



How laws are made

Easy read

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TO

Make provision for a railway transport system run
the County of Berkshire, and Heathrow Airport, in
Hillingdon, through central London to Shenfield, in
Abbey Wood, in the London Borough of Greenw
purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by
consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Com
Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as fol

struction and mainte

Works

About this booklet



This booklet tells you how **laws** are made.



Laws are the rules that everyone in the country must follow.

The main things to know about how laws are made



Laws are made by a group of people called **Parliament**.



Parliament is split into

- The House of Commons
- The House of Lords
- The Queen.



All parts of Parliament must agree to a law before it can start to happen.

How new laws start



Someone has an idea for a new law.

This is someone from the Government or Parliament.



An idea for a new law is called a **Bill**.



An idea for a new law can start in the House of Commons or the House of Lords.



But both parts have to look at the idea for the new law and agree to it.



One part of Parliament looks at the idea for the new law first.

For example, the House of Commons or the House of Lords.



They work to agree what the new law should say.



Then they pass it to the other part of Parliament to look at in the same way.



Both the House of Commons and the House of Lords must now agree to what the new law says.



If they do agree, they must ask the Queen if the new law can happen.

More about how laws are made



This part tells you more about how laws are made.



There are some things that need to happen in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords before a new law is made.

1. The first reading



This is where the person with the idea for the new law tells their part of Parliament about it.

This could be the House of Commons or the House of Lords.

2. The second reading



This is where the House of Commons or the House of Lords talk about the idea for the new law.

They decide if it is a good idea and if it should go any further.



3. The committee stage

This is where a group of people in the House of Commons or the House of Lords look more closely at how the new law will work.

They may make changes to the new law to make it better.



4. The report stage

This is where the House of Commons or the House of Lords look at the changes the group of people made.

They decide if the changes are OK. They make more changes if they need to.



5. The third reading

This is where the House of Commons or the House of Lords decide if they are now happy with what the new law says.

6. The other part of Parliament now looks at the idea for the new law



They have to do all the same things that the first part of Parliament did to look at the idea for the new law.



They can ask for changes to be made to the new law.



But both the House of Commons and the House of Lords have to agree to any changes.



If they cannot agree, the new law will not happen at that time.



If they do agree, they must ask the Queen if the new law is OK.

7. The Queen has to say it is OK



This is called **Royal Assent**.



The Queen must say it is OK for the new law to start.



When she says yes, the new law can happen.



To find out more, you can phone our information line on **020 7219 4272**.