



Quarterly Report: Restoration and Renewal of the Houses of Parliament

July – September 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*

The R&R Programme has continued to progress since the General Election in July 2024, with comprehensive work continuing to develop all three options set out in the R&R Strategic Case. This important and detailed work will inform the costed proposals that are planned to be brought to both Houses for consideration in 2025. In parallel, surveys have continued across the Palace to inform design plans and future delivery, including drone surveys to investigate roof spaces, boreholes to understand ground conditions, and archaeological trenches to explore any possible historic artefacts under the Palace.

Following the General Election, the R&R Client Team has been busy engaging with incoming and returning Members as well as their staff and others across the Parliamentary community through detailed briefing sessions, tours, engagement stands and materials. As we approach the end of the year, we expect to have re-established both the R&R Client Board and R&R Programme Board, and the Programme remains on track to bring costed proposals to both Houses for consideration next year.

We were pleased to appoint Charlotte Simmonds as Managing Director of the R&R Client Team, bringing many years of Parliamentary and programme experience, and welcomed Tanya Coff as interim Chief Executive of the Delivery Authority.

Further information:

R&R Client Board

[Agendas](#)

[Minutes](#)

R&R Programme Board

[Agendas](#)

[Minutes](#)

R&R Hub



Tom Goldsmith
Clerk of the House of Commons



Simon Burton
Clerk of the Parliaments

R&R Programme Board Membership

*(during the period July
– September 2024)*

The R&R Programme Board did not meet during this period after the Dissolution of Parliament on 30 May 2024.



Summary of ongoing works on the estate and maintenance works

(including non-R&R works)

LIFT REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME

Many lifts across Parliament have outdated components and materials. The Lift Refurbishment Programme, which started in early 2020, aims to improve reliability and decrease unplanned downtime. More than 60 lifts are being refurbished during a six-year phased programme. The Programme will refurbish lifts situated within the Palace of Westminster, Portcullis House, Millbank House and 14 Tothill Street. Lift resilience will be improved through mechanical upgrades. These works were considered under the 'R&R Test' as to whether they could wait or be delivered more efficiently through R&R but work is urgently to replace ageing and failing equipment.

To minimise the impact on those working on the Estate, the works on the lifts are being delivered in phases. 18 lifts have been delivered to date, with three lifts currently being worked on. The project team is engaging with the teams across both Houses to schedule the next phase of works.



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R&R Phase 1 Milestones

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

R&R Surveys	<i>STATUS</i> ONGOING	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.
Develop House of Commons and House of Lords Decant Plans	<i>STATUS</i> ONGOING	Develop plans and confirm preferred locations for the decant of both Houses if needed. These will be presented to the Houses as part of the R&R costed proposals.
R&R Options Palace Design	<i>STATUS</i> ONGOING November 2024	Work by the Delivery Authority and in-house teams to further develop the Palace designs and proposals for R&R options.
2025/26 Delivery Authority Budget Approved	<i>STATUS</i> ONGOING March 2025	Agreement to the future Delivery Authority budget to support development of the costed proposals and preparation for delivery of the programme.
Costed proposals presented to the Houses	<i>STATUS</i> NOT STARTED 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.
Invitation to tender for Delivery Authority strategic partners	<i>STATUS</i> NOT STARTED 2026 (Changed from January 2025)	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

The focus of the programme in this period was on continuing development of the designs for the three R&R options, as set out in the R&R Strategic Case. This work will allow the R&R options to be assessed for their likely cost, timescale and risks to inform decision-making by the R&R Boards when they meet in the new Parliament.

Following scrutiny of the R&R Delivery Authority budget request for 2024/2025 by the Parliamentary Works Estimates Commission in May the Estimate was laid in the House of Commons and approved in July 2024.



Surveys Work

Surveys continued over the summer recess with more than 14,000 hours of work delivered, including the first four archaeological trial trenches in Speaker's Green and Speaker's Court.

Two geoarchaeological boreholes were dug and two other boreholes were completed. Vibration monitoring was in place for the duration of the works to measure the impact of activities. Drone surveys taking photographs of key roof locations were also completed in several areas. Surveys of voids in the Palace also continued, with work on the primary services risers – vertical ducts containing some of the Palace's cabling and pipework – now concluded. A survey to investigate above ground drainage was initiated to investigate the condition and location of the drainage system. A lift survey was undertaken to confirm the dimensions and conditions of the various shafts and equipment, this was done in co-ordination with the ongoing lift replacement programme.



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Engagement and Communications

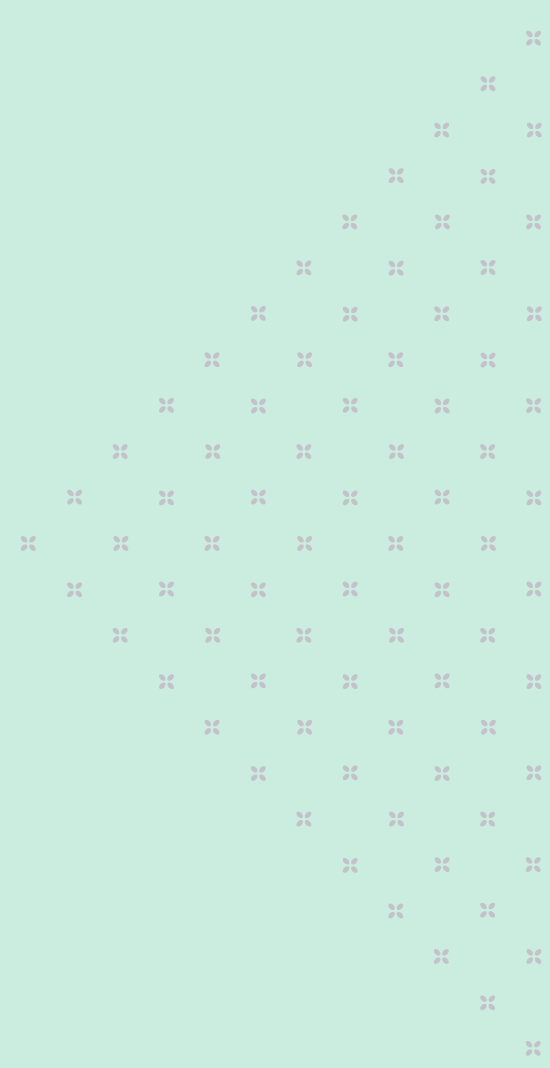
Following the announcement of the General Election in May, and subsequent Dissolution of Parliament, engagement and communications activities for the R&R Programme were re-orientated.

This summer period saw the R&R Client Team shift its focus towards comprehensive engagement with staff of both Houses. Over 500 House staff members participated in R&R Palace tours, providing passholders with insights into the current challenges of maintaining the Palace and the range of options being considered for addressing these needs.

Following the General Election, an introductory R&R leaflet was made available to all Members which provided information about the programme and engagement opportunities. Information on the programme was also provided to Parliamentary ‘buddies’ welcoming new Members so that they could approach the programme team with any immediate questions. The first induction briefings and tours for new Members took place in August and September, ahead of many more scheduled to take place between October to January.

The first in a series of planned “deep dive” sessions was held in September, focusing on proposed accessibility improvements within the Palace and engaging House staff in these discussions. Additional accessibility sessions tailored to MPs, Peers, Unions, and Members’ staff are scheduled for Q3, with further sessions planned for Q4 covering the Programme’s scope and the three options being developed.

Tours for political journalists increased over the summer with more than 50 delivered, and we continued to provide information about ongoing activity including Palace surveys.



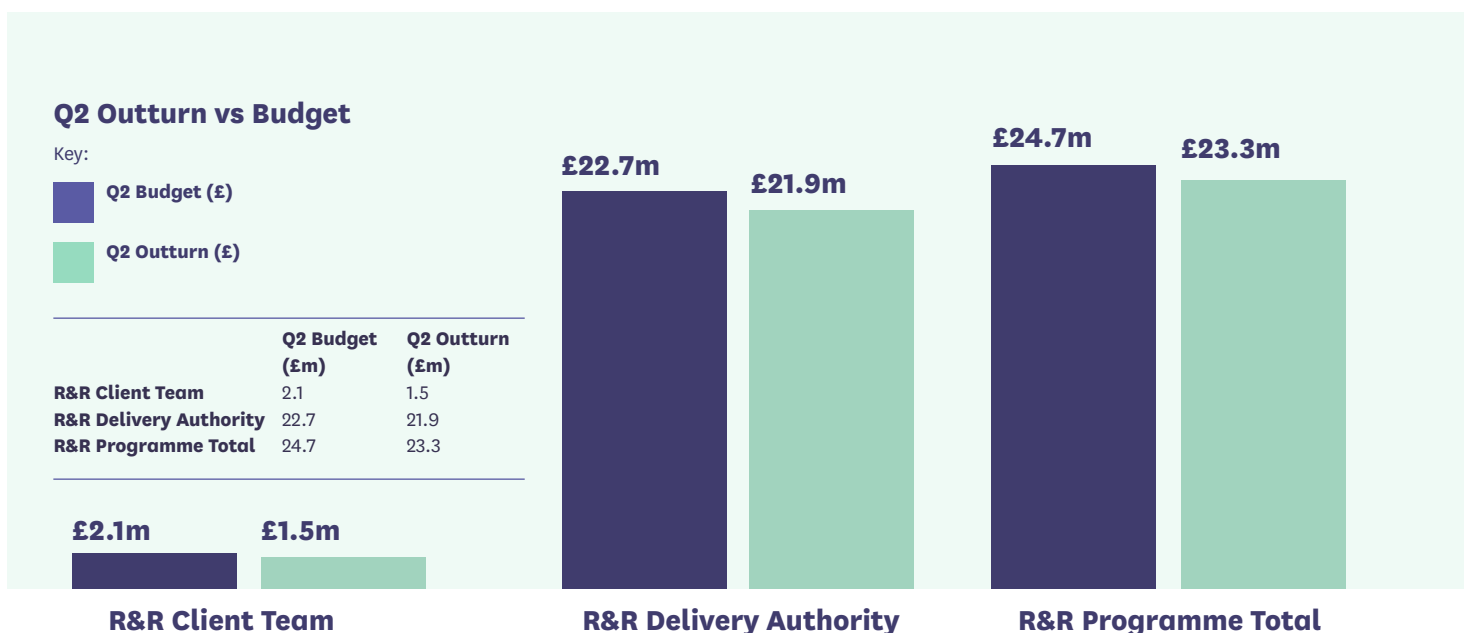
Finance

The Delivery Authority’s Q2 spend of £21.9m was a 4% underspend against the budget of £22.7m.

The underspend relates to slippage on a small number of surveys, expected to be completed later in the year, and the deferral of the river terrace boreholes until next year as a result of the shortened summer recess. There have also been underspends in Data & Digital investment projects following deferrals in line with the latest programme schedule, and within commercial resourcing and legal fees relating to the Strategic Partner Procurement process which will begin later than initially anticipated.

These underspends have been partially offset by an increase in design costs associated with the Palace RIBA 2 design and an increase in scope, as instructed by the R&R Client Team, for further design work on a number of studies such as catering and Chamber accessibility.

The Client Team’s Q2 expenditure was £1.4m, with an underspend of £0.6m against the budget. The underspend was a result of a short delay paying invoices which will be paid in Q3 instead.



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





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