

Queen unveils coalition programme

Britain's new coalition Conservative-Liberal Democrat government has set out its plans for legislation over the next 18 months in the Queen's Speech



■ **Budget deficit:** Reducing UK's towering **£163 billion** deficit and restoring economic growth is government's top priority. Emergency budget on June 22 will set out plan to cut bulk of debt within five years

■ **Office of Budget Responsibility:** Create independent body headed by former Bank of England policymaker **Sir Alan Budd**, to publish fiscal forecasts and recommendations

■ **Income tax:** Increase in personal allowance to be paid for by raising **£9 billion** from 2011 increase in National Insurance Contributions

■ **Pensions:** Review plans to raise state pension age to 66 between 2024 and 2026 and 68 by 2046. **State pension to be linked to earnings**

■ **ID cards:** Scrap previous Labour government's plans for identity cards and restrict scope of existing DNA database

■ **Immigration:** Impose annual limit on non-European Union economic migrants

■ **Postal service:** Part-privatise state-owned Royal Mail which faces **£10 billion** pension fund deficit

■ **European Union:** Give voters power through referendum to block any future proposed transfer of power

■ **Parliamentary reform:** Introduce fixed-term, five-year parliaments. **Pave way for referendum on alternative-vote electoral system to replace first-past-the-post system**