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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

By email: pubacom@parliament.uk

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Dear Sir Geoffrey,

Evaluation in the Government Major Projects Portfolio

I am pleased to inform you that the Cabinet Office has today published an assessment of evaluation coverage in the Government Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP). You can find the report here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-major-projects-evaluation-review>

As I am sure you will agree, it is important that major projects are evaluated. This is necessary to understand whether these substantial projects are effective or not, to learn lessons and to ensure the best value for money.

However, past evidence highlighted by the National Audit Office has shown a lack of evaluation among major projects. In 2019 only 8% of spending on the GMPP had high quality evaluation plans in place.^[1] The Public Accounts Committee asked in March 2024 whether an updated assessment is available, and you received a letter from Conrad Smewing on 19th February 2025 to explain progress made.^[2]

This updated assessment has now been completed for the 2023-24 GMPP by my officials in the Evaluation Task Force and the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA). This shows that 63% of major projects now have some form of evaluation plan, and 34% have a high-quality evaluation in place. This represents significant progress from the past, but there is still a need for considerable further improvement.

I am therefore publishing this assessment alongside an action plan that will better embed evaluation into all stages of the major project lifecycle.

Yours sincerely,

**Georgia Gould MP
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY**

[1] <https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/evaluating-government-spending/>

[2] <https://committees.parliament.uk/event/20532/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/>