

FINAL

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First year as Prime Minister sees Gordon Brown introduce 6% more new legislation than Tony Blair

- ∞ Almost eight new laws a day!
- ∞ Introducing more legislation than Thatcher, Major or Blair

Gordon Brown's first year as Prime Minister has seen 6% more new legislation introduced than the average amount of new laws introduced under Tony Blair, reveals research by Sweet & Maxwell, the leading legal information providers.

According to figures from Westlaw UK and Lawtel, Sweet & Maxwell's online legal information services, 2,823 new laws have been introduced during Gordon Brown's first year as Prime Minister. An average of 2,663 new laws a year were passed under Tony Blair.

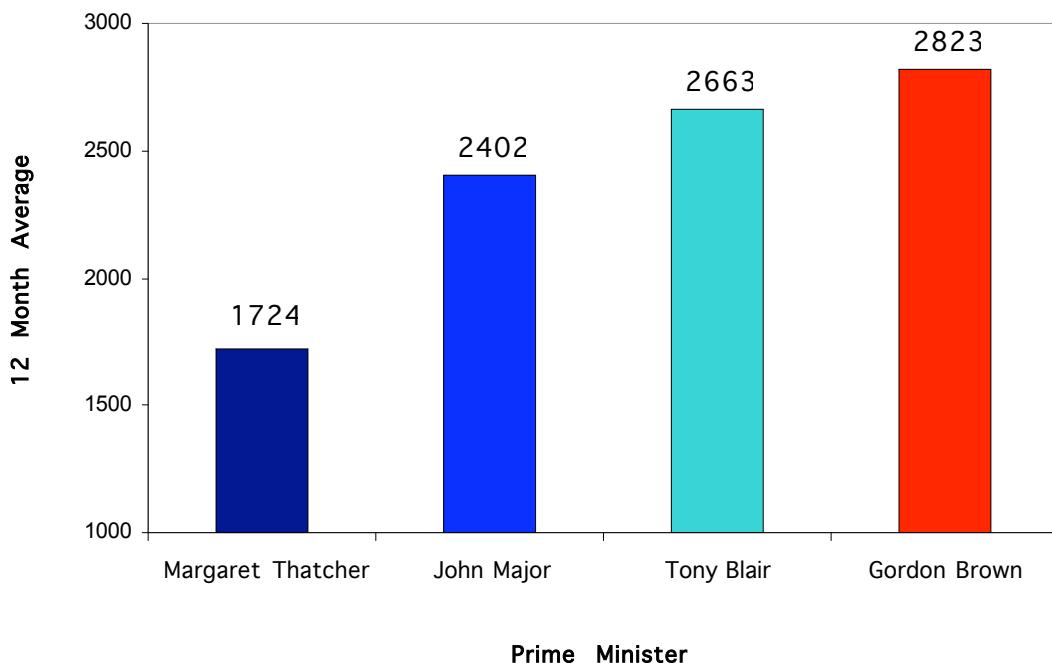
The research reveals that Gordon Brown's Government has introduced 64% more new legislation than the average amount introduced under Margaret Thatcher during each year of her premiership (an average of 1,724 new laws each year).

This is despite repeated pledges from Gordon Brown's Government to cut down on the amount of red tape businesses and public sector organisations need to absorb.

Critics say that Gordon Brown first established his reputation for frequent legislative changes during his time as Chancellor of the Exchequer. His ten years as Chancellor saw a considerable increase in the volume and complexity of tax legislation introduced under the Finance Act.

Although Gordon Brown has been accused of lacking a political vision the statistics suggest there has been no shortage of legislative action.

**Average number of new laws introduced during
the last four Prime Ministers' terms in office
per annum**



Laws that have come into force during Gordon Brown's first year as Prime Minister:

- ∞ The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act has created new criminal offences including incitement of hatred on grounds of sexual orientation and of causing a nuisance or disturbance on NHS premises.
- ∞ Changes to the Sex Discrimination Act have been introduced. The new rules place a duty on employers to protect staff from sexual harassment from third parties, such as customers or clients.
- ∞ The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act has set out a new offence for convicting an organisation where a gross failure in the management of health and safety results in a person's death.

As well as those laws that have already come into force during Gordon Brown's first year in power there is also a surprisingly packed legislative programme ahead.

Bills being championed by Gordon Brown's government over the past year include:

- ∞ The 42-day Terror Detention Bill will extend the maximum amount of time

available for police to hold and question terror suspects before charging them from 28 days to 42 days.

- ∞ The Human Fertilisation and Embryo Bill - overhauls the regulations that apply to embryo research, recognise same-sex couples as legal parents and removes the need for fertility clinics to consider the need for a father when deciding on treatments.
- ∞ The Finance Bill will enable HMRC to levy a £30,000 charge on non-domiciled individuals who wish to maintain their “non-dom” tax status
- ∞ The Banking Reform Bill, drafted in response to the collapse of Northern Rock, will allow the Bank of England to lend money to financial institutions struggling to secure funding without disclosing it to the public, investors and depositors.
- ∞ The Education and Skills Bill plans to require young people to remain in education or training until they are 18 years old.
- ∞ The Health and Social Care Bill will provide a one-off payment to pregnant women to help cover the cost of following a healthy diet.
- ∞ The Crossrail Bill will enable the construction of a £16 billion rail transport system that will link Heathrow with Canary Wharf.
- ∞ The Unclaimed Assets Bill will enable the banking industry to transfer money from dormant bank accounts so that it is spent on community programmes

Planned legislation:

- ∞ The Government has agreed with EU employment ministers to give temporary and agency workers equal rights to permanent members of staff.
- ∞ New rules to enable the parents of children up to the age of 16 to request flexible working patterns.
- ∞ The Housing Green Paper has short-listed the locations proposed for Eco-towns
- ∞ Drug laws will be strengthened to reclassify cannabis from Grade C to Grade B
- ∞ The Nuclear White Paper & Energy Bill invites energy companies to put forward plans to build new nuclear power stations.

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Notes to Editors:

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