



Government Survey Report



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Environmental Statement;

by producing this report in a digital only format, with additional detail online, we are aiming to minimise, our environmental impact.

About the AGI

The Association for Geographic Information (AGI) is the UK's geospatial membership organisation; leading, connecting and developing a community of members who use and benefit from geographic information.

An independent and impartial organisation representing the UK geospatial sector, the AGI works with members and the wider community, to deliver the highest quality of education and provide a lead for best practice across the industry.

Our mission is to nurture, create and support a thriving UK Geospatial Community, actively supporting a sustainable future and we aim to achieve this through the three pillars that govern our activities and intentions;

- nurture and connect active GI communities
- support career and skills development for GI Professionals
- provide thought leadership to inspire future generations

Established in 1989, members of the AGI enjoy unrivalled networking opportunities, a framework to learn new skills and the support to progress professional development. There are many ways to get involved and different levels of engagement;

- **Individual Network Member;** free membership for anyone
- **Individual Professional Member;** paid membership for individuals providing additional career, networking and business development benefits
- **Organisational Associate Member;** membership for organisations that includes professional membership for all employees and promotional benefits
- **Organisational Partner Member;** premium membership for organisations that includes thought leadership, professional membership, promotions, sponsorship and additional benefits



Executive Summary

Geospatial tech can be used to research and understand current baselines, patterns etc. Following this it can be used to plan and design effective plans and solutions, and from there, can be used to monitor and report on progress.

So overall, whether through data collection, analysis, public engagement, storytelling and more, geospatial tech plays a roll across the board

July 2024 marked the start of new session of government with the state opening of parliament on the 17th July. However, this was shortly followed by the summer recess which ran from the 30th July to the 2nd September. As politicians return from this break, we will begin to see Bills that were laid out during the Kings Speech, taking form and having impact.

At our core is a mission to nurture, create and support a thriving UK Geospatial Community, actively supporting a sustainable future. We therefore wanted to find out, from our membership, feedback and thoughts on the new legislative programme.

Following a process of consultation with our membership we can conclude that our community strongly believes in the power of geospatial in delivering the new legislative programme with 91% believing it to be important.

The membership also feels that geospatial can impact, influence or support, almost half (44.5%) of all Bills listed with the greatest potential within the Digital Information and Smart Data, and Great British Energy Bills.

When asked about challenges that could limit the impact of geospatial Funding was voted as the greatest threat whilst Legislation was deemed the least limiting.

The AGI membership also expressed their thoughts on the role of geospatial in supporting these Bills with analysis, analytics and assessment being common threads whilst feedback on opportunities not addressed by the programme resulted in a less divisive split with just 13% difference between opportunities missed and no opportunities missed.

We plan to use all feedback to inform the three pillars that govern our activities and intentions namely; to nurture and connect active GI communities, to support career and skills development for GI Professionals, and to provide thought leadership to inspire future generations.

It will also provide content and context for forthcoming events, publications and future research and outreach activities ensuring the relevance and influence of geospatial remains a priority for government, commerce and society.



**Fergus Craig and Peter ter Haar,
Co-Chairs of the Association of Geographic Information (AGI)**

Introduction & Process

On July 17th 2024 King Charles III marked the start, not only of a new parliamentary season, but also of a new government – only the fourth change in the overall governing party since the 1970's.

During the King's Speech a total of 40 bills were mentioned under the following topics;

- Economic Stability and Growth
- Great British Energy and Clean Energy Superpower
- Secure Borders, Cracking Down on Anti-Social Behaviour and Take Back our Streets
- Break Down the Barriers to Opportunity
- Health
- National Security and Serving the Country

Some of these bills were carried over from the previous government, whilst many were policy commitments made in Labour's manifesto.

As the UK membership body for organisations and individuals working in or with geospatial, we, the Association for Geographic Information (AGI), consulted our membership to understand how geospatial could, help to achieve the aims of these bills.

Bills, such as the Digital Information and Smart Data Bill which would, amidst other things, ensure that the power of data is harnessed for economic growth, to support modern digital government, and to improve people's lives, has an obvious direct alignment with geospatial technology, as does the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which states the current regime 'acts as a major break on economic growth'. However, the relationship between geospatial and other bills, for example Skills England Bill and the Cyber Security and Resilience Bill, is broader.

We invited all AGI members to have their say via a short survey which we conducted over a 2-week period in August. We asked that members were extensive as they could be in their responses, drawing on their experiences and skills, and their hopes for the future.

The full list of Bills can be found in Appendix I

An introduction to complete the survey, together with additional signposted reference information ([The Kings Speech Briefing Notes](#) (publishing.service.gov.uk), was emailed to all AGI members on the 25th July 2024 with a reminder email issued on the 8th August.

The survey closed to recipients at 1200 on Friday 16th August.

Members of the AGI completed the survey providing comprehensive answers to the questions posed.

The full list of questions can be found in Appendix II

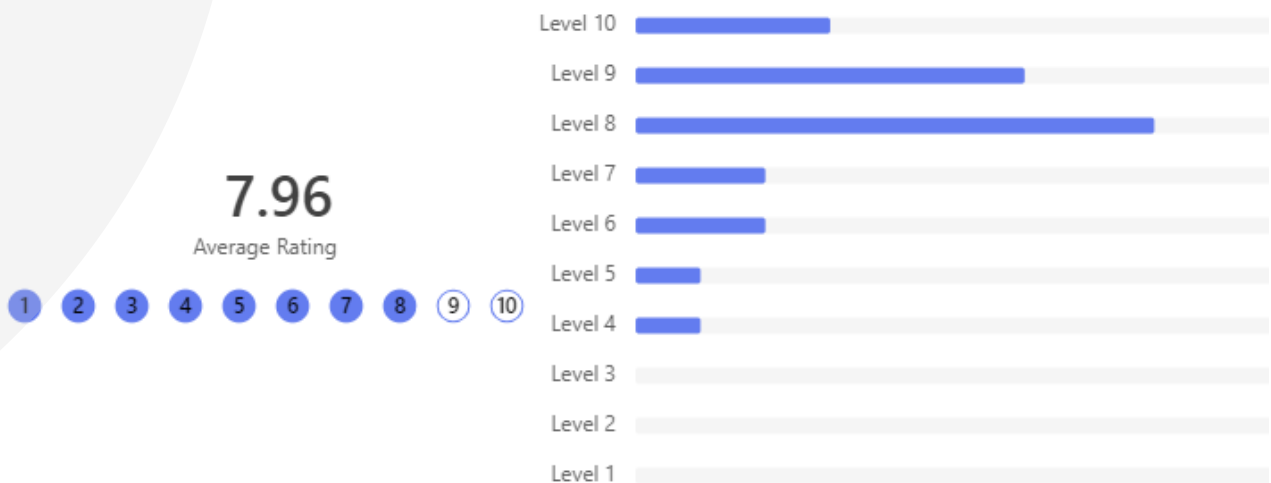
Results

Question 1 - How important do you think geospatial will be in delivering on the new legislative programme? (scale of 1 – 10)

All respondents answered this question with 1 as unimportant and 10 as extremely important.

The average answer was 7.96 with a median of 8, a mode of 8 and a range of 6.

Looking at how answers compared between the upper (10-6 inclusive) and the lower (5-1 inclusive) halves, 91% of respondents felt that geospatial was important in delivering the new legislative programme with only 9% believing it to be unimportant.



Results

Questions 2-7 - What Bills do you feel that geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the;

- Economic Stability and Growth group?
- Great British Energy and Clean Energy Superpower group?
- Secure Borders, Cracking Down on Anti-Social Behaviour, and Take Back our Streets group?
- Break Down the Barriers to Opportunity group?
- Health Group?
- National Security and Serving the Country group?

(pull down tick list of all bills with multi selection allowed)

Once again, all respondents answered question 2-7 with answers ranging from respondents who felt that geospatial had a role in supporting all 40 Bills to the potential for supporting just 5 bills.

The average number of Bills selected by respondents was 17.8, 44.5% of the total list.

Looking at the number of Bills selected by respondents less than 9% fell into the top quartile (40-31), 22% into the second quartile (30-21), whilst 56% selected the third quartile and 13% the lower.

This equates to 69% of respondents believing that geospatial can support less than half of the new Bills.

Looking at the individual Bills and how the role of geospatial was valued there was not complete census on any individual Bill.

The Digital Information and Smart Data and Great British Energy Bills both received votes from 96% of respondents with the Planning and Infrastructure, Border Security, Asylum and Immigration and Crime, and Policing, Terrorism all receiving 87%.

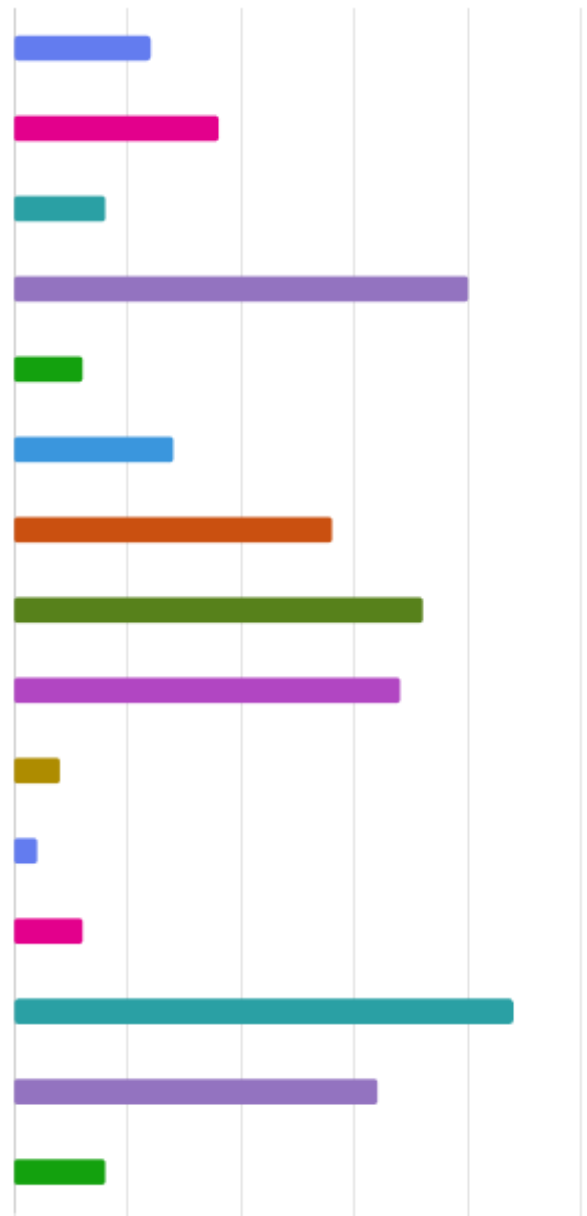
At the other end of the scale the Arbitration Bill received just 4.3% whilst the Lords Spiritual Bill received just 8.7% of recipient's votes.

Overall respondents felt that less than 50% of the Bills could be supported through the use of specialist geospatial technology, data and skills with 62.5% of Bills receiving less than half of respondents' votes.

Results

Questions 2 - What bills do you feel geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Economic Stability and Growth group?

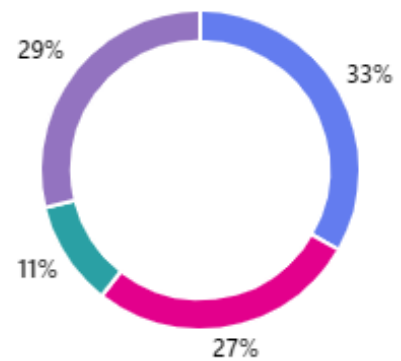
● Budget Responsibility Bill	6
● National Wealth Fund Bill	9
● Pension Schemes Bill	4
● Planning and Infrastructure Bill	20
● Employment Rights Bill	3
● English Devolution Bill	7
● Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill	14
● Better Buses Bill	18
● Railways Bill	17
● Bank Resolution (Recapitalisation) Bill	2
● Arbitration Bill	1
● Product Safety and Metrology Bill	3
● Digital Information and Smart Data Bill	22
● High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill	16
● Draft Audit Reform and Corporate Governance Bill	4



Results

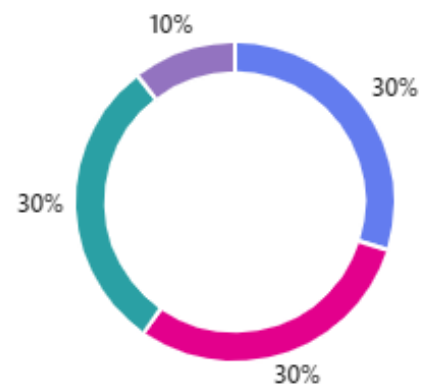
Question 3 - What bills do you feel geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Great British Energy and Clean Energy Superpower group?

Great British Energy Bill	22
The Crown Estate Bill	18
Sustainable Aviation Fuel (Revenue Support Mechanism) Bill	7
Water (Special Measures) Bill	19



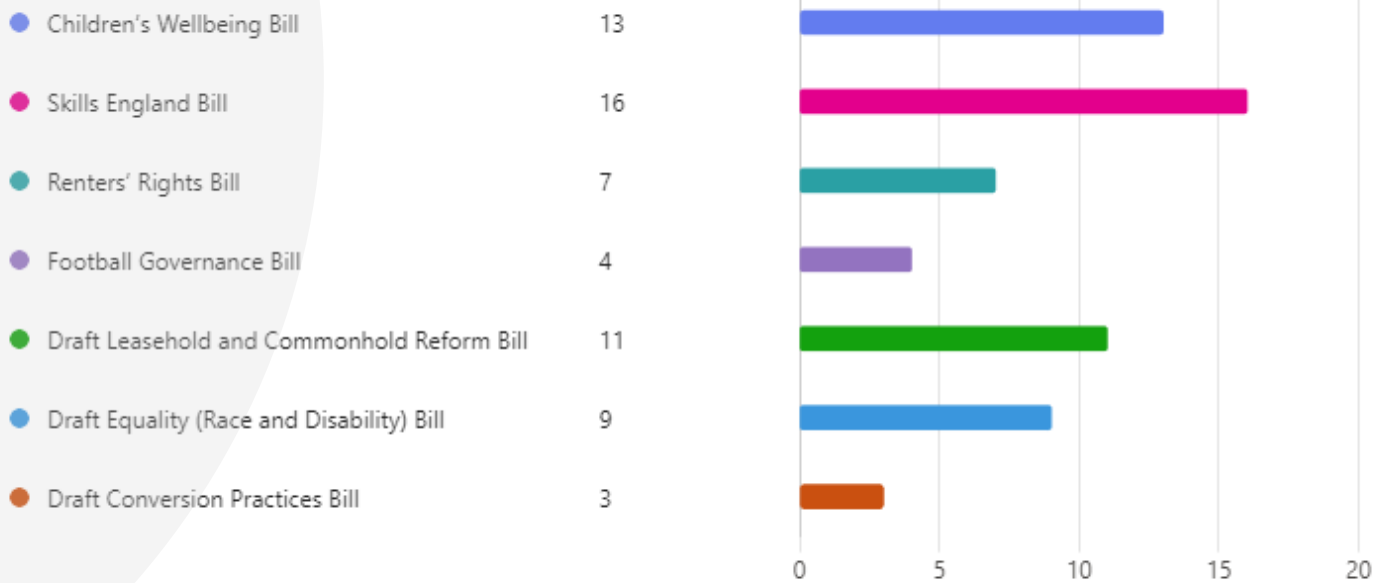
Question 4 - What bills do you feel geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Secure Borders, Cracking Down on Anti Social Behaviour and Take Back our Streets group?

Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill	20
Crime and Policing Bill	20
Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill	20
Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill	7

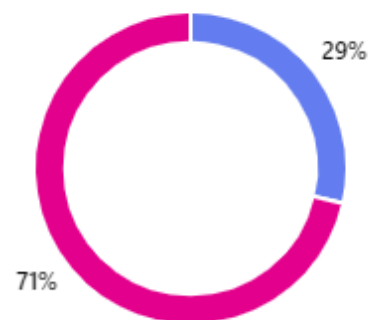
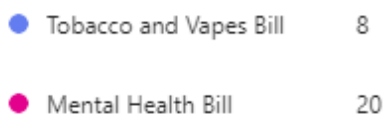


Results

Question 5 - What bills do you feel geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Break Down the Barriers to Opportunity group?

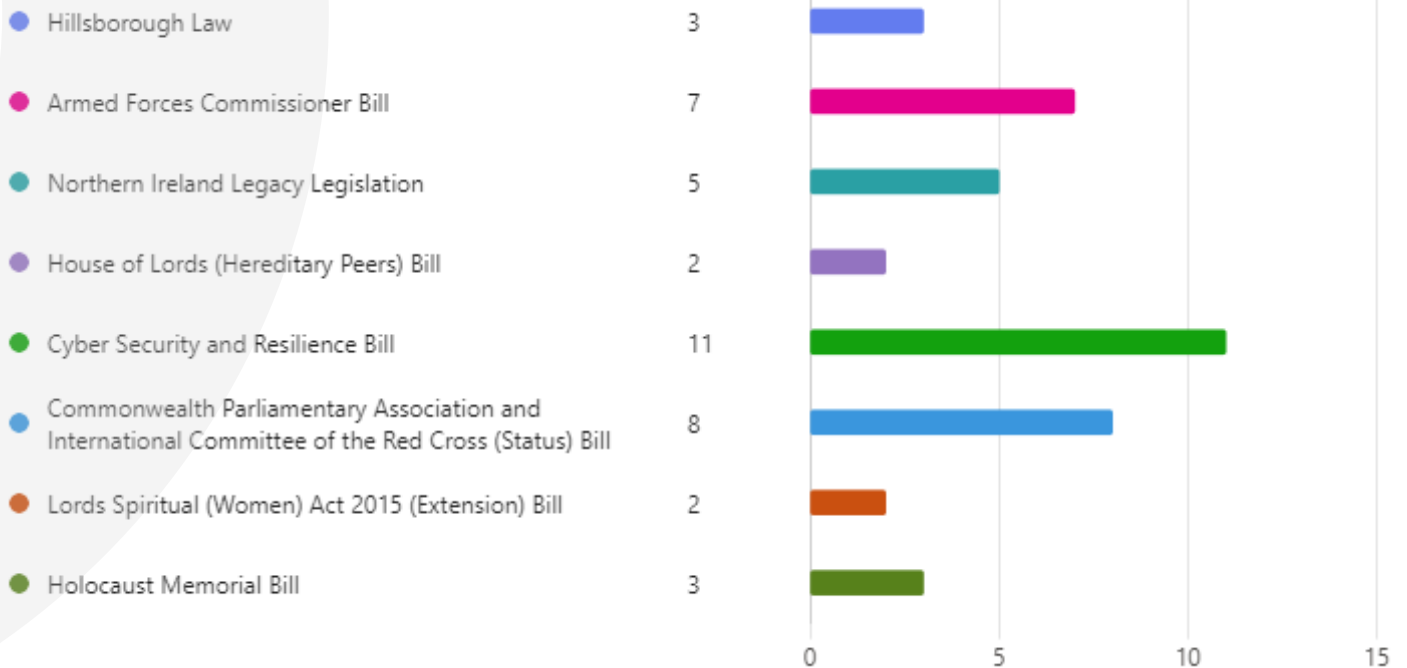


Question 6 - What bills do you feel geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Health group?



Results

Question 7 - What bills do you feel geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the National Security and Serving the Country group?



Results

Question 8 - What role does geospatial have in supporting these Bills?

This was a free text answer option with respondents able to express their thoughts openly and with anonymity.

Answers ranged from 'Nil' and 'Not Relevant' to comprehensive answers such as;

"This is a very broad question - in general, geospatial tech can be used either to research and understand current baselines, patterns etc. Following this it can be used to plan and design effective plans and solutions, and from there, can be used to monitor and report on progress.

So overall, whether through data collection, analysis, public engagement, storytelling and more, geospatial tech plays a roll across the board"

Common threads throughout multiple answers included;



"Geospatial plays varying roles in all of the bills chosen, some it can play a major underpinning part in, such as the planning and infrastructure and energy bills where it is critical to know what exists where for the desired outcomes of those bills to be achieved.

Others it will play a smaller part in, such as the Holocaust memorial bill, but again ensuring there are adequate coverage of such monuments will ensure the aims of the bill are met. I believe location is vital or at least a little relevant to all the bills selected above as they all contain an element of 'where'.

A full list of feedback, as submitted, can be found in Appendix III

Results

Question 9 - What challenges do you think could limit the impact of geospatial?

Multi-selection, pull-down options of Skills / Funding / Legislation were offered with a free text option under Other.

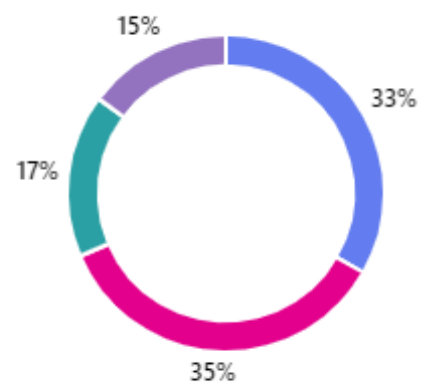
All recipients felt that there were challenges that could limit the impact of geospatial.

Funding was voted as the greatest limiting factor with 83% of respondents selecting it closely followed by Skills with 78%.

Legislation was deemed less limiting with 39% seeing it as having a negative impact whilst 35% of respondents felt other factors were of importance.

These included, availability of data and the ability to procure it, awareness of geospatial and interest from decision makers, and interoperability, although this was not clear if it was of data, systems or processes.

● Skills	18
● Funding	19
● Legislation	9
● Other	8



A full list of feedback, as submitted, can be found in Appendix IV

Results

Question 10 - Are there any opportunities that you feel have not been addressed within this programme?

This question was answered by most respondents to a degree. Rather than limiting responses this was free text question.

However, summarising the responses into Yes / No / Don't Know / Other, it became apparent that respondents were less polarised on this topic than previous questions.

39% of respondents felt that opportunities had been missed whilst 26% felt that they hadn't. 26% of respondents didn't know, and 9% of answers were classified as Other.

Specific feedback included;

"I feel the lack of bills around health is an interesting gap, with increasing numbers of childhood obesity, type two diabetes and people generally becoming less active I would have thought these would have been good points for the new government to address to help reduce pressure on the NHS longer term, something again geospatial could support."

"Education reform with digital literacy, especially geospatial data literacy"

"No mention of need to adopt 'geographic approach' to help shape government policy in areas of industrial strategy, energy generation, distribution and resilience, transportation and land development."



A full list of feedback, as submitted, can be found in Appendix V

Results

Question 11 - Any other comments / feedback?

Another free text answer allowing respondents to provide thoughts on areas not covered by the previous survey questions.

More than half of respondents, 70%, did not provide additional comment. However, those that did raised other areas of governance that it was felt were not included in the programme such as health, education, and public safety, as well interesting opinions on collaboration and engagement;

“This needs the collaboration of different players in the geospatial industry for achieving the above subject.”

“Engagement with the Geospatial Commission and similar bodies will be necessary to push the capabilities of geospatial in addressing these challenges”

“Hopefully with the right awareness the geospatial industry in the UK will grow with all of these opportunities but awareness of what geospatial is and how it can support these bills by MPs and members of the Government to ensure it is used correctly could be the biggest blocker to appropriate use and inclusion of geospatial to helping deliver these bills.”



A word cloud of feedback terms centered around the word "geospatial". The words are in various shades of blue and purple. The most prominent words include "geospatial", "industry in the UK", "bills", "support", "awareness", "ensure it is used correctly", "biggest blocker", "AGI membership", "Geospatial Commission", "clearer role", "geospatial potential", "geospatial industry", "use and inclusion", "broad topics", "capabilities of geospatial", "different players", "similar bodies", "better leadership", "greater examples", "right awareness", and "use and inclusion".

A full list of feedback, as submitted, can be found in Appendix VI

Appendix I

List of Bills

ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH

- Budget Responsibility Bill
- National Wealth Fund Bill
- Pension Schemes Bill
- Planning and Infrastructure Bill
- Employment Rights Bill
- English Devolution Bill
- Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill
- Better Buses Bill
- Railways Bill
- Bank Resolution (Recapitalisation) Bill
- Arbitration Bill
- Product Safety and Metrology Bill
- Digital Information and Smart Data Bill
- High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill
- Draft Audit Reform and Corporate Governance Bill

BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY

- Children's Wellbeing Bill
- Skills England Bill
- Renters' Rights Bill
- Football Governance Bill
- Draft Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Bill
- Draft Equality (Race and Disability) Bill
- Draft Conversion Practices Bill

GREAT BRITISH ENERGY AND CLEAN ENERGY SUPERPOWER

- Great British Energy Bill
- The Crown Estate Bill
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel (Revenue Support Mechanism) Bill
- Water (Special Measures) Bill

SECURE BORDERS, CRACKING DOWN ON ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND TAKE BACK OUR STREETS

- Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill
- Crime and Policing Bill
- Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill
- Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill

HEALTH

- Tobacco and Vapes Bill
- Mental Health Bill

Appendix I I

Questions / Topics Asked

- 1 How important do you think geospatial will be in delivering on the new legislative programme? (scale of 1 – 10)
- 2 What Bills do you feel the geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Economic Stability and Growth group? (pull down tick list of all bills with multi selection)
- 3 What Bills do you feel the geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Great British Energy and Clean Energy Superpower group? (pull down tick list of all bills with multi selection)
- 4 What Bills do you feel the geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Secure Borders, Cracking Down on Anti-Social Behaviour group? (pull down tick list of all bills with multi selection)
- 5 What Bills do you feel the geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Break Down the Barriers to Opportunity group? (pull down tick list of all bills with multi selection)
- 6 What Bills do you feel the geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the Health group? (pull down tick list of all bills with multi selection)
- 7 What Bills do you feel the geospatial can support through the use of specialist technology, data and skills in the National Security and Serving our Country group? (pull down tick list of all bills with multi selection)
- 8 What role does geospatial have in supporting these Bills? (free text)
- 9 What challenges do you think could limit the impact of geospatial? (tick box options skills / funding / legislation / other)
- 10 Are there opportunities that you feel have not been addressed with this programme? (free text answers)
- 11 Any other comments / feedback (free text)

Appendix III

Answers (sic) to Question 8 – What role does geospatial have in supporting these Bills?

Analysis, scenario testing, current state vs proposed

Underpinning the location element as the 'where' element of the information is key

Technology, data, spatial analysis

Improving digitalisation

spatial analytics to support decision making

Supporting decision-making, data viz for communication, analyses for planning interventions or allocating resources.

The elements of these bills are based on spatial information and cannot be referenced without putting it in to a geographical context
Understanding the spatial distribution of baseline scenarios, carrying out analysis to assess scenarios, visualising and presenting results and proposals

Nil

Not really relevant

This is a very broad question - in general, geospatial tech can be used either to research and understand current baselines, patterns etc - following this it can be used to plan and design effective plans and solutions, and from there, can be used to monitor and report on progress, so overall whether through data collection, analysis, public engagement, storytelling and more geospatial tech plays a roll across the board

Vast number of roles supporting each of the bills including mapping mental health services provision, development and mapping mental health needs. Use of mobile mapping services to support planning & Infrastructure for bridges, potholes, motorways etc. Ability to collate data and provide this to the public or those who need it to reduce data duplication, use of automation to keep data updated and current, use of digital twins to plan out developments changes. Opportunities are endless for geospatial to be used for the Bills but the key issue is, lack of an understanding of the importance of geospatial and the difference it can make which needs to be addressed alongside retention of staff and upskilling. Geospatial needs built into Legislation before it'll be used more widely to support the Government

surveillance and monitoring to help detect and respond to potential security threats

analysis, targetting, better unerstanding of issues, better outcomes, audit

There must be a geographic component to each of the bills which could be visualised and analysed from a location persective.

Enabling information to be (a) connected, (b) analysed and (c) communicated in a coherent and intuitive way, enabling better decision making.

identifying geospatial patterns and correlations, targetting resources where they will have most impact

Visualisation & Data Analysis

Analysis and mapping

Understanding detailed patterns of need/pressure etc, including localised concentration of needs; identifying contributing factors; identifying unintended consequences of action/service provision on the ground; mapping the impact of legislation or other initiatives; ensuring equality of access to services/support. No doubt many other roles too!

Geospatial plays varying roles in all of the bills chosen, some it can play a major underpinning part in such as the planning and infrastructure and energy bills where it is critical to know what exists where for the desired outcomes of those bills to be achieved. Others it will play a smaller part in such as the Holocaust memorial bill but again ensuring there are adequate coverage of such monuments will ensure the aims of the bill are met. I believe location is vital or at least a little relevant to all the bills selected above as they all contain an element of where.

Information dissemination, budgeting and planning

Underpinning and leading

Appendix IV

Appendix IV - Answers (sic) to Question 9 – What challenges do you think could limit the impact of geospatial?

Lack of interest from decision makers

Procurement is still not easy even with frameworks

Lack of governance especially with regard to spatial data

Lack of interoperability - needs to be built or interoperable by design

Government inertia

Data

Data availability / accessibility

Lack of awareness of geospatial's role /

potential contribution among senior policy makers

Awareness of geospatial

Appendix V

Appendix V - Answers (sic) to Question 10 – Are there opportunities that you feel have not been addressed with this programme?

n

Many, but you have to start somewhere

Unsure

I do not know

Planning and infrastructure should be top of the list.

Access to VOA data has yet to come back into the agenda - where did it go?

Must go together with digitization of information for easy public access

N/A

Nil

No mention of need to adopt 'geographic approach' to help shape government policy in areas of industrial strategy, energy generation, distribution and resilience, transportation and land development.

Education reform with digital literacy, especially geospatial data literacy

No

no

economic growth in and through geospatial, inward investment

Not sure

Plenty - in fact unlimited opportunities! For example, re-purposing our electrical grid.

I don't know

Don't know

No

You mean the legislative programme? Nothing like enough in there about stabilising adult social care, where geospatial can also play a huge role

I feel the lack of bills around health is an interesting gap, with increasing numbers of childhood obesity, type two diabetes and people generally becoming less active I would have thought these would have been good points for the new government to address to help reduce pressure on the NHS longer term, something again geospatial could support.

No

Geo AI

Appendix VI

Appendix VI - Answers (sic) to Question 11 – Any other comments / feedback?

n

Health and Education need more support

No, thanks

Not at the moment

None

None

This needs the collaboration of different players in the geospatial industry for achieving the above subject. Engagement with the Geospatial Commission and similar bodies will be necessary to push the capabilities of geospatial in addressing these challenges

A great survey but covering very broad topics, likely AGI membership could dive into many of these topics in more detail and provide greater examples. I would hope the Geospatial Commission is under better leadership and will play a clearer role, otherwise this should be disbanded and funding put to some of the topics above.

N/A

no

None

No

Without undertaking a lot of research, it's hard to comment on the geospatial potential for some of these bills which I know next to nothing about.

No

N/A

No

-

Hopefully with the right awareness the geospatial industry in the UK will grow with all of these opportunities but awareness of what geospatial is and how it can support these bills by MPs and members of the Government to ensure it is used correctly could be the biggest blocker to appropriate use and inclusion of geospatial to helping deliver these bills.

No

Public Safety