



LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
THE RT HON MARK SPENCER MP



Dame Meg Hillier MP  
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
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Thank you for your most recent report on Restoration and Renewal (R&R). Your Committee has made a significant contribution to scrutinising the programme. I would like to thank each member of the Committee, with particular thanks to you, for your role as Chair.

The Committee made one recommendation for the Government to consider:

**“The Government must be clearly engaged with the overall strategy and costs of the entire R&R project.”**

Restoration and Renewal of the Palace of Westminster is a parliamentary project. The Government recognises that this is a significant and urgent task given the building's state of disrepair. It is imperative for Parliament to take decisions which allow work to commence, delivers value for money, and which can command the support of taxpayers and parliamentarians.

Both the Leader of the House of Lords and I sit on the Commissions which have strategic oversight for the programme. In addition, the Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Act 2019 provides that HM Treasury must be consulted on the annual estimates for the funding of the R&R programme and the Estimates Commission must have regard to their advice. This will still be the case after the Sponsor Body has been abolished. The annual estimate must be laid before Parliament.

The Government is committed to continuing to engage constructively with Parliament as it delivers the restoration and renewal of the Palace of Westminster.