

## BACKGROUND NOTE

### ENERGY BILL

**“My Government will also introduce legislation on energy matters, establishing a Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and promoting secure, sustainable supplies and a safer environment.”**

The Government is committed to a sustainable energy policy for the future while taking responsibility for cleaning up the nuclear legacy of the past.

The Energy White Paper, published in February 2003, was a milestone in energy policy and set out a new strategy based upon the four pillars of environmental protection, energy reliability, competitive markets and affordable energy for all.

The Energy Bill would implement commitments laid down in the Energy White Paper to help reach the Government’s renewable energy goals, maintain the reliability of our energy supply and promote competitive energy markets.

The Bill would also implement the Managing the Nuclear Legacy White Paper, published in July 2002, by providing long-term strategic direction to the clean-up of Britain's nuclear legacy, with due regard to safety, security, environmental protection and value for money. It would also separate the present United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) Constabulary from the UKAEA and set it up on a statutory basis similar to other police forces.

The Bill would:

- create a single wholesale electricity market for Great Britain, bringing greater choice for consumers in Scotland and providing all generators and suppliers with access to a GB-wide market;
- establish the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) as a new public body with the role of ensuring the decommissioning and clean-up of Britain's civil public sector nuclear sites;
- create a new Civil Nuclear Police Authority to oversee a reconstituted nuclear constabulary (the present UKAEA Constabulary), directly accountable to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry;
- establish a comprehensive legal framework to support offshore renewable energy developments such as windfarms; and
- implement a number of provisions aimed at ensuring secure and reliable supplies, including for example, a special administration regime for gas transportation, electricity transmission and distribution companies facing actual or threatened insolvency.

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