



House of Commons  
Public Accounts Committee

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# Key challenges facing the Ministry of Justice

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**Fifty-Second Report of Session  
2019–21**

*Report, together with formal minutes relating  
to the report*

*Ordered by the House of Commons  
to be printed 18 March 2021*

## The Committee of Public Accounts

The Committee of Public Accounts is appointed by the House of Commons to examine “the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by Parliament to meet the public expenditure, and of such other accounts laid before Parliament as the committee may think fit” (Standing Order No. 148).

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### Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Jessica Bridges-Palmer (Media Officer), Ameet Chudasama (Committee Operations Manager), Richard Cooke (Clerk), Rose Leach (Committee Operations Officer), Kandirose Payne-Messias (Committee Support Apprentice), Ben Rayner (Second Clerk), Ben Shave (Chair Liaison), and Wafia Zia (Second Clerk).

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## Summary

The justice system is under unprecedented pressure. The Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) is facing significant risks across courts and tribunals, prisons and probation services as it attempts to recover from the pandemic and make progress with ambitious change programmes. The court reform programme is in its final phases but still not in the clear; a major programme of building new prisons is underway but threatened by an eye-watering maintenance backlog of around £1 billion; and HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) an executive agency of the Ministry, is in the process of reunifying the probation service. These are daunting challenges, made more difficult by the need to plan for and manage the expected surge in demand across the criminal justice system from the recruitment of 20,000 new police officers.

The response to the pandemic has exacerbated existing pressures on the justice system. The backlog in the court system means unacceptably long waiting times for people to access justice. We remain unconvinced that the Ministry and HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) have robust plans in place to manage the challenges in the court system, and for reducing the huge backlogs that have built up.

We are also concerned that restrictive regimes in prisons during the pandemic have worsened prisoner wellbeing and mental health, and social distancing has made the effective provision of rehabilitation and probation services much more challenging. While we are encouraged by HMPPS's plans for managing the risks in the prison system and probation services, the maintenance backlog poses a real threat to achieving a safe and secure prison estate.

After sustained pressure on its finances, the Ministry received a welcome uplift in the 2020 Spending Review, including £4 billion for new prison places and £119 million to support recovery from the pandemic. Even so, its long-term funding position remains uncertain and hampers its ability to make credible plans to address the risks it faces.

## Introduction

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The Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) and its executive agencies, including HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) and HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS), are responsible for managing the work of courts, prisons and probation services. The pandemic has significantly impacted the operation of the justice system and has exacerbated systemic issues that have arisen over the years as a result of deep cuts to the Ministry's finances, increased demand across the whole system, and sustained pressure on frontline staff. The Ministry and its agencies are attempting to support the system to recover from the unprecedented effects of the pandemic and to manage significant reform programmes in courts and probation, alongside an ambitious prison building programme.

## Conclusions and recommendations

1. **We are concerned that the Ministry faces significant risks across the full range of its services, without a clear sense of prioritisation.** The pandemic has exacerbated the pressure on the justice system and the systemic issues that we have pointed to in the past. Aside from its work to support the justice system to recover from the pandemic, the Ministry has a complex portfolio of 15 projects listed in the Government's Major Projects Portfolio. Many of these projects are at critical stages, including court reform, building new prisons and introducing a new model for delivering probation services. The Ministry was unable to tell us how it planned to prioritise its efforts as it manages significant change in every part of the system alongside an expected increase in demand as government implements its plans for 20,000 new police officers and sentencing reforms start taking effect. The Ministry and its agencies welcome the significant uplift in the 2020 Spending Review, which included £4 billion for new prison places and £119 million to support the justice system's recovery from the pandemic, but recognise that this is against a backdrop of deep funding cuts over many years.

**Recommendation:** *In the absence of clear sense of its priorities, the Ministry should set out what contingencies it has if it encounters difficulties delivering its change programmes across courts, prisons and probation services.*

2. **The pandemic has significantly impacted the wellbeing and life chances of prisoners, making it critical that the Ministry and HMPPS accelerate their work to improve the mental health of prisoners.** The need for restrictive regimes to maintain social distancing in prisons during the pandemic has exacerbated the existing mental health challenges that prisoners face. In 2019–20, the incidents of self-harm in prisons remained high, particularly in the female prisoner population. We welcome HMPPS' work to specifically address the issues facing female prisoners, including maintaining family contact and one-to-one counselling support. It is vital that HMPPS continues to learn lessons from how it manages the impact of the pandemic on prisoner wellbeing and that it sustains this work in the long term. We are encouraged by HMPPS's commitment to improve its work with others, including the Samaritans and CLINKS.

**Recommendation:** *In its Treasury Minute response to this report, the Ministry and HMPPS should set out what progress they have made with the initiatives they put in place to support prisoner mental health since the beginning of the pandemic and the impact this has had on those in prison.*

3. **We have limited confidence in the Ministry's plans for reducing the backlog in the court system, particularly in criminal courts.** The backlog in criminal courts was growing before the pandemic, and many organisations have warned that it could take years to clear the backlog. But the Ministry and HMCT could not tell us what level of outstanding caseload is, in their view, acceptable. It is therefore not clear to us what the Ministry is aiming for in its plans to reduce the backlog. What is abundantly clear is the impact that delaying access to justice has on victims and witnesses, who in some cases find themselves waiting years to access justice. There is a risk that the Ministry is overly relying on the potential of technology

to manage the increased demand in the court system, without yet having a clear understanding of how the rapid expansion of remote justice impacts on court users or justice outcomes.

**Recommendation:** *The Ministry should write to the Committee within one month to set out its plan, including clear projections and timeframes, to reduce the backlog in the court system, particularly in criminal courts where the backlog is most acute.*

4. **Despite previous warnings, the Ministry and HMCTS do not yet have a firm grip on the data they need to understand how effective the court reform programme is or its impact on users.** Despite past delays, the Ministry says that the court reform programme was on track to deliver to its revised timescale. The pandemic accelerated plans to introduce more video hearings, and it says that delays to other areas of the reform programme are within planned contingencies. The Ministry recognises that collecting the right data consistently is key to understanding whether its reforms are working and how they are impacting users in the justice system. It has plans to publish the data it has collected on the impact of remote hearings, but we are disappointed that it does not yet have a better handle on what data it needs to assess the success of the court reform programme. This is particularly worrying given our past recommendations and those published in the 2019 Digital Justice Report the Ministry itself commissioned. The Ministry accepted all the recommendations, but it appears not to have made any tangible progress.

**Recommendation:** *In its Treasury Minute response, the Ministry should explain how it is managing the impact of the pandemic on the court reform programme, including its plans to respond to the recommendations set out in the 2019 Digital Justice report.*

5. **We remain concerned that the maintenance backlog poses a real threat to achieving a safe and secure prison estate able to accommodate future prison populations.** The latest spending review settlement included a welcome boost of £4 billion in capital spending to support building new prisons, but only £315 million set aside for maintaining the prison estate. With a maintenance backlog valued in November 2019 at nearly £1 billion, this is significantly below what is required to maintain decent, safe prison places. The Ministry's one-year settlement for revenue funding does not support the long-term planning that is required, and that we have repeatedly called for, to support the effective management of the prison estate. As we have seen in other sectors, there is a risk that without enough money to address resource pressures, the newly announced capital funding could end up being redirected to plug holes in the budget. The Ministry and HMPPS are confident that enough prison places are planned to meet anticipated demand, but there remains significant uncertainty in the justice system. For example, how new police officers are deployed could have significant implications for the demand for prison places.

**Recommendation:** *As part of setting out a long-term strategy for managing the prison estate, the Ministry should explain how it will:*

- *work with others in the system, including the Home Office to refine its understanding of demand for prison places; and*



- *reduce the maintenance backlog in the existing prison estate*
6. **Despite the efforts of staff during the pandemic, there are clear signs of strain on people working across courts and tribunals, prisons and probation services.** We remain concerned about the unprecedented pressures facing frontline staff at this time. HMPPS says that probation officer caseloads are high but manageable, and that it is seeking to address high and unbalanced caseloads for probation officers as part of the unification of probation services in June 2021. HMPPS also says that managing prison staff absences during the pandemic has been a big challenge, though at the time of our evidence session, 10% of prison staff were absent, and more staff are returning to work. We welcome the news that HMPPS has pressed on with recruiting new prison officers, particularly given the expected increase in the number of prisoners as government recruits 20,000 new police officers.

***Recommendation: The Ministry, HMCTS and HMPPS should identify and agree with relevant professional bodies specific actions to support staff working across the system to manage the strain of pandemic recovery efforts, and how it will monitor and support staff through to the end of the pandemic.***

# 1 Recovering from the pandemic

1. We took evidence from the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) and its executive agencies, HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) and HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) on the challenges facing the justice system, including courts, prisons and probation services.

2. The pandemic has very substantially impacted on the operation of the justice system, and therefore on the lives of victims, witnesses, defendants, people in prison and those being supervised by the probation service. During the first national lockdown in March 2020, HMCTS closed all court rooms and suspended all jury trials. Since then, many courts have reopened, but national guidelines for social distancing mean they are unable to hold as many hearings as previously. This has meant significant delays to those waiting for access to justice. Managing the pandemic in prisons has led to restrictive regimes, and probation services have also been impacted, with large reductions in face-to-face supervision and the suspension of accredited programmes and unpaid work that some prisoners need to complete as part of their sentencing requirements.

3. Alongside the substantial challenge of supporting the justice system to recover from the impact of the pandemic, the Ministry and its agencies are managing a number of ambitious reform and change programmes. The Ministry received a 3.3% increase in funding in the 2020 spending review after years of deep cuts to its funding, which comes against a backdrop of increased demand across the whole system, pressure on frontline staff and inadequate data to support management and planning.

## Risks across the entire justice system

4. The Ministry and its agencies are currently managing 15 projects on the Government's Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP) – a list of government projects that are typically large scale, novel and delivered by multiple stakeholders. These include the court reform programme, currently in its final stages, the building of four new prisons, and the unification of probation services in June 2021. The Ministry's new accounting officer told us that these programmes represent a large amount of change across the system that she and other senior leaders at HMCTS and HMPPS must manage.<sup>1</sup>

5. The Ministry acknowledged that each of the change programmes carries a significant amount of risk. We welcome the Ministry's renewed focus on ensuring it has enough scrutiny of these programmes and ensuring it has the right capability. We note however that it was unable to set out its priorities for managing such complex change alongside recovering from the pandemic and meeting the expected increase in demand in courts, prisons and probation services as a result of government's plans for an extra 20,000 police officers and new sentencing reforms.<sup>2</sup>

6. The Ministry and its agencies welcomed the extra funding received in the 2020 Spending Review,<sup>3</sup> which included a multi-year commitment of £4 billion for new prison places and £119 million to support recovery from the pandemic.<sup>4</sup> However, they

1 Q2

2 Qq 46, 70, 71

3 Qq 33, 66

4 HM Government, *Spending Review 2020*, CP 330, November 2020, page 66, paras 6.30 – 6.31

recognised that this was against a backdrop of deep funding cuts over many years, and that they would have to demonstrate progress in order to secure further funding from HM Treasury in 2021.<sup>5</sup>

## The impact of the pandemic on prisons

7. The Ministry and HMPPS have a duty of care to those in prisons. We have reported in the past that improving the mental health of prisoners is a difficult and complex task, and that it is essential to reducing reoffending and ensuring that those who are released from prison can rebuild their lives in the community.<sup>6</sup> The need to manage the risks to prisoners and prison staff resulting from the pandemic has meant that temporary restrictive regimes have been in place for many months. This has meant prisoners spending longer times in cells, the stoppage of family visits, and suspension of education programmes and other purposeful activity. This has significantly exacerbated the existing mental health challenges that prisoners face.<sup>7</sup>

8. HMPPS' data shows that during 2020, there were 67 self-inflicted deaths in custody, and 58,879 self-harm incidents in the 12 months to September 2020. We heard from HMPPS that while these levels are high, they are showing signs of declining. The situation remains particularly alarming for female prisoners.<sup>8</sup> We welcomed HMPPS' work to set up a taskforce to address issues facing female prisoners directly, including one-to-one counselling and initiatives to maintain family contact. HMPPS recognised that continuing to learn lessons from how it has managed the impact of the pandemic on prisoners' wellbeing is critical to its long-term work to prioritise and support prisoner mental health. Its commitment to draw on the expertise of others, including the Samaritans and CLINKS, is encouraging.<sup>9</sup> It has also committed to bettering its understanding of the number of prison staff attending training specifically focused on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of prisoners.<sup>10</sup>

## A challenging route to pandemic recovery in the court system

9. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the court system, exacerbating an already growing backlog in cases, particularly in the criminal courts. Stakeholders are concerned that it could take years to clear the backlog that has now accumulated. The effects on the lives of defendants, witnesses and victims are acute; we heard from a vulnerable constituent how waiting four years to access justice had severely impacted their wellbeing and recovery. The Ministry committed to shorten these waiting times and told us that it was putting £40 million in funding towards supporting victims, including providing independent advisers in the cases of sexual abuse and domestic violence. It recognised that more needs to be done to ensure the existence of these services is clearly communicated to victims.<sup>11</sup>

5 Qq 68, 69

6 Committee of Public Accounts, *Mental health in prisons*, Eighth Report of Session 2017–19, HC 400, 13 December 2017

7 HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, *Aggregate report on Short scrutiny visits 21 April – & July 2020*, July 2020

8 Letter from HM Prison and Probation Service, 9 February 2021

9 Qq 41–45

10 Letter from HM Prison and Probation Service, 9 February 2021, page 6

11 Qq 6, 31, 32

10. Government has also committed additional funding to support the court system to reduce the backlogs, including by making court rooms safe through the installation of plexiglass and introducing 40 Nightingale courts, with plans to increase this by a further 20 courts. It has also brought back into service some court rooms it closed through its court reform programme. The Ministry told us this increase in capacity was beginning to show some results, particularly in magistrates' courts, but the overall situation remained very challenging.<sup>12</sup> Despite having 290 rooms that can be used for jury trials, the Ministry told us that trials involving more than one defendant ("multi-hander trials") are proving particularly difficult to accommodate, but that work was in progress to address these challenges. It also committed to maximising the number of sitting days for judges this financial year. Despite us pressing the Ministry for clarity, it was unable to tell us what level of backlog it was planning for. The Ministry could say at least that it aims to reduce the backlog to lower than pre-pandemic levels, but those levels were already unacceptably high.<sup>13</sup>

11. The Ministry appears to place significant focus on the ability of technology to manage the increased demand on the court system, through remote hearings and other technology-based initiatives it says will drive up productivity. It told us that user feedback for video hearings in probate and the family court have been very positive. But these technologies could be more difficult to implement in other parts of the court system and may yet take up to 2022 to roll out completely. The Ministry and HMCTS acknowledged that more work still needs to be done to fully understand the impact remote hearings have on user satisfaction and justice outcomes.<sup>14</sup>

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12 Q 5

13 Qq 6, 7, 2–25

14 Qq 5, 8, 18–20

## 2 Systemic challenges across the justice system

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### Delivering court reform

12. We have previously reported on HMCTS's £1.2 billion programme to modernise courts, a very ambitious programme aiming to change how people access justice using more technology, closing courts and centralising customer service. We were concerned that HMCTS was at risk of falling behind schedule despite extending its timetable from four to six years, and that the pace of reform and pressure to make savings was limiting HMCTS's ability to evaluate the impact on users and justice outcomes, particularly for vulnerable users.<sup>15</sup> The Ministry and HMCTS told us that despite the pandemic, the programme is in its final stages and will not require a further extension to its timetable. They told us that some parts of the programme, including video hearings, were accelerated during the pandemic and that about 20,000 video hearings were now taking place each week. The Ministry and HMCTS told us they were confident that the parts of the programme that are behind schedule are within the contingencies they had planned for.<sup>16</sup> They were also confident that, with regards to the reunification of probation services, that private sector suppliers will maintain their services until the handover in June 2021, but that they had contingency plans in place should a supplier fail before that time.<sup>17</sup>

13. The Ministry's new accounting officer told us of her commitment to collect good quality, consistent data to support the reform programme, including data on user satisfaction and justice outcomes. While we welcome this renewed commitment, we are disappointed that the Ministry has yet to make any significant progress on implementing the recommendations of the Digital Justice report it commissioned in 2019.<sup>18</sup> Despite the court reform programme entering its final stages, the Ministry and HMCTS have also failed to publish the promised evaluation framework that will set out how the Ministry will robustly assess the impact of its reform programmes.<sup>19</sup>

### Managing prison capacity

14. The 2020 spending review included £4 billion in capital funding to support the provision of 18,000 new prison places over four years. But beyond this isolated multi-year commitment, the one-year spending review settlement makes it difficult for the Ministry and its agencies to plan for the long term. The Ministry and HMPPS were confident that the planned prison places and temporary accommodation would be enough to meet the expected increase in the prison population to 96,000 prisoners by 2026 and that they will receive enough revenue funding to service this new capacity. They recognised that uncertainty remains in the system that could impact demand projections, including the effects of decisions of how the 20,000 new police officers are deployed.<sup>20</sup>

15 Committee of Public Accounts, *Transforming courts and tribunals, Fifty-sixth Report of Session 2017–19*, HC 976, 20 July 2018

16 Qq 14–17

17 Qq 51–53

18 The Legal Education Foundation, *Digital Justice: HMCTS data strategy and delivering access to justice*, October 2019

19 Qq 10–14

20 Qq 46, 58, 59, 60

15. We have previously reported that the Ministry and HMPPS' management of the prison estate has resulted in a staggering backlog of maintenance work.<sup>21</sup> The backlog in maintenance is now estimated at £1 billion. The recent spending review included £315 million in 2020–21 to address this, significantly below what is required to maintain the prison estate. We raised the risk that, without enough funding to meet resource pressures, the Ministry and HMPPS could again end up redirecting capital funding to gaps in the budget. The Ministry told us it was confident that HM Treasury understood the value for money implications of insufficiently funding the maintenance backlog and that they were in discussions to secure future funding to meet the challenge.<sup>22</sup>

### Continued strain on frontline staff

16. We received evidence from the Bar Council raising concerns around the safety of court staff during the pandemic. A recent survey they conducted showed 84% of barristers who attended court in December 2020 had concerns about their safety and wellbeing.<sup>23</sup> We questioned the Ministry and its agencies on the impact of Covid-19 on staff sickness rates. The Ministry told us that the Covid-19 related absences rate in the court system was under 2% and that there had been few cases of transmission identified within the court system itself. HMPPS told us of the short-term challenges related to the number of staff that have been on Covid-19 related sick leave, and that 10% of its staff were currently absent. We welcomed HMPPS' work to support staff returning to work after periods of absence caused by the pandemic.<sup>24</sup>

17. The pandemic and increasing demand on the justice system will continue to put pressure on staff who are at the heart of ensuring prisons are well run, court backlogs are addressed, and probation services are effective. HMPPS told us of its ongoing work to continue to recruit staff after an initial hiatus at the start of the pandemic.<sup>25</sup> We heard that between October 2016 and September 2020, HMPPS recruited an extra 3,844 prison officers, that 1,464 officers had recently completed training and a further 522 officers are currently undergoing training.<sup>26</sup> The Ministry also told us it has progressed well with recruiting 1,600 additional court staff as part of its work to support the court system to recover from the pandemic.<sup>27</sup>

18. HMPPS assured us that as the programme to reunify probation services was on scheduled to complete in June 2021. It told us that it was consistently monitoring the caseloads of probation officers but that these remain high. HMPPS told us it had committed £155 million to improving IT systems to help probation officers do their jobs more efficiently and to recruit more staff.<sup>28</sup>

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21 Public Accounts Committee, *Improving the prison estate*, Fifteenth Report of Session 2019–21, HC 244, 11 September 2020

22 Qq 66–69

23 The Bar Council submission, para 10

24 Q 4, 35, 38–40

25 Qq 4, 35

26 Qq 35–37

27 Q 4

28 Qq 53–57

# Formal minutes

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**Thursday 18 March 2021**

Virtual meeting

Members present:

Meg Hillier, in the Chair

Mr Gareth Bacon

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown

Shaun Bailey

Peter Grant

Olivia Blake

James Wild

Draft Report (*Key challenges facing the Ministry of Justice*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 18 read and agreed to.

Summary agreed to.

Introduction agreed to.

Conclusions and recommendations agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Fifty-second of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

*Ordered*, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

[Adjourned till Monday 22 March at 1.45pm]

## Witnesses

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The following witnesses gave evidence. Transcripts can be viewed on the [inquiry publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

### Thursday 11 February 2021

**Antonia Romeo**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice; **James McEwen**, Interim Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Justice; **Jo Farrar**, CEO, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service; **Kevin Sadler**, Interim Chief Executive, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service

[Q1-71](#)

## Published written evidence

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The following written evidence was received and can be viewed on the [inquiry publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

MoJ numbers are generated by the evidence processing system and so may not be complete.

- 1 Iles, Mr Colin (Retired Justices Clerk, Formerly – Kent Magistrates Courts Committee) ([MoJ0001](#))
- 2 The Bar Council ([MoJ0005](#))



# List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

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All publications from the Committee are available on the [publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

## Session 2019–21

Number	Title	Reference
1st	Support for children with special educational needs and disabilities	HC 85
2nd	Defence Nuclear Infrastructure	HC 86
3rd	High Speed 2: Spring 2020 Update	HC 84
4th	EU Exit: Get ready for Brexit Campaign	HC 131
5th	University technical colleges	HC 87
6th	Excess votes 2018–19	HC 243
7th	Gambling regulation: problem gambling and protecting vulnerable people	HC 134
8th	NHS capital expenditure and financial management	HC 344
9th	Water supply and demand management	HC 378
10th	Defence capability and the Equipment Plan	HC 247
11th	Local authority investment in commercial property	HC 312
12th	Management of tax reliefs	HC 379
13th	Whole of Government Response to COVID-19	HC 404
14th	Readying the NHS and social care for the COVID-19 peak	HC 405
15th	Improving the prison estate	HC 244
16th	Progress in remediating dangerous cladding	HC 406
17th	Immigration enforcement	HC 407
18th	NHS nursing workforce	HC 408
19th	Restoration and renewal of the Palace of Westminster	HC 549
20th	Tackling the tax gap	HC 650
21st	Government support for UK exporters	HC 679
22nd	Digital transformation in the NHS	HC 680
23rd	Delivering carrier strike	HC 684
24th	Selecting towns for the Towns Fund	HC 651
25th	Asylum accommodation and support transformation programme	HC 683
26th	Department of Work and Pensions Accounts 2019–20	HC 681
27th	Covid-19: Supply of ventilators	HC 685

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
28th	The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's management of the Magnox contract	HC 653
29th	Whitehall preparations for EU Exit	HC 682
30th	The production and distribution of cash	HC 654
31st	Starter Homes	HC 88
32nd	Specialist Skills in the civil service	HC 686
33rd	Covid-19: Bounce Back Loan Scheme	HC 687
34th	Covid-19: Support for jobs	HC 920
35th	Improving Broadband	HC 688
36th	HMRC performance 2019–20	HC 690
37th	Whole of Government Accounts 2018–19	HC 655
38th	Managing colleges' financial sustainability	HC 692
39th	Lessons from major projects and programmes	HC 694
40th	Achieving government's long-term environmental goals	HC 927
41st	COVID 19: the free school meals voucher scheme	HC 689
42nd	COVID-19: Government procurement and supply of Personal Protective Equipment	HC 928
43rd	COVID-19: Planning for a vaccine Part 1	HC 930
44th	Excess Votes 2019–20	HC 1205
45th	Managing flood risk	HC 931
46th	Achieving Net Zero	HC 935
47th	COVID-19: Test, track and trace (part 1)	HC 932
48th	Digital Services at the Border	HC 936
49th	COVID-19: housing people sleeping rough	HC 934
50th	Defence Equipment Plan 2020–2030	HC 693
51st	Managing the expiry of PFI contracts	HC 1114