



Parliamentary Works Estimates Commission

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon. the Lord McFall of Alcuith
Lord Speaker
House of Lords

23rd May 2024

Dear Lord Speaker,
Restoration and Renewal

When we last met the Commissioners agreed that I draw our latest comments on the Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate to the attention of the Client Board.

We have been examining the Parliamentary Works Grant since our inception in 2020 and have now reported for the fourth year in a row on the Main Supply Estimate.

While we agreed to lay the Main Estimate for 2024/25, Commissioners are becoming increasingly concerned that phase 1 of the programme will be running for a longer period than had been anticipated. In 2021, we were told that the programme's target date for delivering the costed plan to both Houses was 2023. We appreciate that a great deal of valuable preparatory work has been delivered since then but we are concerned that the latest phase 1 cost assessment represents a £53 million increase on the previous year's midpoint projection of £462 million.

As such we believe it is incumbent upon us at this point to recommend that a definitive overall expenditure limit for phase 1 be agreed now to prevent phase 1 costs being able to rise and the determination phase being allowed to run on beyond 2025/26. There must now be a commitment to a date for completing phase 1 so that all parties and stakeholders prioritise the R&R programme in the new Parliament. We are very concerned about the potential costs and consequences that could arise if this does not happen.

We enclose our formal "Comments", *Parliamentary Works Grant: Main Estimate for 2024-25: Comments from the Parliamentary Works Estimates Commission and the Treasury*, to which we would welcome your response.

I have written in similar terms to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Dame Eleanor Laing MP
Chairman of Ways and Means and Chair of the Estimates Commission

cc: Corporate Officers of the Houses.
David Goldstone, Chief Executive, Delivery Authority

