

Member Briefing

General Election 2017: Next steps

June 2017

Overview

In this member briefing, we look at the results of the election and what happens when a minority Government has been formed.

Over the next few weeks, the Alliance's policy team will be assessing the political landscape and encouraging all parties to look again at our own [manifesto](#) for a clear understanding of the most important issues the sector needs support on from Government. In the meantime, however, we thought it would be useful to set out key dates for the next Parliament, procedural issues – such as the appointment of select committees and rules around APPGs – and legislation which could be re-introduced in the next Parliament, which the sport and recreation sector may want to influence.

A Conservative minority government

The election resulted in a hung parliament. This is when no single party has control of a majority of the seats in the Commons (currently 326 out of 650). But it is now confirmed that Theresa May intends to remain as Prime Minister and the Conservatives will run a minority government relying on support from the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). Parliament is due to meet on 13 June with the start of formal Brexit negotiations expected to begin on 19 June.

A new parliament and new priorities

Cabinet reshuffle

Following the 2015 General Election, David Cameron announced his ministerial appointments on the Monday following the election. The new Government followed a similar timeframe and at the time of writing, (12 June), the new cabinet has been appointed with the junior ministerial appointments to be announced.

In regard to the reshuffle, Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP was reappointed as Culture Secretary, and the Prime Minister announced a new Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP. The junior ministerial appointments have not yet been made and former junior ministers such as Public Health Minister, Nicola Blackwood, former Children's Minister, Edward Timpson, lost their seats and will need to be replaced.

Other ministers such as Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP and Transport Minister Andrew Jones MP were re-elected, however, there is no guarantee that they will retain their cabinet positions in the reshuffle.

Election of the speaker

The first sitting day (Tuesday 13 June) will see the election of the Speaker of the House of Commons. Usually, if there is a returning Speaker, a motion is put before the House to be agreed upon. However, if there is no returning Speaker wishing to seek re-election, or the House votes against the appointment of a former Speaker, a secret ballot will take place the following day to select the new Speaker.

Members of Commons taking the oath

MPs will [take](#) the oath in the Commons, which happens by members being sworn in.

Queen's Speech

The Queen's Speech will be the next big focal point of the new Parliament. The Queen's Speech sets out the Government's legislative priorities and Bills to be introduced in the next Parliamentary session (year). It was scheduled for Monday 19 June however, it has been delayed by a few days as the Conservatives are still in the process of agreeing a minority led Government with the DUP, meaning some manifesto commitments will have to be negotiated or could be dropped altogether.

Select committees

Commons select committees play a hugely important role in both Houses. They scrutinise the work of government departments and conduct investigations into a range of issues, including government policy, the administration of the House or allegations linked to the conduct of MPs.

Select committee chairs are the driving force behind the committee and influence the committee's work for the next Parliamentary session. Select committee chair appointments can also lead to Government promotions. For example, John Whittingdale MP's time as Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee played a part in his appointment as Secretary of State for the Department.

Election of Select Committee Chairs

A new Parliament must carry out the election of select committee chairs following a general election. In 2015, this happened nearly 6 weeks after the election (17 June 2015), but we expect the process to be quicker this time around given the limited sitting period between a new Parliament being formed and the summer recess (which begins on 20 July).

Before the election of the committee chairs can take place, the House must first allocate the posts of committee chairs to specific parties. It is convention that the Speaker of the House of Commons writes to party leaders on the day following his/her election at the start of the Parliament, indicating the numbers of chairs that should be allocated to each party, according to their strength in the House.

Within a week of the Queen's Speech, a motion is put to the House to allocate the chair of each committee to a specific party. The ballot to elect chairs must take place 14 days after the approval of the motion, and nominations can be submitted as soon as the motion has been agreed, closing at 17.00 the day before the ballot.

Nomination requirements

To stand as a committee chair, an MP must have a valid nomination by meeting the following requirements:

- Present a signed statement declaring their willingness to stand;
- Have the support of 15 MPs from their political party (or 10 per cent of the total number of MPs elected of their party, whichever is lower) supporting their candidacy.

Valid nominations received each day are published with the next day's [Order Paper](#).

The count

MPs are issued with separate ballot papers for each committee and can vote for as many candidates they wish in order of preference. Ballots are counted under the Alternative Vote System.

Committee membership

After the chairs are elected, nominations for the remaining members of the committee are appointed by the House. The speed at which this process is completed will dictate when each newly formed committee can host its first meeting.

In 2015, some committees met before the summer recess, but others did not convene until September or October. It is at the discretion of the new committee whether they want to resume the work of the previous committee, and if they want to refer to evidence from previous inquiries in their work. Government responses to select committee inquiries which were not received before Dissolution will not be published until a new government is formed.

Carry-over motion/ Bills

It is possible for a carry-over motion to allow Public Bills to continue from one Parliamentary session into the next, but it is not possible for Public Bills to be carried-over into a new Parliament following a general election. Although it was announced before the general election that the Local Government Finance Bill 2016-17 (which we have sought to influence to gain momentum behind the CASC/business rate anomaly) would be carried over into the next Parliamentary session, the Bill fell as we have a new Parliament. The question for the sport and recreation sector now is whether the Government will introduce a new Local Government Finance Bill that is substantively the same as the previous one.

Re-introduction of Bills following dissolution of Parliament

The Local Government Finance Bill would have to be re-introduced afresh in the next Parliament in order for further action to be taken. In terms of re-introduction, it would be a political decision for the newly appointed Secretary of State whether to proceed with a Bill from the previous Parliament. As part of the consideration process, a Bill could be re-introduced if it had received pre-legislative scrutiny, which the Local Government Finance Bill had.

If a Bill is re-introduced, it has to start the parliamentary legislative process from the beginning, with the first reading in the House of Commons following its presentation at the state opening of Parliament (Queen's Speech).

If approved for its re-introduction, the existing Bill team may stay in place if there are no substantive changes. However, if there are major alterations to the Bill or provisions of a political nature, ministerial offices would be the first point of contact until the formal presentation of the Bill on the floor of the House.

Finance Bill 2016-17

At the end of last year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, moved the Budget to one single fiscal event to allow MPs more time to debate and scrutinise it. However, due to the general election, it looks possible that three Finance Bills will be presented to Parliament by the end of the year, partly due to the Finance Bill 2016-17 being rushed through Parliament with significant policy changes being dropped from the legislation.

Over half of the clauses in the Finance Bill were dropped to make sure the Bill received Royal Assent before Parliament dissolved. Not all of the clauses have been expected to

return in the next session, however, we can expect to see the proposals for Making Tax Digital and the anti-tax avoidance measures to be re-introduced.

Tax relief for grassroots sport

It is vitally important that the measures outlined in the Finance Bill 2016-17 for tax deductions for grassroots sport are prioritised and are not lost in the legislative quagmire. The Alliance will be making the case to politicians about the need for these measures to be re-introduced in the Bill.

Summer Budget 2017

The Government might set out a new policy agenda in the Queen's Speech on Monday 19 June, or these could be included as part of a Summer Budget which could take place the following week, 5 July, with an Autumn Statement later in the year.

APPG for Sport

The APPG for Sport will reconvene and hold an inaugural meeting as soon as possible to elect officers and make sure that sport remains high on the Parliamentary agenda. Failure to hold a meeting by 8 November 2017 will result in APPGs becoming de-registered and essentially ceasing to exist.