

THE GUARDIAN

The leader of the House of Lords has been urged to back calls for tighter restrictions on peers being paid to offer political advice. Analysis by the *Guardian* showed this week that more than one in 10 peers have taken payments from businesses such as lobbyists and companies operating in the banking, defence and energy sectors. Peers can earn tens of thousands of pounds a year for such roles.

BBC

A law to give terminally ill adults on the Isle of Man the right to end their own lives is entering its final stages, making it potentially the first jurisdiction in the British Isles to legalise assisted dying.

Anyone over the age of 18 and with a prognosis of 12 months or fewer to live would be eligible, under the legislation being debated in the Manx parliament.

The move comes as MPs in Westminster are scrutinising a bill that would legalise assisted dying in England and Wales. A separate bill is under discussion in Scotland.

NBC NEWS

Federal workers in limbo over DOGE cuts

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/federal-government-workers-in-limbo-over-doge-cuts-232917573619>



NEWS IN BRIEF 9

February 22nd – 28th 2025

the House of Lords is one of the two chambers of the British parliament (the other being the House of Commons), whose members are not elected. Its 800 or so members include life peers (= *pairs*) who are appointed by the monarch, 26 bishops of the Church of England, and 92 hereditary peers (who inherit their titles).

‘tighter re’strictions : des restrictions plus strictes

ad’vice [s] : des conseils ▲ Noter que "advice" est toujours singulier.

a’nalysis (N.) : /əˈnəˌlɪsɪs/

tens of ‘thousands of pounds [aʊ] : des dizaines de milliers de livres (£).

Voir NiB2



the Isle /aɪl/ of Man is located in the Irish Sea off the northwest coast of England. The Isle of Man is not part of the United Kingdom but has been a crown possession since 1828. It is self-governing in its internal affairs under the supervision of the British Home Office

the ‘British Isles : Great Britain, Ireland, the Hebrides, the Shetland Islands, the Orkney Islands, the Isles of Scilly, and the Isle of Man.

12 months or fewer /ˈfjuːə/: douze mois ou moins. ▲ Noter l’utilisation de "fewer" avec un nom dénombrable.

to be ‘eligible /ˈelɪdʒɪbəl/ **for sth / to do sth** : avoir droit à / remplir les conditions pour

under the legi’slation : en vertu de la législation

Manx (Adj.) : relating to the Isle of Man.

an MP /emˈpiː/ = a **‘Member of ‘Parliament** ≈ député (UK)

‘Westminster = The British Parliament

to ‘scrutinise [aɪ] : examiner

a bill : *ici*, un projet de loi



in limbo : dans l’incertitude, dans le flou

DOGE /dɒʒ(d)ʒ/ = **De’partment of ‘Government E’fficiency** : a temporary U.S. federal department, led by Elon Musk. Its mission is to “modernize Federal technology and software to maximize governmental efficiency and productivity.” DOGE is scheduled to end on July 4th, 2026.

0:05 – **an e’motional ‘rollercoaster** : un ascenseur émotionnel

0:16 – **to slash** = to cut, to reduce

the slashing of the federal workforce (*Voir NiB7*) **is hitting home** : la réduction des effectifs fédéraux fait sentir ses effets.

0:24 – **DC** /diːˈsiː/ = **Washington DC (District of Columbia)**

0:34 – **they were torn about how to res’pond** : ils ne savaient pas vraiment comment réagir

0:45 – **VA** /ˌviːˈeɪ/ = **Department of Veterans Affairs** : Administration des anciens combattants

0:48 – **ICU** /ˌaɪsiːˈjuː/ = **In’tensive Care Unit** : Unité de soins intensifs / Service de réanimation

1:25 – **su’rreal** : surréaliste

1:31 – **to lay** (laid, laid) [eɪ] **off** : licencier

1:41 – **con’cerns** = worries

1:55 – **rou’tinely** [iː] : régulièrement

Blighty newsletter: When soft power goes wrong*The Economist*, Feb 25th 2025

Good afternoon from London,

I was in Seoul a few years ago for a wedding when one evening I came across an uncannily familiar building. It was about six storeys tall, with a façade of great brick archways, the rear-end of a railway luggage trolley fixed into the front wall, and an illuminated sign reading “King’s Cross”. Inside was a restaurant. Every year thousands of Korean tourists in Britain pay a visit to the north-London station from which Harry Potter, a fictional wizard, is said to depart for Hogwarts school. No surprise that an entrepreneurial sort had decided to bring the experience closer to home.

The Foreign Office would doubtless have approved. The British government has long believed in “soft power”—the idea that the world’s favourable disposition towards Britain’s sports, culture, universities and traditions can translate into real influence. The story that is told about Britain matters; if a mid-sized island with a colourful history, a few handsome cities and a large cultural industry is a place people overseas like, then it is also a place they invest their money and ultimately listen to, the logic runs.

British embassies will often host screenings of a new James Bond film, or dish out copies of “Paddington” to local schools. The “GREAT” campaign, an export-promotion drive, carries pictures of English footballers and Vivienne Westwood, a designer. David Lammy, the foreign secretary, takes this stuff particularly seriously: he has set up a “soft power council” which will “drive greater impact through government campaigns and a systematic approach to the global foreign-policy, cultural and sporting calendars”.

But if soft power is a serious business, then something is going seriously wrong. A different story of Britain is being told in America, and it is not a pretty one. On February 14th J.D. Vance, the American vice-president, shocked European leaders with a speech at the Munich Security Conference in which he characterised them as the new Soviets: brittle, ensorious authoritarians who are terrified of their own voters. As for Britain, he alighted on the case of Christians who have been prosecuted for conducting prayer vigils near abortion clinics in breach of legally mandated buffer zones. “The backslide away from conscience rights has placed the basic liberties of religious Britons in particular in the crosshairs,” he said.

Elon Musk, Mr Vance’s colleague in the new administration and owner of X, a social-media platform, tells an even more dystopian story of Britain as a police state overrun by migrants and rife with paedophile grooming gangs. (“At this rate, the UK Government will pretty soon be executing people for liking a meme!”) British fellow-travellers, such as Nigel Farage and Liz Truss, who were in Washington for the CPAC gathering of American conservatives this week, are happy to add colour to the story.

Think of it as soft power gone bad. Britain is a goldfish bowl: the English language, a vibrant media industry and social media mean outsiders get to see more or less everything, good or bad. Mr Musk’s 219m X followers know a remarkable amount about grisly abuse cases in English towns for much the same reasons as teenagers in China know a remarkable amount about Downton Abbey. And while the story that Mr Musk and Mr Vance tell of Britain is a caricature, it is hardly more of a caricature than the twee image that the British government has told. Grooming gangs, after all, are real; Paddington, sadly, is not. And the problem with soft power is that it is very soft: reputations are slow to build and quick to spoil.

Blighty [aɪ] = an informal term for Britain or England, used by soldiers of the First and Second World Wars.
soft power [aʊ]: the use of a country's cultural and economic influence to persuade other countries to do something, rather than the use of military power.

un‘cannily : étrangeté

a ‘storey [ɪ]: un étage

a sort [ɔ:] = a person or individual

over‘seas = a‘broad [ɔ:] : à l’étranger

to dish out: distribuer

a drive : ici, une campagne

‘brittle: cassant

cen‘sorious: sévère

to alight on sth : s’arrêter sur qch

legally mandated buffer zones: des zones tampons prévues par la loi
 mire, dans le collimateur

the CPAC /ˈsi:pæk/ = the Conservative Political Action Conference

to add/give/lend colour to sth = to make sth seem true or probable

goldfish bowl /bəʊl/ = a place or situation in which people can always see you or are always paying attention to what you do

twee [i:] = artificially attractive or too perfect