



Justice Committee

Antonia Romeo
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Justice

By email only

2 March 2023

Dear Antonia,

Thank you for your letter of 22 February following up your evidence to us in January. The Committee was interested to note the information provided on the lease of land in Aylesbury, which has cost the MoJ £2,512,402 to date. James McEwen explained during his evidence to the Committee that the MoJ is working with the organisation that owns the land to allow it to be developed for different purposes. He told us:

We are close to the end and the Courts Service is doing a lot of work with the landowner to see if there is room to change the covenant, so it could be used for broader purposes. We do what we can. It dates back a long time and it is outside our control.

The Committee notes that the covenant restricts development to a court or offices. The Committee would be grateful if you could keep us updated on progress on changing the covenant (or terminating the lease), and whether development of the land into offices as per the existing covenant is one of the options being explored.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Robert Neill MP
Chair
Justice Committee