

MEMBER UPDATE



05 June 2018

Dear member,

Public Ownership of Industries and Services (House of Commons Briefing)

The House of Commons Library has published an **interesting briefing paper** on public ownership of industries and services in the UK. Since the late 1980s, the private sector has owned and run the majority of industries and utilities in the UK. But this situation has been debated by all political parties in recent years: the Coalition Government's Big Society ambition included the aim of increasing the public's role in running utilities; the Labour Party's 2017 General Election manifesto stated that a Labour Government would "bring key utilities back into public ownership"; and the prospect of Brexit has provoked more discussion around the role of the state in industries.

The paper presents the key concepts in this area, a history of public ownership in the UK, some of the economic arguments around the public ownership of services and an analysis of specific industries. The report includes an examination of the water and energy industries. This paper has been prepared to brief MPs and Select Committee members on the core arguments on public ownerships of industries and services.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

If you would like further details, please **[contact me](#)**.

Kind regards,

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