



CABINET OFFICE

Catherine Little CB
Civil Service Chief Operating Officer
& Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary

15 August 2025

Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

I wrote to you on 11 April 2025, following the Public Accounts Committee hearing on 31 March 2025 on the condition of government properties, to provide an update on a number of areas prior to publication of your report. This letter responds to Recommendation 1a of the Committee's report (Twenty-ninth report of Session 2024–25).

Mandating standard definition on backlog maintenance

Cross-government working groups are engaging regularly to shape the common definition across Government. We expect to start formal consultation later this year, in line with the plan to have the definition mandated for the State of the Estate report for FY2025/26, which will be published in the spring of 2027. The definition will be shared with the Committee upon agreement across Government.

InSite's impact on improving government property data quality

InSite was formally launched across Government on 1st April 2025, and marks an important step towards improving the consistency and completeness of property data collection across government. The system provides a central platform for capturing core data on built assets, floor area, occupancy, condition, energy performance and other estate-related attributes aligned to the Government Property Data Standard (GPDS).

Early data from InSite utilisation signals a positive trajectory. By June 2025, the platform had recorded over 1,296 users across 294 organisations including central and local government organisations and devolved governments. Data quality is improving rapidly across the central government estate with an overall data standard compliance doubling to 65% since the initial data quality assessment.

Engagement across Government departments is continuing to develop further proportionate and realistic plans to achieve compliant property and estate data records. This work is expected to be delivered over the next two years, with significant existing records being included by departments over the next 6-12 month period.

Ensuring departmental compliance

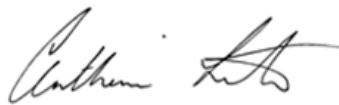
The Cabinet Office has enhanced its programme of engagement with departments to include detailed feedback on data quality.

The Government Chief Property Officer has also written to departments reinforcing the requirements for accurate asset data completion. An estate data maturity tool is under development and will be provided to departments to assist in enhancing compliance and foster greater data maturity.

The Committee will be updated on the backlog calculation and departmental compliance rates following the publication of the State of the Estate report for 2025/26 which will be published in the spring of 2027.

I hope this update gives you further assurance on the progress the government is making in addressing the condition of government properties.

I am copying this letter to the Government Chief Property Officer, the Chief Executive of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, the MOD Accounting Officer and to the Director General for Public Spending.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Little', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Catherine Little CB

Civil Service Chief Operating Officer and Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary