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Queens Speech 2014



This morning, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II travelled in one of her state coaches from Buckingham Palace to her riverside Palace of Westminster to open Parliament.

She has only missed the ceremony twice since her accession: in 1959 when she was pregnant with Prince Andrew, and in 1963 when she was expecting Prince Edward.

Despite her long reign, it was not until 2010 that Queen Elizabeth invited a prime minister to form a government that relied on a formal coalition of two parties to function.

Many predicted that the agreement reached by David Cameron and Nick Clegg four years ago would not go the distance, but as the Queen gave the final state opening of this, the 55th UK Parliament, those naysayers have been proved wrong.

Part of the deal with the Lib Dems, the legislation that became the Fixed-Term Parliament Act, explains why Cameron has not gone to the country this year. In a new innovation in British politics, the date of the general election is no longer the prime minister's to choose. It is set for May 7 2015.

That fact will have a huge effect on the coming session. All parties represented in the House of Commons are arguably already in election mode. And with UKIP knocking at the door, fresh from their Euro and local council successes, the Tories and Lib Dems will be keen to come up with some new

policies on immigration.

This coming session will be light on legislation. Most of the coalition agreement is already law - there are a few loose ends that will be tied up in 2014/15, but the heavy-lifting, the major reforms to education, the welfare state and the NHS, were put into motion some time ago.

Sign up below to view a document, compiled by the Dods Monitoring team, setting out what legislation has been announced by the Queen in her speech from the throne today. It was the last time Her Majesty will process to her Palace of Westminster before the electorate have the chance to give their verdict on the record of her first coalition government.

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