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Number of laws introduced over the last year jumps 21%

- Almost 10 new laws introduced per working day
- 98% as statutory instruments –reduces need for full Parliamentary debate

The number of new laws introduced by the Government in the last year (to December 31 2009) has jumped by 21% to 2,466 up from 2,032 in the previous 12 months reveals research by Sweet & Maxwell, the leading legal information providers.*

According to the data from Westlaw UK, Sweet & Maxwell's online information service, this is the largest number of new laws introduced since 2001 (see full data below).

That works out at nearly ten new laws (9.7) being passed every working day in 2009.

Sweet & Maxwell, a Thomson Reuters business, points out that this is an even more impressive achievement considering that parliament only sat for 153 days in 2009.

Sweet & Maxwell explain that one of the ways in which so much legislation can be passed without being subject to full Parliamentary debate and scrutiny is to pass the legislation as a "statutory instrument". In 2009 98% of new laws were introduced as statutory instruments.

Alina Lourie, Director, Enterprise-Wide Solutions at Sweet & Maxwell says: "Historically, there does tend to be a spike in new legislation following an economic crisis. There is pressure to introduce new laws both to deal with the fall out from the recession and to try and tackle the causes of the crisis."

Sweet & Maxwell says that in the run up to an election, there might also be some legislative changes brought forward from the normal timetable as part of a general "deck clearing" exercise.

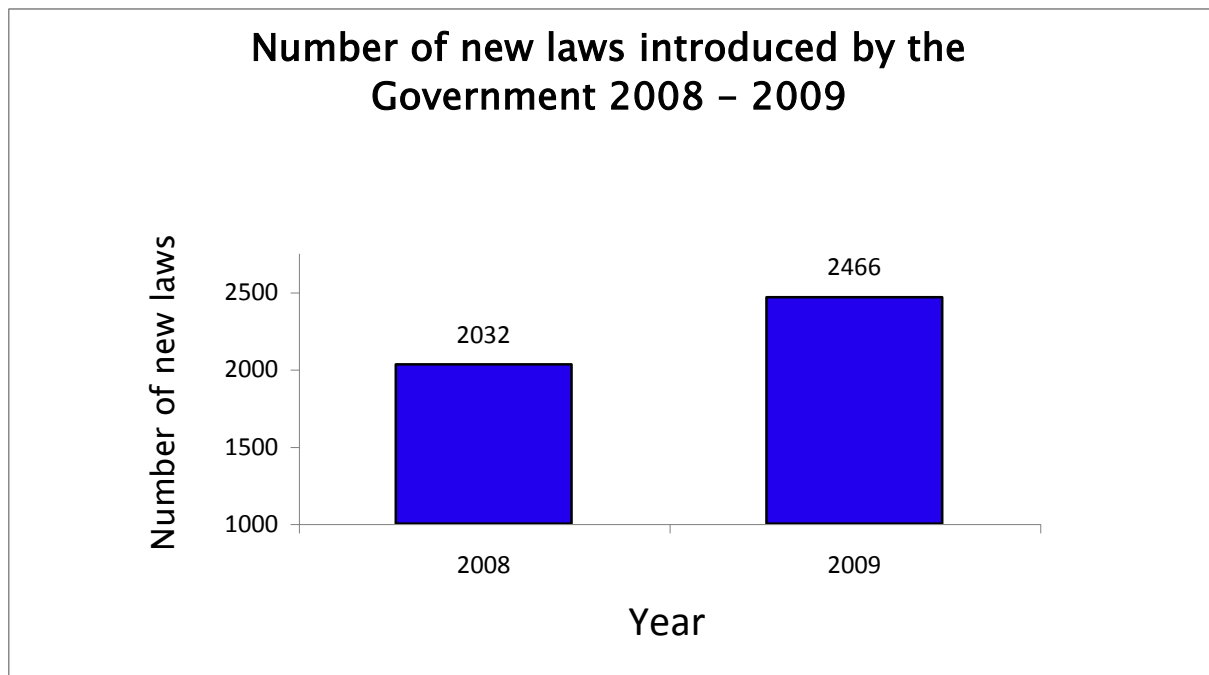
Examples of specific credit-crunch related laws in 2009 include:

- **The Value added Tax regulations 2009**
Relates to the emergency reduction and subsequent increase in VAT
- **Northern Rock Transfer Order**
Relates to the restructuring of Northern Rock after it was taken into public ownership
- **Northern Rock Tax Consequences Regulation 2009**
Aimed to neutralise unintended tax consequences of the restructuring
- **Anti-tax evasion related legislation**

Introduced various tax treaties with countries such as Qatar, Luxemburg etc

- **Landsbanki Freezing (Revocation) Order 2009**
Relates to treatment of depositors in this Icelandic bank
- **Bradford & Bingley Compensation Scheme Order 2009**
Relates to compensation payments after the building society was taken into public ownership

*Statutes and statutory instruments



Year	Number of new laws introduced
2009	2466
2008	2032
2007	2346
2006	2286
2005	2396
2004	2276
2003	2322
2002	2286
2001	2748

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Sweet & Maxwell (www.sweetandmaxwell.co.uk) is a leading provider of information and solutions to the legal and professional markets in the UK and Ireland. With over 200

years of history and heritage in legal publishing, Sweet & Maxwell offers detailed and specialist knowledge, understanding, interpretation and commentary across a wide range of subjects in a variety of formats to meet customers' needs - books, journals, periodicals, looseleaves, CD-ROMs and the market leading online services, Lawtel and Westlaw UK. Sweet & Maxwell is part of Thomson Reuters.

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