

###Energy Bill

A

BILL

TO

Consolidate and reorganise the energy network in Great Britain, to establish Great British Energy as a state-owned energy company, to provide for the governance of Great British Energy, to repeal the National Energy Strategy Act 2017, to establish a Green British Generation subdivision, to provide for targets of reduction in fossil fuel usage, and for connected purposes.

****BE IT ENACTED**** *By the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Commons and the Lords in this present Parliament assembled, as follows --*

#PART 1

#CONSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITISH ENERGY

1 Establishment of Great British Energy

(1) There shall be a body corporate to be known as Great British Energy ("GB Energy").

(2) GB Energy is not to be treated—

> (a) except so far as necessary for the purposes of its functions, as performing any duty or exercising any power on behalf of the Crown; or

>

> (b) as enjoying any status, immunity or privilege of the Crown;

and GB Energy's property is not to be regarded as property of the Crown, or as held on behalf of the Crown.

2 Membership of Great British Energy

(1) GB Energy is to consist of—

> (a) a member appointed by the Secretary of State to chair GB Energy,

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> (b) two other members appointed by the Secretary of State,

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> (c) three members elected by the staff of GB Energy (see Schedule 1),

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> (d) the director of GB Nuclear,

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> (e) the director of Green Generation,

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> (f) the director of GB Generation,

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- > (g) the director of GB Transmission, and
- >
- > (h) the director of GB Distribution.

(2) Members of GB Energy appointed by the Secretary of State are appointed for such period as the Secretary of State may determine.

(3) Members of GB Energy elected by the staff of GB Energy are elected for a period determined by GB Energy not greater than four years.

(4) A member may not be a member if subsection (5) applies to them.

(5) This subsection applies to a person who is or has been—

- > (a) insolvent,
- >
- > (b) disqualified as a company director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986,
- >
- > (c) disqualified as a charity trustee under the Charities Act 2011,
- >
- >(d) disqualified under a disqualification provision analogous to either of those mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (c) anywhere in the world.

(6) For the purpose of subsection (5)(a), a person is or has been insolvent if—

- > (a) the person's estate is or has been sequestrated,
- >
- > (b) the person has granted a trust deed for creditors or has made a composition or arrangement with creditors,
- >
- > (c) the person is or has been the subject of any other kind of arrangement analogous to either of those mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) anywhere in the world.

(7) The Secretary of State may determine other terms and conditions of membership in relation to matters not covered by this Act.

(8) GB Energy may elect one of its members as the vice-chair.

(9) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Secretary of State may determine the governance of GB Energy.

****3 Early termination of membership****

(1) A person's membership of GB Energy ends if—

- > (a) the person gives notice in writing to the chair of GB Energy that the person resigns,
- >
- > (b) the person becomes disqualified from being a member,
- >
- > (c) the Secretary of State give the person notice in writing that the person is removed from being a member, if the person was appointed by the Secretary of State,

>

> (d) if there is a new election of members to GB Energy and the person is not elected, if the person was elected to GB Energy by the staff of GB Energy,

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> (e) the person is no longer the director of a division or a subdivision of GB Energy, if the person was a member due to being the director of a division or a subdivision of GB Energy.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1)(b), a person becomes disqualified from being a member if section 2(5) applies to the person.

(3) If a person was elected to be a member of GB Energy by the staff of GB Energy but resigns before the next election, GB Energy is to hold an extraordinary election for the position in accordance to Schedule 1.

(4) If the next regular election is scheduled to be held less than 4 weeks before the member's resignation, GB Energy may choose to not hold an extraordinary election for the position.

(5) A person ceases to be the director of a division or subdivision of GB Energy if the Secretary of State gives the person notice in writing that the person is removed from being a director of the division or subdivision of GB Energy.

#PART 2

#FUNCTIONS OF GREAT BRITISH ENERGY

##CHAPTER 1

##POWERS OF GREAT BRITISH ENERGY

**4 General powers of Great British Energy

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, GB Energy may do anything which appears to it—

> (a) to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of, or in connection with, the performance of its functions, or

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> (b) to be otherwise conducive to the performance of its functions.

(2) GB Energy may authorise any member of its staff to perform such of its functions (and to such extent) as it may determine.

(3) The validity of anything done by GB Energy is not affected by—

> (a) a vacancy in membership,

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> (b) a defect in the appointment of a member,

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> (c) the disqualification of a person from being a member after appointment.

****5** Directions to the divisions of Great British Energy

GB Energy may direct any of its divisions to exercise its powers in a specified way.

****6** Emergency Powers******

(1) If GB Energy is of the opinion that it will be unable to satisfy demand from its customers for electricity, it may—

> (a) write to the Secretary of State to request a blackout order, or

>

> (b) direct GB Generation to construct new fossil fuel generators or turn on existing fossil fuel generators despite any provision of this Act or the Climate Change Act 2019.

(2) A “blackout order” is an order depriving specified customers in a specified area of the supply of electricity for a specified period not greater than two weeks.

(3) The Secretary of State may by regulations subject to the negative procedure make a blackout order.

(4) The Secretary of State must consult with GB Energy before making a blackout order.

(5) If GB Energy is of the opinion that, following the expiration of a blackout order, that it will be unable to satisfy demand from its customers for energy, it may write to the Secretary of State requesting—

> (a) a blackout extension order, or

>

> (b) a new blackout order.

(6) A blackout extension order is an order extending the duration of a blackout order for a specified period not greater than 2 weeks.

(7) The Secretary of State may by regulations subject to the positive procedure make a blackout extension order.

(8) The Secretary of State must consult with GB Energy before making a blackout extension order.

##CHAPTER 2

##ENERGY DECARBONISATION PLAN

****7** Energy Decarbonisation Plan: preparation of plan

(1) GB Energy may not seek the construction of new fossil fuel generators.

(2) There is to be a plan prepared by GB Energy known as the “Energy Decarbonisation Plan” (the “Plan”).

(3) The Plan is to set out GB Energy's policies and proposals for—

- > (a) ending the use of fossil fuels for the generation of electricity by GB Generation by 1st January 2035,
- >
- > (b) ending the supply of natural gas by GB Energy to its customers for use as a heating fuel by such date the Secretary of State may by regulations subject to the negative procedure appoint,
- >
- > (c) the use of renewable resources by GB Generation,
- >
- > (d) the use of nuclear installations by GB Generation, and
- >
- > (e) the use of energy storage facilities by GB Transmission.

(4) When preparing a draft of the Plan, GB Energy must consult—

- > (a) the Secretary of State,
- >
- > (b) the Scottish Ministers,
- >
- > (c) the Welsh Ministers,
- >
- > (d) the local planning authority for any area affected by the draft Plan,
- >
- > (e) the Committee on Climate Change, and
- >
- > (f) any other persons GB Energy sees fit.

(5) GB Energy must prepare the Plan by 1st January 2026.

(6) After preparing the draft Plan, GB Energy is to lay the draft plan before the Secretary of State and both Houses of Parliament.

(7) The Secretary of State may write to GB Energy to reject any proposals made in the plan for the construction of new generating stations or energy storage facilities.

(8) After rejecting a proposal for the construction of new generating stations or energy storage facilities, the Secretary of State is to publish an explanation explaining why they have decided to reject the proposal.

(9) Any such explanation is to be laid before both Houses of Parliament and sent to GB Energy.

(10) Period A is the period beginning when such an explanation is laid before both Houses of Parliament and ending 40 days later.

(11) A proposal for the construction of a renewable energy installation or an energy storage facility which has been rejected by the Secretary of State should not be removed from the draft Plan if the House of Commons passes a motion resolving as such during Period A.

(12) After the expiration of Period A, GB Energy may seek to implement the Plan.

(13) For the purposes of section 8(2), the Plan is adopted after the expiration of Period A.

(14) If a proposal in the Plan for the construction of a renewable energy installation or an energy storage facility in England has been refused planning permission, it should be given planning permission if the House of Commons passes a motion resolving as such.

(15) If a proposal in the Plan for the construction of a nuclear installation in England has been refused planning permission, it should be given planning permission if—

> (a) the House of Commons passes a motion resolving that the proposal should be given planning permission, and

>

> (b) if the motion is passed on a division, the number of members who vote in favour of the motion is a number equal to or greater than two thirds of the number of members who voted in the division.

****8 Energy Decarbonisation Plan: revision of plan****

(1) GB Energy is to keep the Plan under review.

(2) Without limit to subsection (1), GB Energy is to review the framework no later than 1 year after the last Plan was adopted.

(3) When reviewing the Plan, GB Energy is to consult the same persons they would consult when preparing a new draft Plan.

(4) After reviewing the Plan, GB Energy is to—

> (a) prepare a revised Plan, or

>

> (b) publish an explanation of why they have decided to not revise it.

(5) Any such explanation should be laid before the Secretary of State and both Houses of Parliament.

##CHAPTER 3

##FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

****9 Funding of Great British Energy****

The Secretary of State must seek to ensure that the amount of resources allocated for use by GB Energy is reasonably sufficient to enable it to perform its functions.

****10 Regulation of price chargeable by Great British Energy for energy**

(1) GB Energy shall from time to time determine a maximum price to charge customers for each kilowatt hour of electricity used, hereafter referred to as the 'maximum electricity price'.

(2) GB Energy shall from time to time determine a maximum price to charge customers for each millilitre of heating fuel used, hereafter referred to as the “maximum heating fuel price”.

(3) The maximum heating fuel price may be different for different heating fuels.

(4) In this section, “maximum price” refers to—

- > (a) the maximum electricity price, and
- >
- > (b) the maximum heating fuel price.

(5) When determining the maximum price, GB Energy is to have regard to—

- > (a) the impact of the price of energy on customers with low incomes,
- >
- > (b) the desirability of customers not being in fuel poverty,
- >
- > (c) the rate of the Consumer Price Index,
- >
- > (d) the rate of the Retail Price Index,
- >
- > (e) any indications of the state of the economy GB Energy deems relevant, and
- >
- > (d) the income and expenditures of GB Energy (see subsection (6)).

(6) GB Energy must ensure that its income is not greater than its expenditures.

(7) If when determining the maximum price, GB Energy proposes to change the maximum price, they may—

- > (a) decrease it by any amount they see fit, but
- >
- > (b) may not increase it by a greater amount than the then current maximum price multiplied by the Consumer Price Index.

(8) Great British Energy may only change the maximum price on the following days of any given year—

- > (a) 1st January,
- >
- > (b) 1st April,
- >
- > (c) 1st July, or
- >
- > (d) 1st October.

(9) When GB Energy has proposed to change the maximum price, they must give notice of it in such manner as they consider appropriate for bringing it to the attention of their customers.

(10) Period B is the period beginning when a new proposed maximum price is published and ending 21 days later.

(11) GB Energy may not change the maximum price before the end of Period B.

(12) If the Secretary of State is of the opinion that, exceptionally, subsection (7)(a) should not apply, then they may make regulations subject to the negative procedure stating that subsection (7)(a) should not apply for a specified period ending no later than 1st January of the next year.

(13) If the Secretary of State makes regulations under subsection (12), they must lay before the House of Commons a statement explaining their reasons for making the regulation.

##CHAPTER 4

##REPORTS

11 Reports

(1) The Secretary of State must, every six months until 1st January 2026, update the House of Commons on the progress on all acquisitions stated in this Act.

~~(2) GB Energy must, from 1st January 2026, publish a report on —~~

~~> (a) the reduction of the use of fossil fuels by Great British Generation;~~

~~>~~

~~> (b) its efforts to promote sustainability within Great British Generation, and~~

~~>~~

~~> (c) progress towards such goals as the Secretary of State may determine~~

~~no less than once every year.~~

(2) GB Energy must from 1st January 2026, publish a report in conducting sustainability monitoring in its affairs, which should include, but not be limited to —

(a) Measurement of greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy generation and consumption, and efforts in promoting sustainable energy generation;

(b) Tracking and reporting of energy usage, efficiency, and waste management;

(c) Assessment of water usage, land use, and ecosystem impacts;

(d) Evaluation of social and economic impacts on local communities; and

(e) progress towards goals set by the Secretary of State.

No less than once a year.

(3) GB Energy must every year publish a report on its financial accounts for the year in a manner they see fit.

(4) The report of its financial accounts must include an assessment by GB Energy of whether the amount of resources allocated for use by it in the financial year the report relates to was sufficient to enable it to perform its functions.

(5) Reports under subsections (2) and (3) must be laid before the Secretary of State and both Houses of Parliament.

#PART 3

#STRUCTURE OF GREAT BRITISH ENERGY

##CHAPTER 1

##DIVISIONS OF GREAT BRITISH ENERGY

**12 Divisions of Great British Energy

GB Energy is to consist of—

- > (a) GB Generation (see Chapter 2),
- >
- > (b) GB Transmission (see Chapter 3), and
- >
- > (c) GB Distribution (see Chapter 4).

##CHAPTER 2

##GENERATION OF ENERGY

13 Great British Generation

(1) The principal functions of Great British Generation (“GB Generation”) are—

- > (a) the generation of electricity, and
- >
- > (b) the production of heating fuel.

(2) GB Generation is to have a subdivision called Green British Generation (see section 14).

(3) GB Generation is to have a subdivision called Great British Nuclear (see section 15).

(4) Subject to section 14(3), GB Generation should acquire all energy generation assets from Local Energy Generation Bodies established under the 2017 Act by 1st January 2026.

(5) GB Generation may compensate the local authority owning the Local Energy Generation Body for the acquisition of assets.

(6) GB Generation is to appoint staff of Local Energy Generation Bodies as staff of GB Generation upon the acquisition of assets.

(7) GB Generation may acquire any resources from Local Energy Generation Bodies it deems necessary for carrying out its functions.

(8) Following the acquisition of energy generation assets, Local Energy Generation Bodies are to be dissolved.

(9) GB Generation is to be led by a director appointed by the Secretary of State.

****14 Green British Generation****

(1) Green British Generation (“Green Generation”) is to be led by a director appointed by the Secretary of State.

(2) The principal functions of Green Generation are—

> (a) the generation of electricity from renewable resources, and

>

> (b) the production of renewable heating fuel.

(3) Green Generation should acquire all renewable energy generation assets from Local Energy Generation Bodies established under the 2017 Act by 1st January 2026.

****15 Great British Nuclear****

(1) Great British Nuclear (“GB Nuclear”) is to be led by a director appointed by the Secretary of State.

(2) The principal function of GB Nuclear is the generation of electricity by nuclear installations.

(3) GB Nuclear should acquire British Nuclear as established under the 2017 Act by 1st April 2024.

(4) GB Nuclear is to appoint the staff of British Nuclear as the staff of GB Nuclear upon the acquisition.

##CHAPTER 3

###TRANSMISSION OF ENERGY

****16 Great British Energy Transmission****

(1) The principal functions of Great British Energy Transmission (“GB Transmission”) are—

> (a) the transmission of electricity,

>

> (b) the transmission of heating fuels,

>

> (c) the import and export of electricity,

>

> (d) the import and export of heating fuels,

>

> (e) the storage of electricity and heating fuels in energy storage facilities.

(2) GB Transmission should acquire British Energy Transmission as established under the 2017 Act by 1st April 2025.

(3) GB Transmission may compensate those affected by the acquisition.

(4) GB Transmission is to appoint the staff of British Energy Transmission as the staff of GB Transmission upon the acquisition.

(5) GB Transmission is to be led by a director appointed by the Secretary of State.

##CHAPTER 4

##DISTRIBUTION OF ENERGY

17 Great British Energy Distribution

(1) The principal functions of Great British Energy Distribution (“GB Distribution”) are—

> (a) the distribution of electricity, and

>

> (b) the distribution of heating fuels.

(2) GB Distribution is to be led by a director appointed by the Secretary of State.

(3) GB Distribution should acquire all energy supply assets from Local Energy Supply Bodies established under the 2017 Act by 1st January 2026.

(4) GB Distribution may compensate the local authority owning the Local Energy Supply Body for the acquisition of assets.

(5) GB Distribution is to appoint the staff of Local Energy Supply Bodies as staff of GB Distribution upon the acquisition of assets.

(6) GB Distribution may acquire any resources from Local Energy Supply Bodies it deems necessary for carrying out its functions.

(8) Following the acquisition of energy supply assets, Local Energy Supply Bodies are to be dissolved.

(9) GB Distribution is to acquire British Energy Distribution as established under the 2017 Act by 1st April 2025.

(10) GB Distribution may compensate those affected by the acquisition of British Energy Distribution.

(11) GB Distribution is to appoint the staff of British Energy Distribution as the staff of GB Distribution upon acquisition.

(12) GB Distribution is to be led by a director appointed by the Secretary of State.

#PART 4

#GENERAL PROVISIONS

****18 Consequential amendments and repeals****

(1) The [Climate Change (Amendment) (Fossil Fuel Phase Out) Order 2023](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bf70f7tTEQ_dDMtnbszBE-FAiJm3VL44IRYbYsSKk54/edit) is revoked.

(2) The [Climate Change Act 2019](https://www.reddit.com/r/MHOLVote/comments/cclp3i/b832_climate_change_bill_2019_3rd_reading_division/) is amended as follows.

(3) After section 11(1)(b), insert—

>> “(ba) the number of gas power stations in operation is zero by 1st January 2035,
>>
>> (bb) the number of oil power stations in operation is zero by 1st January 2025,”

(4) After section 11(1), insert—

> “(2) In this section—
>
>> “gas power station” means a generating station which generates electricity from natural gas;
>>
>> “oil power station” means a generating station which generates electricity from hydrocarbon oil;
>>
>> “hydrocarbon oil” has the same meaning as in the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979;
>>
>> “generate” has the meaning given by section 4(4) of the Electricity Act 1989;
>>
>> “generating station” has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Electricity Act 1989;
>>
>> “natural gas” has the same meaning as in the Energy Act 1976.”

(5) The 2017 Act is repealed.

****19 Regulations****

(1) Any power to make regulations under this Act is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(2) Where regulations under this Act are subject to the “negative procedure”, the statutory instrument containing the regulations is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Commons.

(2) Where regulations under this Act are subject to the “positive procedure”, the statutory instrument containing the regulations may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of the House of Commons.

(3) The Secretary of State may, by regulations subject to the negative procedure, amend the dates in sections 7(5), 11(1) and 11(2) to such date as appointed prior 1st January 2026 if the acquisition of the relevant bodies under sections 13 to 17 have been fully completed.

****20 Interpretations****

In this Act—

- > The “2017 Act” means the [National Energy Strategy Act 2017]<https://www.reddit.com/r/MHOC/wiki/acts/2017-c1/>);
- >
- > “Fossil fuel” has the same meaning as in section 61 of the Energy Act 2013;
- >
- > “natural gas” has the same meaning as in the Energy Act 1976;
- >
- > “renewable resource” has the same meaning as in section 82(7) of the Energy Act 2004;
- >
- > “nuclear installation” has the same meaning as in section 26 of the Nuclear Installations Act 1965;
- >
- > “fuel poverty” has the same meaning as in section 1 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2003;
- >
- > “distribution of electricity” has the same meaning as “distribution system” in Part 1 of the Electricity Act 1986;
- >
- > “transmission of electricity” has the same meaning as “transmission system” in Part 1 of the Electricity Act 1986;
- >
- > “transmission of heating fuel” has the meaning given by section 21(1);
- >
- > “distribution of heating fuel” has the meaning given by section 21(2);
- >
- > “heating fuel” means fuel used for generating heat;
- >
- > “renewable heating fuel” means a fuel used for generating heat from a renewable resource;
- >
- > “local planning authority” has the same meaning as in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- >
- > “generate”, in relation to electricity, has the meaning given by section 4(4) of the Electricity Act 1989, and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly;
- >
- > “generating station” has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Electricity Act 1989;
- >
- > “fossil fuel generator” means a generating station which generates electricity from a fossil fuel;
- >
- > “renewable energy installation” means a generating station which generates electricity from a renewable resource;
- >
- > “construction”, in relation to a generating station, includes—
- >
- >> (a) assembling it,
- >>
- >> (b) commissioning it,

>>
>> (c) installing it,
>>
>> (d) extending it;
>
> “extend”, in relation to a generating station, has the same meaning as in section 36(9) of the Electricity Act 1989;
>
> “energy storage facility” means—
>
>> (a) an electricity storage facility,
>>
>> (b) a renewable heating fuel storage facility, or
>>
>> (c) a storage facility within the meaning of the Gas Act 1986;
>
> “electricity storage facility” means a facility which generates electricity from energy that—
>
>> (a) was converted from electricity by that facility, and
>>
>> (b) is stored within that facility for the purpose of its future reconversion into electricity;
>
> “renewable heating fuel storage facility” means a facility used for the storage of—
>
>> (a) a renewable heating fuel, or
>>
>> (b) a substance which is stored within that facility for the purpose of its future conversion into a renewable heating fuel by the facility;
>
> “planning permission” has the same meaning as in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
>
> “supply” means the sale of electricity or heating fuel to a customer, as the case may be;
>
> “customer” means a person purchasing electricity or heating fuel from GB Energy, as the case may be.

21 Heating fuels: interpretation of transmission and distribution etc

(1) “Transmission of heating fuel” means the transport of heating fuel not in the context of supply or in the context of local distribution of heating fuel with a view to its delivery to customers.

(2) “Distribution of heating fuel” means the transport of heating fuel with a view to its delivery to customers, but not including supply.

(3) In this section—

> “supply” means the sale or resale of heating fuel to customers;

>

> “customer” means a person purchasing heating fuel.

****22 Extent****

This Act shall extend to England, Wales, and Scotland.

****23 Commencement****

- (1) This section and sections 22 and 24 come into force on the day this Act is passed.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the other provisions of this Act come into force at the end of the period of 1 month beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) Section 18(5) shall come into force on January 1st 2026.
- (4) The Secretary of State may, by regulations subject to the negative procedure, change the date specified in subsection (3).

****24 Short title****

This Act may be cited as the Energy Act 2023.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

ELECTIONS TO GREAT BRITISH ENERGY

Eligibility to vote and stand for election

- 1 (1) Any staff of GB Energy is eligible to vote in the election of members to GB Energy.
- (2) Any staff of GB Energy is eligible to run in the election of members to Great British Energy.
- (3) The ballot should include all candidates who are eligible to run and an option to re-open nominations.

Procedure of vote

- 2 (1) GB Energy is to appoint a person to act as the returning officer for the election.
- (2) Each person entitled to vote as an elector may vote in the election of members to GB Energy by specifying:
 - > (a) the voter's first preference from among the candidates, and
 - >
 - > (b) if there are three or more candidates and the voter wishes to express a further preference for one or more of those candidates, the voter's second and, if the voter wishes, subsequent preferences from among those candidates.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, GB Energy may regulate the procedure of the election.

Counting of votes

3 (1) The quota for the election is to be 50% of all valid votes + 1.

(2) Where, at any stage of the count, the number of votes for a candidate equals or exceeds the quota, the candidate is deemed to be elected.

(3) If no candidate has reached the quota after a stage of a count, the returning officer should follow the procedure described in paragraph 4.

(4) If the number of votes for re-opening nominations equals or exceeds the quota, then one of the positions on GB Energy is declared vacant.

(5) If only one candidate remains who has not been excluded following the procedure described in this paragraph, and the number of votes they have does not equal or exceed the quota, then every position on GB Energy which has not had a person elected to it is declared vacant.

(6) GB Energy is to hold an extraordinary election for any vacant positions on GB Energy in accordance with this Schedule.

Transfer of votes

4 (1) The returning officer shall exclude from the election at that stage the candidate with the then lowest number of votes.

> (a) If 2 or more candidates jointly have the lowest number of votes, then the candidate with the least number of next preference votes should be eliminated;

>

> (b) if there is a tie for the candidates with the least number of next preference votes, then the candidate with the least number of next preference votes should be eliminated;

>

> (c) if there is a tie for the candidates with the least number of next preference votes, then the procedure in sub-paragraph (1)(b) should be followed;

>

> (d) if there is still a tie, lots should be drawn to determine which candidate is eliminated.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), the returning officer shall sort the votes for the candidate excluded under paragraph (1) into groups so that they are grouped:

> (a) according to the next available preference given on those papers; and

>

> (b) where no such preference is given, as a group of non transferable papers.

(3) Votes for re-opening nominations may not be transferred.

(4) The returning officer shall, in accordance with this article, transfer each group of votes referred to in paragraph (2)(a) to the continuing candidate for whom the next available

preference is given on those papers and shall credit such continuing candidates with an additional number of votes calculated in accordance with sub-paragraph (5).

(5) Each vote transferred under sub-paragraph (4) shall have a transfer value of one unless the vote was transferred to an excluded candidate in which case it shall have a transfer value of zero.

This Bill was written by the Rt. Hon. Sir Frost_Walker2017, Duke of the Suffolk Coasts, and the Rt. Hon. Sir LightningMinion MP MSP MLA KT CBE OM PC, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, of the Labour Party on behalf of His Majesty's 33rd Government.

Opening Speech:

Deputy Speaker,

I'm proud to present to the House of Commons the first piece of legislation I have written for Westminster, with this bill implementing the government's promise to create a new publicly-owned operator of the energy industry named Great British Energy, or GB Energy for short. I shall now briefly give a summary of the provisions of this bill and explain why the establishment of GB Energy is important.

Currently, as per the National Energy Strategy Act 2017, the energy industry is run by publicly-owned regional energy bodies. GB Energy is going to acquire these bodies to become a national operator of the energy industry (ie the generation and supply of electricity, and the supply of natural gas or alternative heating fuels) owned and funded by His Majesty's Government. GB Energy will be split into 3 divisions: Great British Energy Generation (which shall be concerned with generating electricity and with producing heating fuels), Great British Energy Transmission (which shall be concerned with the transmission of electricity and heating fuels across the country, as well as their storage, their import, and their export), and Great British Energy Distribution (which shall be concerned with the distribution of electricity and heating fuels to houses and businesses). To clarify, transmission deals with transporting the energy across the country but not to buildings: the transport of it into buildings is the distribution.

Great British Energy Generation shall have 2 subdivisions: Green British Energy (which shall deal with the generation of electricity from renewables and the production of renewable heating fuels), and Great British Nuclear (which shall deal with the generation of electricity from nuclear). The generation of electricity from fossil fuels and the production of natural gas will be a responsibility for Great British Energy Generation rather than its 2 subdivisions.

The divisions and subdivisions of GB Energy will be led by a director appointed by the Energy Secretary. The board of GB Energy will be formed of these directors, a chair appointed by the Energy Secretary, 2 other members appointed by the Energy Secretary, and 3 members elected by the staff of the corporation via the Single Transferable Vote system.

GB Energy will be required to draft an Energy Decarbonisation Plan setting out how it plans to end the use of fossil fuels for the generation of electricity by 2035, and the supply of natural gas by a target the Energy Secretary can determine.

Over the past year, households across the UK have been threatened by rising energy bills. I think it's important that bills are kept affordable, which is why this bill contains provisions regulating the maximum price GB Energy can charge for energy. Specifically, GB Energy will have a statutory duty to consider the desirability of keeping its customers out of fuel poverty as well as the impact of the price of energy on low-income customers, and the rate of inflation. GB Energy also has no profit incentive due to being a government-owned corporation and having no shareholders to satisfy, and in fact this bill bans GB Energy from turning a profit, ensuring any profit the corporation makes is reinvested into lower bills or into the activities of the corporation. These provisions will all help ensure that GB Energy keeps bills low.

Last winter there were predictions that there may have to be blackouts due to the cold weather. While this government's planned investments in green energy will hopefully avoid blackouts having to be held, this bill includes provisions for the emergency case where GB Energy may not be able to meet demand for energy. In such a case, it may enable or construct new fossil fuel generators, or it may petition the government to order a blackout for no longer than 2 weeks, with the Commons being able to resolve against such an order. The blackout order can be renewed for further periods with the consent of the Commons if needed.

During the debate on the Energy Sustainability Office Bill, the government said that bill would be redundant due to the provisions of this bill. I can now elaborate that the provisions on the Energy Decarbonisation Plan in Part 2 Chapter 2 and the reporting requirements in section 11 make it redundant. Section 11, in particular, requires GB Energy to make a report on its progress to decarbonising its activities and to promoting sustainability and to meeting climate goals at least once each year. Section 11 also requires GB Energy to publish an assessment each year of whether it received sufficient funding from the government that year, with section 9 explicitly requiring the government to fund the corporation properly. This will ensure that GB Energy receives sufficient funding.

Deputy Speaker, the establishment of GB Energy will serve 2 main purposes: by consolidating energy generation into one corporation with a legal mandate to decarbonise, this government will ensure that the energy industry is decarbonised in line with the UK's climate targets. By having the energy industry in public rather than private hands, we ensure that GB Energy doesn't need to turn obscene profits or reward shareholders, ensuring that bills can be kept low at affordable levels to prevent fuel poverty.

I commend this bill to the House.