



Lord Agnew Kt
Minister of State
HM Treasury and Cabinet Office
1 Horse Guards Road London SW1A 2HQ

Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

22 October 2021

Dear Chair,

Government Land Sales – Transparency Report

As part of SR15 settlements, a property disposals programme was set up across government departments with a target to raise £5bn in capital receipts by March 2020 and release land for housing. Cabinet Office was responsible for the capital receipts target.

In reviewing the housing programme in 2015, the Public Accounts Committee recommended increased transparency of land disposals. The government accepted the recommendation and this resulted in the development of an annual Transparency Report that was first published in 2018, with Cabinet Office reporting departments' overall progress against the capital receipts target.

The programme to achieve the capital receipts target concluded in March 2020 and the final Transparency Report was published in December 2020. This showed that government exceeded the target, achieving £5.2bn. Following the closure of the disposals programme, we do not plan further publication of the Land and Property Disposals Report.

Increasing efficiency, including by reducing the size of the estate, is an ongoing objective for government. Changes to the size and operating cost of the central government estate will continue to be reported through the annual State of the Estate report that is laid before Parliament. Following the Spending Review, we plan to update our Government Estate Strategy to reflect our vision and objectives for the government estate, which I expect will continue to focus on disposal of government land and property and reducing the size of the estate, albeit with more focus on divesting of property with high operating costs and maintenance liabilities than capital receipts.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Agnew', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Lord Agnew Kt