

# Oblivion Act

## CHAPTER XX [DRAFT]

A BILL to make provision for the incremental mass repeal and annulment of primary and secondary legislation made between 1900 and the current day which is redundant, unnecessary, or foul.

[XX XXXX 2025]

Presented By

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BE IT THEREFORE 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	1
<b>PART 1 - PRELIMINARY</b>	<b>3</b>
1. Short title and commencement	3
2. Interpretation	3
<b>PART 2 - MASS REPEAL PROVISIONS</b>	<b>4</b>
3. Staged repeal of legislation by decade	4
4. Effect of repeal	5
5. Power to modify Schedules	6
<b>PART 3 - TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
6. Transitional arrangements	7
7. Review and report	7
<b>PART 4 - FINAL PROVISIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
8. Extent	8
9. Short title	8
<b>SCHEDULE 1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 3</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 4</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 5</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 6</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 8</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 12</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 13</b>	<b>11</b>

## **PART 1 - PRELIMINARY**

### **1. Short title and commencement**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Oblivion Act 2025.
- (2) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent.
- (3) The remaining provisions of this Act come into force in accordance with section 3.

### **2. Interpretation**

- (1) In this Act—
  - (a) "the relevant period" means the period beginning with 1st January 1900 and ending with the day before this Act receives Royal Assent;
  - (b) "primary legislation" includes any Act of Parliament, Act of the Scottish Parliament, Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales, and Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly;
  - (c) "secondary legislation" includes any statutory instrument, Order in Council, regulation, rule, order, scheme, warrant, or other instrument made under any enactment;
  - (d) "specified legislation" means legislation listed in the Schedules to this Act.

## PART 2 - MASS REPEAL PROVISIONS

### 3. Staged repeal of legislation by decade

(1) Subject to subsection (4), all primary and secondary legislation made during the relevant period is repealed in accordance with the following timetable:

- (a) legislation made between 1900-1909 (inclusive): repealed 1 month after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 1);
- (b) legislation made between 1910-1919 (inclusive): repealed 2 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 2);
- (c) legislation made between 1920-1929 (inclusive): repealed 3 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 3);
- (d) legislation made between 1930-1939 (inclusive): repealed 4 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 4);
- (e) legislation made between 1940-1949 (inclusive): repealed 5 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 5);
- (f) legislation made between 1950-1959 (inclusive): repealed 6 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 6);
- (g) legislation made between 1960-1969 (inclusive): repealed 7 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 7);
- (h) legislation made between 1970-1979 (inclusive): repealed 8 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 8);
- (i) legislation made between 1980-1989 (inclusive): repealed 9 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 9);
- (j) legislation made between 1990-1999 (inclusive): repealed 10 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 10);

(k) legislation made between 2000-2009 (inclusive): repealed 11 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 11);

(l) legislation made between 2010-2019 (inclusive): repealed 12 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 12);

(m) legislation made between 2020 and the day before Royal Assent: repealed 13 months after Royal Assent (preserved legislation listed in Schedule 13).

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), secondary legislation is treated as having been made in the same decade as its enabling primary legislation, regardless of when the secondary legislation was actually made.

(3) Where secondary legislation is made under powers conferred by primary legislation from different decades, such secondary legislation is treated as having been made in the decade of the earliest enabling primary legislation.

(4) Subsection (1) does not apply to any legislation specifically listed in Schedules 1 to 13 to this Act.

#### **4. Effect of repeal**

(1) Where any legislation is repealed by section 3, it shall be deemed never to have had effect from the date of such repeal.

(2) Subsection (1) does not affect—

(a) any right, privilege, obligation, or liability acquired, accrued, or incurred before the repeal takes effect;

(b) any penalty, forfeiture, or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed before the repeal takes effect;

(c) any investigation, legal proceeding, or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture, or punishment.

## **5. Power to modify Schedules**

(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument—

- (a) add legislation to any of Schedules 1 to 13;
- (b) remove legislation from any of Schedules 1 to 13;
- (c) move legislation from one Schedule to another of Schedules 1 to 13.

(2) Regulations under this section may only be made if the Secretary of State considers that the legislation in question is necessary for—

- (a) the maintenance of constitutional government;
- (b) public safety or national security;
- (c) the protection of fundamental rights;
- (d) the continuation of essential public services;
- (e) compliance with international obligations.

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

## **PART 3 - TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

### **6. Transitional arrangements**

(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make such transitional, transitory, or saving provisions as appear necessary or expedient in consequence of any provision of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), regulations under this section may—

- (a) provide for the continued operation of any repealed legislation for specified purposes or periods;
- (b) make provision for the transfer of functions, rights, or obligations;
- (c) establish temporary administrative arrangements.

### **7. Review and report**

(1) The Secretary of State must, before each repeal date specified in section 3(1), lay before Parliament a report reviewing—

- (a) the legislation due to be repealed;
- (b) any proposals to preserve specific enactments;
- (c) the likely consequences of the repeal.

(2) Each House of Parliament may, within 14 days of a report being laid under subsection (1), resolve that specified legislation should be added to the relevant Schedule.

## **PART 4 - FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **8. Extent**

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

### **9. Short title**

This Act may be cited as the Oblivion Act.



## **SCHEDULE 1**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1900-1909 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[To be populated with specific Acts and instruments deemed essential for retention]*

## **SCHEDULE 2**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1910-1919 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[To be populated with specific Acts and instruments deemed essential for retention]*

## **SCHEDULE 3**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1920-1929 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[To be populated with specific Acts and instruments deemed essential for retention]*

## **SCHEDULE 4**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1930-1939 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[To be populated with specific Acts and instruments deemed essential for retention]*

## **SCHEDULE 5**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1940-1949 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[To be populated with specific Acts and instruments deemed essential for retention]*

## **SCHEDULE 6**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1950-1959 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[To be populated with specific Acts and instruments deemed essential for retention]*

## **SCHEDULE 7**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1960-1969 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[To be populated with specific Acts and instruments deemed essential for retention]*

## **SCHEDULE 8**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1970-1979 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[Examples: Equal Pay Act 1970, European Communities Act 1972, Sex Discrimination Act 1975, etc.]*

## **SCHEDULE 9**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1980-1989 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[Examples: British Nationality Act 1981, Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, etc.]*

## **SCHEDULE 10**

### **LEGISLATION OF 1990-1999 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[Examples: Human Rights Act 1998, Scotland Act 1998, Government of Wales Act 1998, etc.]*

## **SCHEDULE 11**

### **LEGISLATION OF 2000-2009 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[Examples: Freedom of Information Act 2000, Constitutional Reform Act 2005, etc.]*

## **SCHEDULE 12**

### **LEGISLATION OF 2010-2019 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[Examples: Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011, European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, etc.]*

## **SCHEDULE 13**

### **LEGISLATION OF 2020-2025 PRESERVED FROM REPEAL**

*[Examples: Coronavirus Act 2020, Elections Act 2022, etc.]*