



Quarterly Report: Restoration and Renewal of the Houses of Parliament

October – December 2024

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

Welcome from Judith Cummins MP

Chair of the R&R Programme Board

I am delighted to have the opportunity to chair the R&R Programme Board and to help to shape this important work on behalf of both Houses. This coming year is a critical one where recommendations on the way forward for R&R will be made to inform the Houses decision, as envisaged by the R&R Act, to ensure we can address the risks to our historic Palace and to protect it as a home for Parliamentary democracy for generations to come.

This quarterly report covers the period of October to December 2024 during which I am pleased that both the R&R Programme and Client Boards have met following the General Election to review progress on the R&R Programme. A new cohort of Members in the House of Commons and newly appointed Peers have been inducted and engagement activity has started. Lord Vaux and I will write to all Members in the new year about the engagement opportunities envisaged over the year as we build up to debate and decision in both Chambers.

Good progress has been made developing the detail and design of the three options for R&R as set out by the R&R Client Board in the March 2024 Strategic Case, this will allow Members to have the robust information on costs, risks and benefits. Survey work has continued across the Palace, including extensive planning for complex archaeological trial digs in various areas throughout 2025.

Over the next six months the R&R Programme Board will review those options and make recommendations to the R&R Client Board on the way forward. This will allow the R&R Client Board to present Members of both Houses with recommendations on the costed proposals by the end of 2025.

As custodians of this precious building, the Programme Board is committed to navigating the R&R Programme through Parliament, finding consensus on a way forward and ensuring that we collectively fulfil our responsibility to preserve this iconic building for future generations.



Judith Cummins MP
Chair of the R&R Programme Board

Further information:

R&R Client Board

Agendas

Minutes

R&R Programme Board

Agendas

Minutes

R&R Hub



Summary of ongoing works on the estate and maintenance works *(including non-R&R works)*

FIRE LIFE SAFETY & COMPLIANCE IN THE UNDERGROUND CAR PARK PROJECT

This project will improve fire life safety – a set of practices intended to reduce destruction caused by fire, and install systems to prevent the spread of fire, including a firefighting lift. It will also carry out works to mechanical & electrical systems, improve ventilation, lighting, and refurbish the existing lifts. These works tested through the ‘R&R test’ process which concluded that they are critical upgrades for the Palace and will ensure compliance with building regulations and current parliamentary standards and therefore needed to take place ahead of R&R works. The project will be delivered in phases, across all the levels of the car park, and the car park will remain in operation for the duration of the works. The estimated completion date of is Summer 2026.

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> COMPLETE 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

This period saw detailed information produced by the Delivery Authority and Strategic Estates on the three R&R options, as set out in the R&R Strategic Case. These assessments will now be scrutinised by the R&R Boards before making recommendations to both Houses in the costed proposals.

SURVEYS WORK

During Q3, a limited amount of survey activity was undertaken due to the period largely falling outside of recess. Nevertheless, work onsite included 3D scanning to support the photogrammetric survey, monitoring of previously drilled boreholes, an archaeological survey of the foreshore in front on the Palace, as well as several site walkarounds to support the February surveys for the voids and above ground drainage surveys.

Extensive lessons learnt activities were undertaken to embed improvements in processes across the survey lifecycle, and to inform future works to be delivered in Phase 2. Planning was also undertaken for the work to be delivered in 2025, which included engagement with colleagues in various areas of Parliament (e.g. Strategic Estates, Security).



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COLLECTIONS CONSERVATION DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM

On 20 November the Delivery Authority and Parliament's Heritage Collections Team launched the Collections Conservation Dynamic Purchasing System to the heritage market at a dedicated online engagement event. The launch was supported with a communications plan and materials, including social media video and photo content across UK Parliament and R&R Delivery Authority channels, internal communications and media engagement.

A dynamic purchasing system is a flexible, easy-to-use and compliant procurement vehicle which the Delivery Authority and Parliament consider is well-suited to the microbusinesses and sole traders who comprise the market for collections' restoration and conservation services.

Conservation services will be needed by both the R&R Programme and by Parliament in the coming years. The R&R Programme will recruit specialists to assess the condition of certain heritage collection items in the Palace, while Parliament must resource a constant programme of conservation for collections across the Estate and in storage.

In delivery terms, heritage, procurement, legal and communications teams from Parliament, the Client Team and the Delivery Authority have worked very closely to ensure that the procurement, contract documentation and market engagement plan is aligned and agreed. In view of this common requirement, the Collections Conservation Dynamic Purchasing System is to be used by the two organisations, and its success is equally critical to both.

The market's interest in the Collections Conservation Dynamic Purchasing System has been positive. Some 100 potential suppliers attended the live launch event. The first round of applications to the Collections Conservation Dynamic Purchasing System will close in January 2025, allowing evaluation during February, and the first round of contracts awarded in time to make the most of the 2025 recesses. There will be further opportunities for new suppliers to apply to the Collections Conservation Dynamic Purchasing System over the coming years and for further contracts to be awarded according to the evolving business needs of Parliament and the R&R Programme.



Engagement and Communications

This period has seen a focus on supporting the induction of new Members of both Houses and supporting the establishment of the Programme's governance boards.

Induction briefings and R&R tours of the Palace have been made available to new Members of both Houses (and their staff) to help them to understand the challenges and opportunities of restoration

A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH MEMBERS AND THE WIDER PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNITY

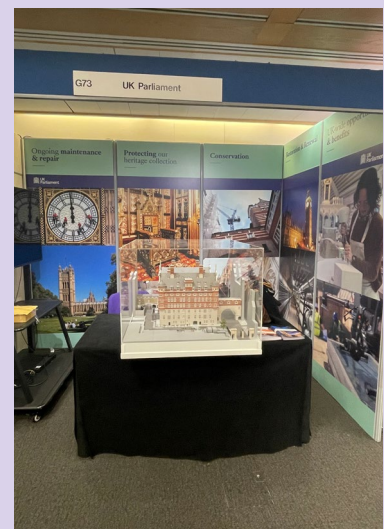
In this period, we have sought to increase visibility of the Programme and with a range of stakeholders from the wider parliamentary community. This has included engagement stands in Portcullis House Atrium (November) and a presence and talks delivered at the Commons New Parliament Fair (November). The Programme will also have a presence at the Lords Members Open Day in January 2025.

R&R Palace tours also remain popular with parliamentary staff and are booked up months ahead.

Members and all passholders were also invited to attend 'deep dive' sessions focused on accessibility, where views were shared and feedback was captured on proposed Palace accessibility improvements, and to capture views on the present accessibility challenges.

Many of the Parliamentary community have also continued to input their technical expertise informing options and design development. In this period, there has been a focus on developing the construction approach, through targeted engagement, seeking feedback and capturing requirements.

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 continue to proactively engage with external stakeholders and facilitate a range of tours, visits and interactions with outside organisations to share learning and develop awareness of the programme. In this period, we have hosted university students in collaboration with the Chamber and Participation Team as part of the Parliamentary Studies module.

In November, alongside colleagues from Strategic Estates and including heritage collections teams, the Programme participated in the Historic Buildings Parks and Gardens Event at the QEII Conference Centre in London highlighting the range of challenges and opportunities involved in the restoration of the Palace.

Engagement with audiences external to Parliament has also included undertaking public polling in November to understand public opinion towards the Palace and its restoration. All our public polling to date has indicated that there is strong public support for restoring and renewing this historic building. More than 70% of the people surveyed agree that the Palace should be restored and protected for future generations.

As well as handling a range of media enquiries and responses to R&R-related activities, 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 in 2025.



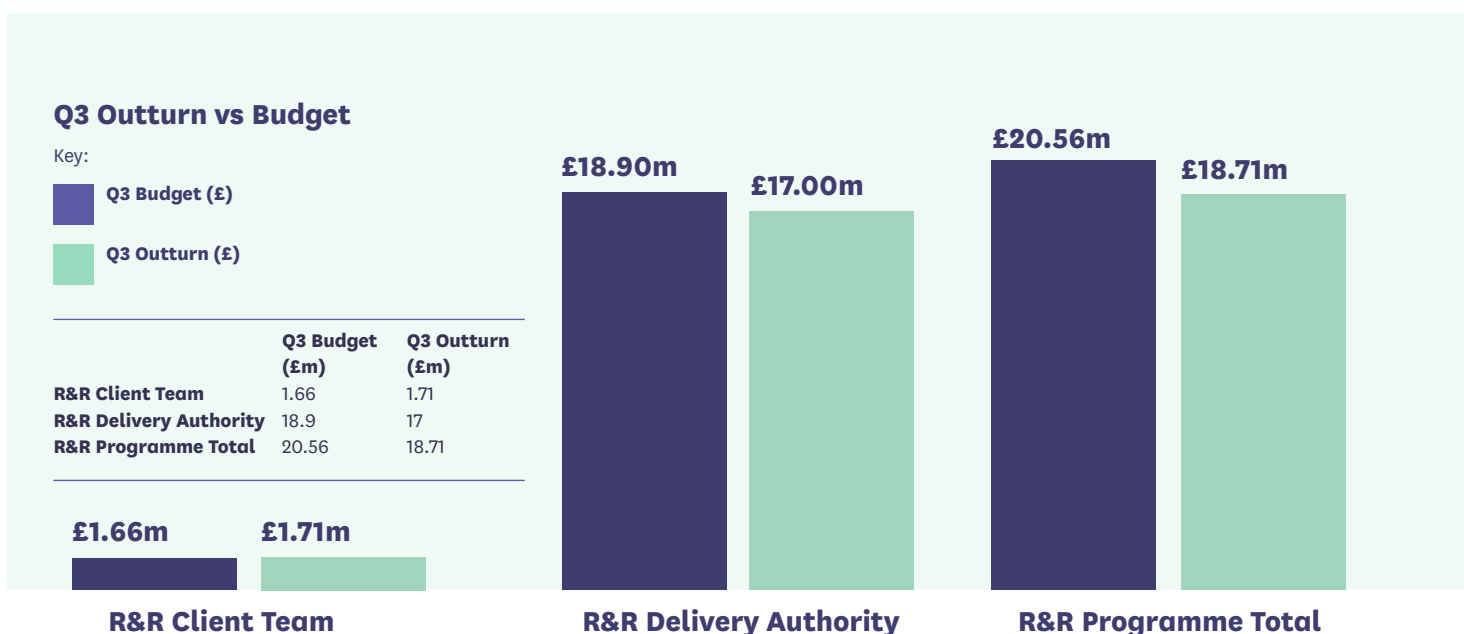
Finance

The Delivery Authority Q3 spend of £17m was underspent against the budget of £18.9m by £1.9m (10%).

There were underspends within Surveys from the deferral of the river terrace boreholes survey until summer 2025 largely as a result of the shortened recess period and savings from design partner resourcing. There has also been underspends in Temporary Accommodation, as RIBA 3 design budgeted to start in Q3, has slipped to Q4 due to the extended schedule for agreement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Parliament and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). In line with the latest programme schedule there are also underspends in legal fees and resourcing supporting the Strategic Partner Procurement process which has shifted back, and in Data & Digital investment projects deferred to align with programme timescales.

These underspends have been partially offset by an increase in design costs associated with Palace RIBA 2 design including from an increase in scope for further design work on a number of studies such as catering and chamber accessibility, and the overprogramming provision which was budgeted to offset any underspends in anticipation due to the optimism in the timing of activity.

The Client Team’s Q3 expenditure was £1.7m, with an overspend of £52k against the budget.







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