (Amendment) Order 2026
S.I. 2026/105	The Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2026
S.I. 2026/114	The Employment Appeal Tribunal (Amendment) Rules 2026
S.I. 2026/115	The Tribunal Procedure and Employment Tribunal Procedure (Amendment) Rules 2026
S.I. 2026/118	The Firearms (Revocation, Consequential Amendment and Saving Provision) Regulations 2026
S.I. 2026/124	The Financial Services (Designated Consumer Body and Designated Representative Body) Order 2026

S.I. Numbers	S.I. Title
S.I. 2026/129	The Parole Board (Amendment) Rules 2026
S.I. 2026/132	The Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97) (Amendment) Regulations 2026
S.I. 2026/142	The Local Authorities (Changes to Years of Ordinary Elections) (England) (Revocation) Order 2026
S.I. 2026/149	The Utilities Act 2000 (Amendment of Section 105) Order 2026
S.I. 2026/155	The Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) (Amendment) Order 2026

Instruments not subject to Parliamentary proceedings not laid before Parliament

S.I. Numbers	S.I. Title
S.I. 2026/75	The Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2026
S.I. 2026/86	The Sentencing Act 2026 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2026
S.I. 2026/107	The Power to Award Degrees etc. (Point Blank Limited) Order 2026
S.I. 2026/110	The Human Medicines (Authorisation by Pharmacists and Supervision by Pharmacy Technicians) Order 2025 (Commencement) Order of Council 2026
S.I. 2026/163	The Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2026

Appendix 1: Memorandum from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

S.I. 2025/1322

The Town and Country Planning (Entertainment Resort Complex, Bedford) Special Development (No. 2) Order 2025

1. The Committee has asked the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for a memorandum on the following point(s):
 1. *Explain whether the Secretary of State may approve any modification of the zonal plan that would result in a zone extending beyond the boundary of the Order land under any paragraph other than Condition 2(4).*
 2. *In the definition of “dark corridor” in paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to the Order, explain whether the limits of the levels of illuminance referred to are those set out in Condition 8(7)(b).*
 3. *In relation to Condition 8(4)(a)(iii)(bb), explain the intended meaning of “underpass feature” (noting that this appears to be intended to be different to a “wildlife crossing”).*
 4. *Given that for the purposes of Condition 15, it is necessary to consult Tables 3–1 and P1 in the environmental controls document, explain why—*
 - *a link to reference document 22 was not provided in this instrument; and*
 - *when scrutinising this instrument, that document did not appear to include Tables 3–1 and P1.*

5. *Explain when it is intended that the site controller no longer has to determine the total construction workforce pursuant to Condition 20(1) of Schedule 3 to this Order and, if this is linked to the completion of the authorised works, explain how the completion of the authorised works is determined.*
 6. *Given that Condition 73 of Schedule 3 to this instrument requires sight of the footpaths identified as Footpath 1 and Footpath 2 on the definitive map and statement maintained by Bedford Borough Council, explain why a link providing accessibility details for that definitive map and statement has not been included in this instrument.*
 7. *Explain whether the reference to “pyrotechnic effects” at Condition 84(1)(a) should instead be to a “display of pyrotechnic articles” bearing in mind the cross-references to regulation 3 of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015 at Class 2(b)(iv)(bb) and Condition 82(3).*
2. The Department’s responses on each point are set out below.
 3. **Point 1:** No provision permits modification of the zonal plan to allow zones to extend beyond the Order land: that would require a change to the Map, which cannot be modified under the Order (articles 1(4) and 7(1)(a)).
 4. **Point 2:** The definition in paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 describes what a dark corridor is conceptually, by referring to its generic nature conservation functions. The conditions dealing substantively with how dark corridors are to be provided on the Order land set out more specific requirements in relation to them. This includes the details in Condition 8(7), including the particular illuminance levels set out in Condition 8(7)(b), as well as the requirements set out in Condition 10.
 5. **Point 3:** There are a number of different means by which wildlife can be enabled to cross from one area of habitat to another after development has either blocked their previous route of travel or made it hazardous. As with (human) pedestrians, an underpass is one possible solution if the obstacle or hazard is a road. An alternative way of wording Condition 8(4)(a)(iii)(bb) would be “wildlife crossings, including underpasses”.
 6. **Point 4:** Each of the “reference documents” submitted by the developer to the Secretary of State is listed in Schedule 1 and given a reference number in the first column of the table there. Most of them are referred to in the rest of the Order by their respective reference numbers, but some that are referred to more frequently are also referred to by defined terms. Thus the “environmental controls document” has reference number 22 (see Schedule 3, paragraph 1). Article 8(1)(a) and (b) provide for all the reference documents to be made available online by the Secretary of State, and the footnote there points to gov.uk. The environmental controls document was

produced in two parts, and Table 3–1 appears in Part 1, rather than Part 2 of the document (see footnote (b) on page 17 of the Order). By an oversight, the webpage where reference documents were made available after the making of the Order¹ included a link to a copy of Part 2 of the document, but not a link to a copy of Part 1 (although it had, like the other reference documents, previously been made available on another gov.uk webpage²). The Department apologises for the omission and will rectify it as soon as possible.

7. **Point 5:** The Order is structured to give permission for certain classes of development rather than for a specific, pre-defined programme of development. This allows for the continuous redevelopment over time that characterises theme parks (see explanatory memorandum, paragraph 6.4). As such, it potentially authorises development activity extending, in more or less extensive or intense forms, continuously over the lifetime of the entertainment resort complex. Condition 20(1) requires the site controller to determine the total construction workforce for the next three calendar months on an ongoing basis. It is not intended that this obligation should ever come to an end. However, it is only when, in that context, the site controller determines that the total construction workforce will exceed 2,500 in a calendar month that the workforce planning exercise ceases to be a merely internal exercise and requires the site controller to notify the Secretary of State and take other actions under Conditions 20–22.
8. **Point 6:** So far as the Department is aware, the definitive map and statement maintained by Bedford Borough Council is not available online. However, the Department accepts that a footnote summarising the information about access to the map and statement provided on the Council’s webpage about it³ would have been helpful and apologises for not having included such a footnote.
9. **Point 7:** The Department believes that the terms “firework display” (used in article 82) and “pyrotechnic effects” (used in article 84) both have natural meanings. A more specific meaning was given to “firework display” in article 82 to make it clear because article 82 is only regulating a particular sub-set of firework displays, to address concerns about the noise and disturbance they produce. Article 84 is concerned with the generality of theme park entertainments that involve a mixture of high-tech and practical special effects such as lasers and pyrotechnics such as smoke. The Department accepts that the legislative intention might be more precisely conveyed

1 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/special-development-order-entertainment-resort-complex-and-associated-development-in-bedford>

2 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/request-for-planning-permission-for-an-entertainment-resort-complex-and-associated-development-in-bedford-part-6-other-documents>

3 <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/public-rights-way/definitive-map-and-statement>

if article 84(1)(a) referred, for example, to “displays involving the use of pyrotechnic articles as defined in regulation 3(1) of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulation 2015 that are not firework displays as defined in condition 82(3)”.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

3 March 2026

Appendix 2: Memorandum from the Department for Education

S.I. 2025/1341

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (Commencement No. 7) Order 2025

1. The Committee has asked the Department for Education for a memorandum on the following point(s):

Explain why italic date information is provided for this commencement instrument that is not required to be laid before Parliament.

2. The department acknowledges that, in accordance with paragraph 3.10.4.4 of Statutory instrument practice (5th edition), this instrument should not have included the line ‘Coming into force... 1st April 2026’. This was an inadvertent drafting mistake.
3. The department regrets the error and is grateful to the Committee for drawing attention to it.

Department for Education

3 March 2026

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 11 March 2026

Members present

Sir Bernard Jenkin, in the Chair

Lewis Atkinson

Lord Brady of Altrincham

Lord Carter of Haslemere

Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

David Pinto-Dusinsky

Lord Stewart of Dirleton KC

Lord Young of Norwood Green

Report consideration

Draft Report (Fifty-first Report), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1.1 to 2.3 read and agreed to.

Annex agreed to.

Papers were appended to the Report as Appendices 1 to 2.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fifty-first Report of the Committee to both Houses.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House of Commons and that the Report be made to the House of Lords.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 18 March at 3.40 p.m.

List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

All publications from the Committee are available on the [publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

Session 2024–26

Number	Title	Reference
50th	No Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-l
49th	3 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xlix
48th	1 Statutory Instrument Reported	HC 291-xlviii
47th	5 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xlvii
46th	3 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xlvi
45th	4 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xlv
44th	No Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xliv
43rd	3 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xliii
42nd	1 Statutory Instrument Reported	HC 291-xlii
41st	1 Statutory Instrument Reported	HC 291-xli
40th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xl
39th	1 Statutory Instrument Reported	HC 291-xxxix
38th	5 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxxviii
37th	8 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxxvii

Number	Title	Reference
36th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxxvi
35th	8 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxxv
34th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxxiv
33rd	1 Statutory Instrument Reported	HC 291-xxxiii
32nd	No Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxxii
31st	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxxi
30th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxx
29th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxix
28th	1 Statutory Instrument Reported	HC 291-xxviii
27th	3 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxvii
26th	3 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxvi
25th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxv
24th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxiv
23rd	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxiii
22nd	3 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxii
21st	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xxi
20th	5 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xx
19th	No Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xix
18th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xviii
17th	No Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xvii
16th	1 Statutory Instrument Reported	HC 291-xvi
15th	1 Statutory Instrument Reported	HC 291-xv
14th	No Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xiv

Number	Title	Reference
13th	8 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xiii
12th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xii
11th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-xi
10th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-x
9th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-ix
8th	4 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-viii
7th	1 Statutory Instrument Reported	HC 291-vii
6th	4 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-vi
5th	5 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-v
4th	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-iv
3rd	10 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-iii
2nd	No Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-ii
1st	2 Statutory Instruments Reported	HC 291-i
2nd Special	Scrutinising Statutory Instruments: Departmental Returns, October 2024 – September 2025: Government response	HC 1501
1st Special	Scrutinising Statutory Instruments: Departmental Returns, October 2024 – September 2025	HC 1342