OBLIVION ACT 2026

[Draft version 11 Feb 2026]

Presented by Michael C R Reiners

A

BILL

TO

provide for the staged repeal of enactments made since 1 January 1900, subject to preservation by Parliament.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Oblivion Act 2026

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SCHEDULES

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1 **Oblivion programme**

(1) Every enactment made in the relevant period is repealed on the oblivion date for the decade in which it is treated as made, unless preserved.

(2) The relevant period is the period beginning with 1 January 1900 and ending with the day before this Act is passed.

(3) The oblivion date for a decade is the date given for that decade in Schedule 1.

(4) For the purposes of this Act, subordinate legislation is treated as made—

(a) in the same decade as the enactment conferring the power under which it was made, regardless of the date on which it was made; and

(b) where more than one enactment confers such power, in the decade of the earliest of those enactments.

(5) In this Act—

"enactment" means primary or subordinate legislation;

"primary legislation" includes an Act of Parliament, an Act of the Scottish Parliament, an Act or Measure of Senedd Cymru, and an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly;

"subordinate legislation" includes a statutory instrument, Order in Council, rules, regulations, order, scheme, warrant or other instrument made under an enactment; and

"preserved enactment" has the meaning given in section 2.

(6) Section 1 does not repeal a Restoration Act.

2 **Preserved enactments**

(1) An enactment is a preserved enactment if it is listed in Schedule 2 (preserved enactments) or is added to that Schedule by regulations under this section.

(2) A Minister of the Crown may by regulations made by statutory instrument add to Schedule 2 an enactment or provision of an enactment (with or without exceptions).

(3) Regulations under this section may be made only if the Minister considers the enactment or provision necessary for—

(a) constitutional government or the administration of justice;

(b) defence, national security or public safety;

(c) the protection of fundamental rights; or

(d) the continued operation of essential public services.

(4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

(5) Where an enactment is a preserved enactment, subordinate legislation made under it is also to be treated as a preserved enactment unless regulations under this section provide otherwise.

3 **Reports and parliamentary direction**

(1) Not later than 30 days before the oblivion date for any decade, the Minister must lay before Parliament a report identifying—

(a) the enactments of that decade due to be repealed on that date; and

(b) the enactments (if any) of that decade proposed for preservation.

(2) Either House of Parliament may, within 14 days beginning with the day on which the report is laid, resolve that an enactment or provision mentioned in the report is to be preserved.

(3) Where a resolution is made under subsection (2), the Minister must as soon as reasonably practicable make regulations under section 2 giving effect to it.

4 Savings and supplementary provision

(1) Sections 16 and 17 of the Interpretation Act 1978 (general savings) apply to a repeal under this Act as they apply to a repeal by an Act of Parliament.

(2) A Minister of the Crown may by regulations made by statutory instrument make such savings, transitional or supplementary provision as the Minister considers appropriate in consequence of this Act, but regulations under this subsection may not amend or repeal any provision of a Restoration Act (within the meaning given by section 5) other than this Act.

(3) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (2) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

5 Constitutional status and Restoration Acts

(1) This Act is a constitutional statute.

(2) This Act may not be repealed or amended by implication.

(3) An enactment may repeal or amend this Act only if it expressly—

(a) states that it repeals or amends this Act, and

(b) identifies the provision repealed or amended.

(4) In this Act "Restoration Act" means—

(a) the Bonfire of the Quangocracy Act 2026,

(b) the Free Speech (Restoration) Act 2026,

(c) the British Indigeneity and Citizenship Act 2026,

(d) the European Convention on Human Rights (Withdrawal and Workplace Rights) Act 2026, and

(e) this Act.

(5) A Restoration Act is to be construed, so far as possible, as compatible with the other Restoration Acts.

(6) If there is an unavoidable inconsistency between provisions of Restoration Acts, the more specific provision prevails.

(7) Regulations under this Act may not amend, repeal or revoke any provision of a Restoration Act other than this Act.

6 Extent, commencement and short title

(1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

(2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.

(3) This Act may be cited as the Oblivion Act 2026.

SCHEDULE 1

OBLIVION DATES

1. Enactments treated as made in the period 1900 to 1909 are repealed on the day that is one month after Royal Assent.

2. Enactments treated as made in the period 1910 to 1919 are repealed on the day that is two months after Royal Assent.

3. Enactments treated as made in the period 1920 to 1929 are repealed on the day that is three months after Royal Assent.

4. Enactments treated as made in the period 1930 to 1939 are repealed on the day that is four months after Royal Assent.

5. Enactments treated as made in the period 1940 to 1949 are repealed on the day that is five months after Royal Assent.

6. Enactments treated as made in the period 1950 to 1959 are repealed on the day that is six months after Royal Assent.

7. Enactments treated as made in the period 1960 to 1969 are repealed on the day that is seven months after Royal Assent.

8. Enactments treated as made in the period 1970 to 1979 are repealed on the day that is eight months after Royal Assent.

9. Enactments treated as made in the period 1980 to 1989 are repealed on the day that is nine months after Royal Assent.

10. Enactments treated as made in the period 1990 to 1999 are repealed on the day that is ten months after Royal Assent.

11. Enactments treated as made in the period 2000 to 2009 are repealed on the day that is eleven months after Royal Assent.

12. Enactments treated as made in the period 2010 to 2019 are repealed on the day that is twelve months after Royal Assent.

13. Enactments treated as made in the period beginning with 1 January 2020 and ending with the day before Royal Assent are repealed on the day that is thirteen months after Royal Assent.

SCHEDULE 2

PRESERVED ENACTMENTS

PART 1

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1900 TO 1909

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 2

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1910 TO 1919

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 3

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1920 TO 1929

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 4

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1930 TO 1939

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 5

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1940 TO 1949

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 6

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1950 TO 1959

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 7

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1960 TO 1969

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 8

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1970 TO 1979

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 9

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1980 TO 1989

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 10

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 1990 TO 1999

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 11

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 2000 TO 2009

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 12

ENACTMENTS TREATED AS MADE IN THE PERIOD 2010 TO 2019

[TO BE INSERTED]

PART 13

Enactments treated as made in the period beginning with 1 January 2020 and ending with the day before Royal Assent

[TO BE INSERTED]