



GOOD LAW

What is it and why does it matter?

Office of the Parliamentary Counsel



Some history

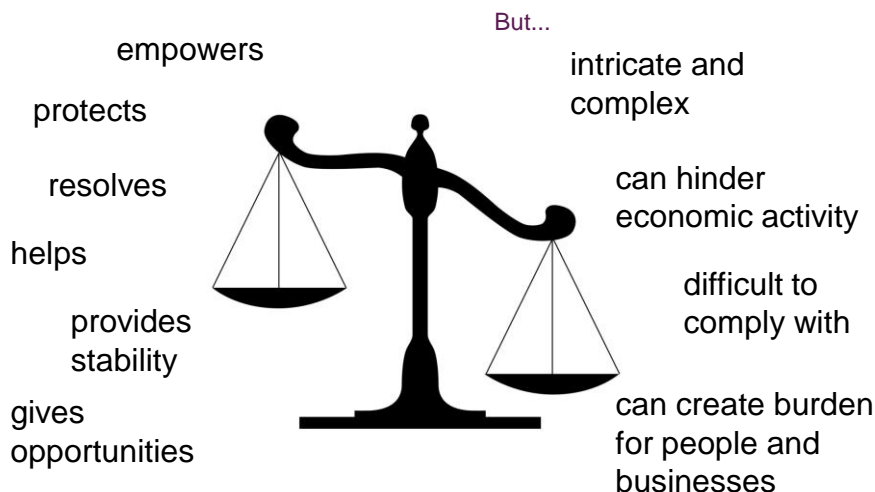
“I wish that the superfluous and tedious statutes were brought into one sum together, and made more plain and short.”

Edward VI (1537-1553)

“The law is regarded by its users as intricate and intimidating..we should regard the current degree of difficulty as neither inevitable nor acceptable.”

Richard Heaton CB, First Parliamentary Counsel, April 2013

Legislation is important



3

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Why is good law important?

The audience of legislation has steadily increased for the past 20 years. In the past, users of legislation tended to be legally qualified; today's users are a far wider group of people.

Legislation is no longer confined to professional libraries; websites like legislation.gov.uk have made it accessible to everyone.

legislation.gov.uk has over 2 million unique visitors per month and 450,000,000 page views to in 2012

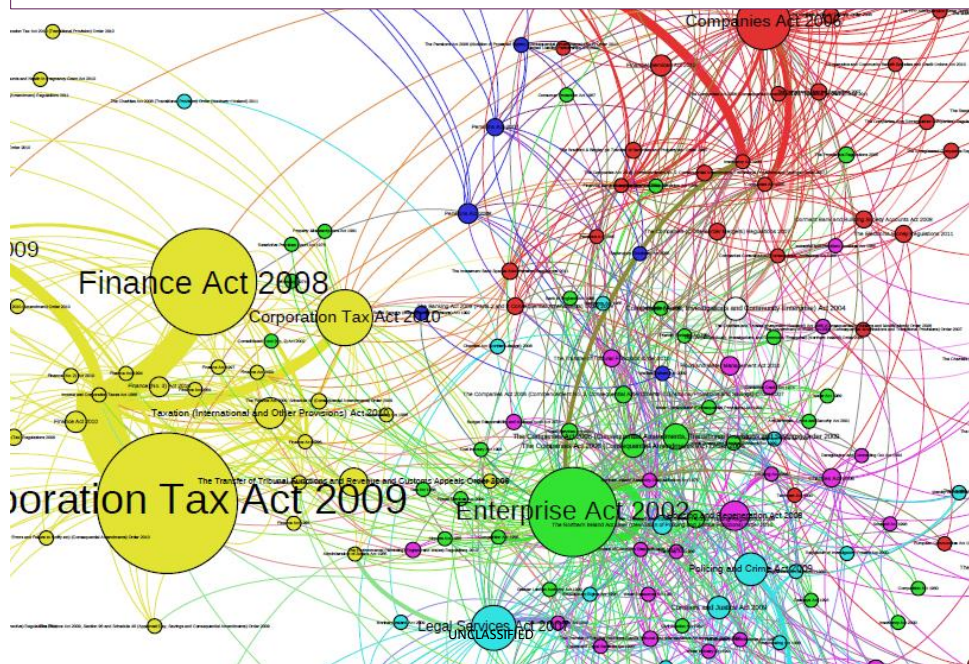
"Schedule 2?
I'm not sure what that is. It shouldn't be this hard to work out. This a real wind up! They do this all the time."
(HR specialist, TNA research)



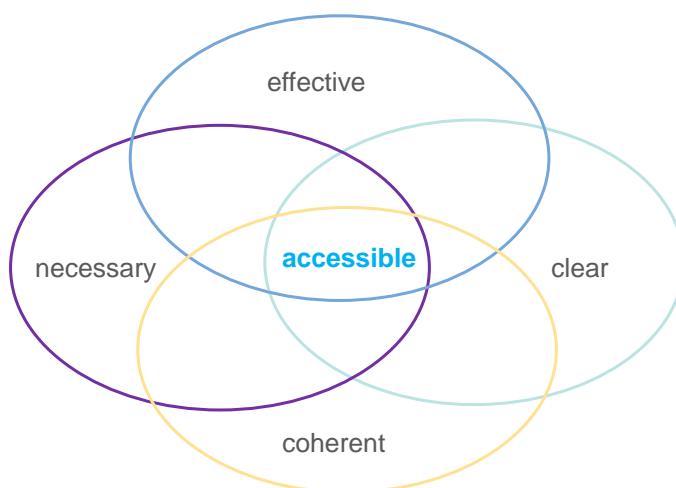
Artists: Noah Spahn

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This is what the statute book looks like.



Our vision for good law





Good law sits naturally alongside:

- Transparency and openness agenda
- The government's digital strategy
- The Law Commission.
- The Red Tape Challenge
- Plain English drafting
- Public sector efficiency and simplification agenda

7



A good law partnership

Our aims:

- To build a shared understanding of the importance of good law;
- To ensure that legislation is as accessible as possible, and consider what more can be done to improve readability;
- To eliminate or mitigate the causes and perception of unnecessary complexity.

8



Cabinet Office

How can you get involved?

We are taking practical steps to promote good law, and are encouraging others to do the same.

What can be changed in our approach to lawmaking?
How can we create confidence among users that legislation is for them?

Share your ideas with us.

Visit: www.gov.uk/good-law

Email: GoodLaw@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

On Twitter: [#goodlaw](https://twitter.com/goodlaw)

9

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