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# Quarterly Report: Restoration and Renewal of the Houses of Parliament

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April – June 2024

These quarterly reports are primarily intended for the parliamentary community and are published to maintain transparency of this important programme.

# Foreword *by the Clerk of the House and Clerk of the Parliaments*

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Throughout this period, the R&R Programme focused on the work required to further develop the three options that will inform the costed proposals due to be brought to both Houses of Parliament next year for decision on the next steps for restoration and renewal works to the Palace.

Surveys of the Palace of Westminster continued, with teams carrying out more boreholes and archaeological trial pits to increase our understanding of the ground underneath the Palace. Cabling and pipework, much of which needs replacing as part of the R&R programme, was inspected in more than 50 areas.

Member engagement was more limited during this quarter as a result of the General Election being called in May, however the R&R Client Team delivered several Party group briefings in April, following the publication of the Strategic Case. The team also increased Parliamentary staff engagement and presented to more than 1000 colleagues, in addition to delivering staff tours during the Dissolution period.

Plans have been developed to ensure the significant number of expected new Members are offered sufficient R&R information and engagement opportunities following their appointment. The R&R Client Board and Programme Boards will be re-established following the General Election and we look forward to working with all Members in the new Parliament.

*Further information:*

## **R&R Client Board**

Agendas

Minutes

## **R&R Programme Board**

Agendas

Minutes

## **R&R Hub**



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**Tom Goldsmith**

Clerk of the House of Commons



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**Simon Burton**

Clerk of the Parliaments

# R&R Programme Board

## Membership *(during the period)*

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- **Rt Hon Nigel Evans MP** (Chair)
- **Lord Vaux of Harrowden** (from February 2024) (Deputy Chair)
- **Wera Hobhouse MP**
- **Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP** (Leader of the House of Commons)
- **Lucy Powell MP** (Shadow Leader of the House of Commons)
- **Lord Collins of Highbury**
- **Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury**
- **Tom Goldsmith** (Clerk of the House of Commons)
- **Simon Burton** (Clerk of the Parliaments)
- **Dr Michèle Dix** (External member)
- **Paul Duffree** (External member)
- **Steve Hails** (External member)
- **Sir Jonathan Stephens** (External member)
- **Sir Edward Leigh MP** (Delegate of the Leader of the House of Commons)
- **Mark Tami MP** (Delegate of the Shadow Leader of the House of Commons)

**The following officials are also routinely in attendance at the Programme Board meetings:**

- **Dr Patsy Richards** (Interim Managing Director, R&R Client Team)
- **David Goldstone** (Chief Executive Officer, Delivery Authority)
- **Chris Elliott** (Managing Director, Strategic Estates)

# Summary of ongoing works on the estate and maintenance works

*(including non-R&R works)*

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Parliament's in-house teams continue their work to support the continued business of Parliament through the delivery of dozens of major projects. These projects will repair and maintain buildings on the estate to address known critical risks associated with mechanical and electrical systems, public health and safety, building fabric and fire safety in advance of the R&R Programme.

All in-house projects continue to be subject to an "R&R test" to determine which works are critical, for safety, security, or operational reasons, and need to be delivered before R&R or would achieve better value-for-money by waiting to be delivered as part of the R&R works. The R&R test is conducted in partnership with the R&R Delivery Authority and focuses on ensuring ongoing value-for-money and avoiding nugatory spend.

## **WESTMINSTER HALL LIGHTING PROJECT**

The Hall has recently undergone major conservation work and now requires an appropriate lighting scheme to ensure compliance with health & safety and fire legislation; reduce risk of failure of outdated lighting infrastructure; to improve the event lighting provision; and reveal the medieval Hall's architectural features.

The present lighting is made up of several fittings that have been installed over the last century, many of which have reached their end of life.

The scope includes the full installation of the lighting scheme for Westminster Hall and St Stephen's Porch including installation of new lighting such as LED Cluster spotlights to provide a good level of lighting for users of the Hall, emergency lighting, event and exhibition lighting and architectural lighting which will light up the roof and other historic features of the Hall. With the agreement of Historic England, the chandeliers, which date back to 1923 and at present detract from the historic roof, and the window lighting rigs will be removed.

This project is proceeding in advance of Restoration and Renewal (R&R) due to the criticality of replacing the present lighting scheme. The design life for the new lighting is 30+ years and the scheme will remain valid and operational following the completion of R&R.

The work is being carried out while the Hall remains in use. It began in late spring 2024 and will continue until the end of Autumn 2025.



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# R&R Phase 1 Milestones

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The key milestones for the Programme over the next 12-18 months are set out below:

<b>R&amp;R Surveys</b>	<i>STATUS</i> <b>ONGOING</b>	Continue to plan and undertake intrusive and non-intrusive investigatory survey work on or around the Parliamentary Estate to better understand the Palace and inform future works.
<b>2024/25 Delivery Authority Budget Approved</b>	<i>STATUS</i> <b>ONGOING</b> March 2024	Agreement to the future Delivery Authority budget based on the next steps put to both Houses. The 2024/25 budget was endorsed by the House Commissions in March 2024 and the Parliamentary Works Estimates Commission in May 2024. The main estimates will be considered by the new Parliament in July.
<b>Early and enabling works design</b>	<i>STATUS</i> <b>COMPLETE</b> June 2024	Developing initial plans and designs for early R&R works, and studies for enabling works integrated with ongoing works on the estate to inform the design and Programme Business Case.
<b>Develop House of Commons and House of Lords Decant Plans</b>	<i>STATUS</i> <b>ONGOING</b> TBC 2024	Develop plans and confirm preferred locations for the decant of both Houses if needed.
<b>R&amp;R Options Palace Design</b>	<i>STATUS</i> <b>ONGOING</b> November 2024	Developing initial plans and designs for early R&R works, and studies for enabling works integrated with ongoing works on the estate to inform the design and Programme Business Case.
<b>Costed proposals presented to the Houses</b>	<i>STATUS</i> <b>NOT STARTED</b> 2025	Proposals will be put to both Houses to agree the R&R option to take forward into Phase 2 (delivery). The proposals will include costs, timescales, deliverability, temporary accommodation proposals, and risk for all three options.
<b>Invitation to tender for Delivery Authority strategic partners</b>	<i>STATUS</i> <b>NOT STARTED</b> 2026	The Delivery Authority is planning to re-tender for the strategic partners that will deliver the works in Phase 2 of R&R. This milestone has been updated to reflect the 3 R&R options now being developed.

# Milestone Progress

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**The focus of the programme in this period was on developing the R&R options designs which can then be assessed for their likely cost, timescale and risks to inform decision making by the R&R Boards when they return in the new Parliament.**

Proposals for temporary accommodation for both Houses were also further developed.

The R&R Delivery Authority budget request for 2024/2025 was scrutinised by the Parliamentary Works Estimates Commission in May to ensure the proposals are taut and realistic and the estimates will be laid to be considered by both Houses in the new Parliament.

## **SURVEYS WORK**

The Palace survey project made good progress, assisted by the reduced presence of Members and staff across the Estate during recent recesses and the dissolution period before the General Election.

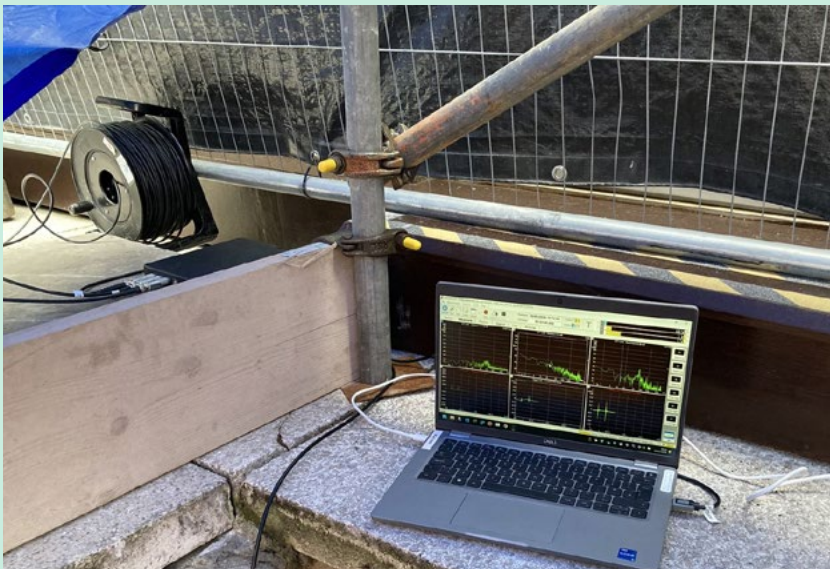
A borehole in Black Rod's Garden generated positive media attention, as it was the deepest yet drilled on the Estate at 84 metres, reaching further beneath the ground than the Channel Tunnel. A shallow test pit was dug in State Officers' Court to check for obstructions and archaeological remains which might impact on a planned borehole there.

Efforts were made to minimise disturbance from future boreholes planned on the River Terrace. Vibration tests measured the impact of activities on the Terrace at various locations around the Palace. These will inform the planning and operation of drilling work later in the year.

Surveys of floor and ceiling voids continued, with a further 44 spaces investigated during the quarter. In the same period, checks were undertaken on 13 "risers" – the vertical ducts which contain some of the Palace's cabling and pipework.

Two locations were subjected to air pressure tests to identify points where heat is leaking from the building. Work continued on the creation of a 3D digital model of the Palace, with photogrammetric scanners used to map areas which had previously been covered by scaffolding.

A survey of the New Palace Yard underground car park began and is due to be completed by early August. Samples were taken from the walls and basement piles in the car park to help understand their condition. A second new survey project, beginning in late June, saw above-ground drainage pipes assessed in 24 locations.



Vibration tests to measure the impact of activities



Walls and basement piles samples taken from Underground Car Park to help understand their condition



# Engagement and Communications

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**This period has seen a key focus on engagement with both Members (up to Dissolution) and the wider parliamentary community.**

We have continued to engage with Members in support of the publication of the Strategic Case. All Members and relevant Committees were sent communications alerting them to the publication and offering briefings after publication of the Strategic Case. Party Groups were also offered briefings. All Members were offered the option of a 1:1 briefing on the strategic case and all requests have been fulfilled, with many leading to further engagement opportunities.

## **A continuing dialogue with the wider Parliamentary Community**

The programme also engaged with a range of stakeholders from the wider parliamentary community presenting to over 1000 staff in both Houses at a variety of team and all-staff meetings. To complement this work, MPs' staff were engaged through the weekly office managers' call facilitated by the Member Services Team (MST) and will continue to have regular updates.

Staff and Members staff unions were invited to attend the April Programme Board and representatives of these groups were also taken on R&R tours of the Palace to understand the challenges and opportunities of restoration. This complemented the regular information sharing sessions that already take place with the Client Team and the Programme Board are looking forwards to inviting representatives to the Board again after the General Election. The Board also discussed Parliamentary community engagement at their May meeting and how best to continue ensuring that staff views are informing their work.

Many of the Parliamentary community engage in our work through the input of their technical expertise informing options and design development. In this period, there has been a focus on developing a set of business needs for our building users and stakeholders that support the overall business of Parliament. These are all underpinned by the Client Requirements that have been endorsed by the R&R Programme Board and represent key elements that will be delivered by the R&R Programme.

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In addition, we continue to provide wider communications support to Parliamentary projects across the estate, to ensure our audiences are receiving consistent and aligned messaging about works to improve and plan future improvements to the Palace.

## Looking Outwards

We have continued to arrange R&R tours for lobby journalists to help ensure that they are informed about the challenges and opportunities of R&R, ahead of publication of costed proposals expected next year. We also briefed media and handled enquiries regarding the future leadership of the Client Team and Delivery Authority.

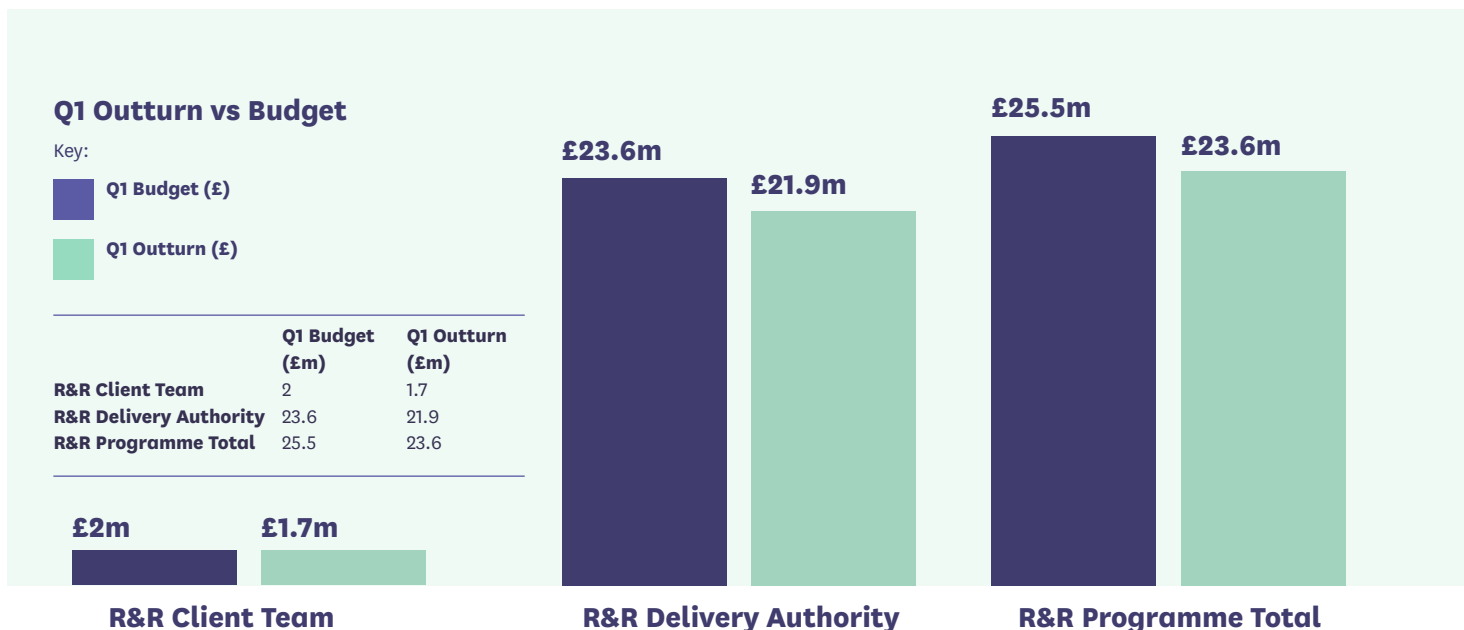
We have also been maintaining our work with a range of external stakeholders. For example, representatives from the Client Team and Delivery Authority attended a skills demonstration event organized by Skills Development Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland at the Scottish Parliament in May. This was to develop knowledge and understanding around heritage skills requirements, training and upskilling opportunities as well as current resourcing levels across the UK. This built on Scottish round tables and various visits across Scotland last year. The team continues to facilitate a range of non-passholder tours with key stakeholders and hosted a Canadian delegation in collaboration with the Archives Relocation Programme.



# Finance

The Delivery Authority Q1 spend of £21.9m was underspent against the budget of £23.6m by £1.7m (7%).

There are underspends of £1.0m in Surveys due to slippage on a small number of surveys which will be delivered later in the year, driven by delayed licencing agreements for boreholes, inclement weather during recess periods and contractor mobilisation, alongside savings on surveys contract indexation. Data & Digital investment projects are £0.6m underspent due to deferral to enable further time for scoping, and savings following a review of delivery of small change projects. There is also a net underspend position of £0.9m spread across the rest of the Delivery Authority due to resource and legal fees savings as well as the slower mobilisation of resourcing for the Strategic Partner Procurement process in line with new emerging programme milestones. These underspends have been partially offset by £0.8m of overprogramming included in the Q1 budget.



Please note: These numbers are provisional and have not been audited.



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