



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18

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Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18

(For the year ended 31 March 2018)

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
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Foreword from the Secretary of State

I am delighted to have been appointed as Secretary of State and to be leading some of the Government's biggest domestic priorities including housing, local growth, integrated communities and local government.

These are also huge priorities for people across this country because they are, quite simply, about creating great places to live, work and build a better life.

We have a large housing agenda, as reflected by the Department's change of name and the extra minister we gained this year.

Thanks to my predecessor and the important reforms he championed, we have made some major advances:

- The biggest increase in housing supply in England - over 217,000 new homes - for almost a decade.
- Hundreds of thousands of households helped on to the housing ladder, thanks to Help to Buy and the cut in stamp duty at Autumn Budget.
- A crackdown on rogue landlords and abuse of leaseholders and, with the recent introduction of the Tenant Fees bill, measures to make renting fairer.

But there is clearly more to do to build the homes we need so that families and those starting out in life in particular, have a home to call their own and greater security.

I am also determined to see us deliver for those in the dire situation of being homeless or sleeping rough and look forward to building on the significant work the Government is doing in this area, including the full implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act, which came into effect in April 2018.

So this Department's work has never been more important - especially as we mark a year since the unimaginable tragedy at Grenfell Tower. I met some of the bereaved and survivors as soon as I could after I was appointed and, like everyone else, I have been deeply moved by the accounts given at the start of the Public Inquiry by those who lost loved ones. This has strengthened my resolve to ensure that we continue to support those affected and ensure that nothing like this can ever happen again.

To that end, I recently welcomed Dame Judith Hackitt's final, comprehensive report following her independent review of building regulations and fire safety. The significant changes that will flow from this and our continued work on building safety are important steps towards the creation of a system that truly puts people's safety first and restores public confidence. This will form a significant part of our work in the coming months alongside a Green Paper on Social Housing, which will look at how well people living in places like Grenfell Tower are being served.

So a busy 2018-19 lies ahead, with important work also in the pipeline on local government finance, implementing our major planning reform package and local area preparations for Brexit. In addition, we will be taking forward our new integration strategy.

I know just how essential this work - to spread opportunity and break down barriers - is to building a Britain that is fit for the future. I am excited to be working on this and all parts of a very positive agenda that promises to make a real difference to the lives of millions of people now and for years to come.

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government



Foreword from the Permanent Secretary

The past year has been a very significant one for the Department. The terrible fire at Grenfell Tower in June 2017 threw many of our policies and responsibilities into sharp relief, and required a great deal of work over many months to lead the Government response. We mobilised new teams quickly to support the local effort in Kensington and Chelsea, and to establish a programme to address concerns of building safety in similar high-rise residential buildings across the country.



We have also seen a big increase in our work on housing, with greater Government ambition on housing supply, homelessness and rough sleeping and social housing, together with other reforms to improve the experience of those who buy and rent homes. This was reflected in our change of name in January, bringing Housing back into the Department's title for the first time since the 1960s.

In responding to these new challenges, our staff have shown great professionalism and commitment to public service. We have also recruited new people throughout the year, from inside and outside the civil service. I am grateful for the support and collaboration we have received from other Government Departments and external organisations, including the Local Government Association.

Our staff survey results in autumn 2017 showed another welcome increase. Our 64% engagement score is now amongst the best in the civil service, compared to bottom quartile scores only a few years ago. We have made significant improvements in leadership and management, and are particularly pleased with our progress on diversity and inclusion. This remains a priority for me and the wider MHCLG senior team. In the coming year we are prioritising action to improve our delivery capability on housing, both in the Department and across the wider MHCLG group; to fill vacancies quickly and effectively; and to improve our IT and use of buildings.

This report documents the progress we have made in 2017-18 in delivering the Government's priorities, and putting in place the foundations we need for future years.

Melanie Dawes CB
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Lead Non-Executive Director's Report

2017-18 was an important year for the Department as housing was thrust to the top of the Government's agenda, with the target to build 300,000 new homes per annum and the need to respond quickly and effectively to the issues that have arisen from the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

The Board and Non-Executive Directors have supported this work through advising on the effectiveness of these plans, monitoring their delivery performance (operational and financial) and identifying areas of risk.

To support this work, I was delighted to bring the NED team up to full strength with the appointment of Pam Chesters and Daniel Morley as Non-Executive Directors. Pam brings a range of experience to bear in the Department, which varies from senior private sector executive roles at BP and Duckhams Oils, to the political sphere (10 years as an Opposition Councillor in Camden) and not-for-profit sector (Pam is currently the Chair of Anchor Trust). Daniel has held a number of senior roles in the investment banking sector, and is currently employed at Deutsche Bank.



Board meetings and sub-committees

There has been significant flux in Board membership over the course of this year due to the General Election in June, the appointment of two new Non-Executive Directors in September and January's re-shuffle. Perhaps inevitably, this has not enabled the continuity I would like to have seen. However, the Board has retained delivery performance as its primary focus and we have continued to enhance the information provided to the Board following last year's Board Effectiveness Evaluation. The work of the Non-Ministerial Board has increased in importance as the Department has undertaken a major business planning exercise: this is the key forum for engaging the Non-Executive cadre collectively on such corporate issues. In total, the Board has met three times this year; the Non-Ministerial Board met four times.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee met five times this year, and has continued to grow in its effectiveness to provide robust challenge and support to the Finance Director and Permanent Secretary (as Accounting Officer). I am also pleased to say that the Department has now recruited a Chief Financial Officer to provide strengthened strategic leadership on its financial and commercial activities.

Wider involvement of Non-Executive Directors

As well as providing valuable input to the Department's formal governance structures, the Non-Executive Directors have also contributed to a variety of specific projects. For example, Mary Ney led a review of the governance and transparency arrangements in Local Enterprise Partnerships; Pam Chesters is now acting in an advice and support capacity for the Department's work on the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry; Daniel Morley is advising on aspects of local authority commercialisation following the recent consultation on amending the prudential system of capital spending; and I have engaged closely as the Department's Single Departmental Plan has been developed. Such work allows the Non-Executives both to understand more of the Department's responsibilities and also use their skills and experience to strengthen key projects. Looking forward, one of my key aims is to continue to challenge the Department to prioritise effectively and so ensure we are focusing resources on delivering our key programmes such as the 300,000 new homes target, thereby ensuring maximum benefit to the public.

Nick Markham
Lead Non-Executive Director

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About MHCLG

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), previously known as the Department for Communities and Local Government, is responsible for Government policy relating to housing, planning and building, local growth, local government, integration and community cohesion. Its job is to create great places to live and work right across the country.

In the 2017-18 financial year, the Department has structured its work around six Strategic Objectives, in line with the Single Departmental Plan published in December 2017:

- Fix the broken housing market
- Support effective local government
- Ensure an effective response to the Grenfell Tower fire
- Build integrated communities
- Grow local economies
- Support a smooth exit from the European Union

A high-level version of the Department's Single Departmental Plan for 2017-18 was published online with our priorities, key objectives underpinning them and the metrics by which they are measured. An updated Single Department Plan for 2018-19 was published in May, and the plan sets out our objectives, and how we will achieve them, in the 2018-19 financial year.

This Annual Report is made up of the Performance Report, the Accountability Report and Financial Statements. These set out, respectively: the progress we have made in 2017-18 to deliver our Strategic Objectives; how the Department is structured and the key risks and challenges it faces going forward; and the detailed financial accounts.

During 2017-18, the Departmental Group consisted of the core Department, one Executive Agency and ten other arm's-length bodies (ALBs). Note 21 of the Accounts provides a full list of public bodies sponsored by the Department and identifies those that are consolidated into the accounts of the Departmental Group ('the Group'). The Accountability Report on page 25 provides an introduction to Ministers' areas of responsibility, the Department's Non-Executive Directors and the Executive Team.

Performance Reporting



In the 2017-18 financial year, the Department has structured its work around six Strategic Objectives, in line with the Single Departmental Plan published in December 2017:

- **Fix the broken housing market** (page 6)
- **Support effective Local Government** (page 9)
- **Ensure an effective response to the Grenfell Tower fire** (page 10)
- **Build integrated communities** (page 11)
- **Grow local economies** (page 12)
- **Support a smooth exit from the European Union** (page 13)

All our objectives are inextricably linked: thriving communities depend on effective housing markets, strong local economies, high quality local public services and resilient and professional local government.

It is now one year since the Grenfell Tower tragedy. 71 people died in the fire. A 72nd resident from the tower passed away earlier this year. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, the Department immediately prioritised its response to the incident over all other activity, focusing on ensuring support for those affected and bereaved, ensuring those who had lost their homes were rehoused, appointing the Independent Grenfell Taskforce to provide support and challenge to the Council, and establishing a programme and team to identify other buildings at risk and start remediation efforts. Responding to the Grenfell Tower tragedy remains a Departmental priority, and our on-going work includes ensuring all households are rehoused and support is provided to those affected, continuing to support and challenge the Council through the Taskforce, supporting the public inquiry, implementing recommendations from the Hackitt Review, and continuing the Building Safety Programme.

Fix the Broken Housing Market

The Government is committed to fixing the broken housing market, and doing so requires action on many fronts. The Department is tackling failings at every level of the housing sector. We are streamlining the planning process. We are changing the rules so authorities facing the greatest affordability pressures can access the finance they need to build more council homes for local people. The Department will also make available at least £44 billion of capital funding, loans and guarantees over the period to 2022-23. Home building continues to increase¹ and, in 2016-17, net additions to housing stock grew to 217,350, which is the highest since 2007-08 (189,650 in 2015-16 and 170,690 in 2014-15).

The Department's housing supply objective is to create, fund and drive a housing market which will deliver a million homes by the end of 2020, half a million more by the end of 2022, and 300,000 net additional homes a year by the mid-2020s.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/659529/Housing_Supply_England_2016-17.pdf

The Department is reforming the planning system to ensure that the right homes are built in the right places:

- In the year to end December 2017, planning permission was granted for 338,000 new homes, up 8% on the previous year, and higher than pre-recession levels.
- In March, the Prime Minister launched the draft revised **National Planning Policy Framework**, taking forward 65 measures announced in the Housing White Paper.
- Eight new planning reforms were announced at Autumn Budget 2017 including further reforms on density and small sites; strengthening the Housing Delivery Test; and making it easier to convert underutilised retail and employment land.
- At Autumn Budget 2017, the Department committed to support five new garden towns as part of the **Garden Cities, Towns and Villages** programme. This is in addition to the 24 garden communities we are already supporting, which have the potential to deliver up to 220,000 homes. Ebbsfleet Development Corporation will deliver 15,000 new homes at Ebbsfleet Garden City.
- The Government has committed to monitoring house-building on land sold during both the 2011-15 and 2015-20 Public Land for Housing programmes. In April 2017, following a competitive tender process, Ordnance Survey was awarded the contract, working in partnership with GeoPlace.
- The Department is supporting local authorities to release land for housing through the £45 million Land Release Fund which was launched in February 2018. 79 projects will receive funding to support building up to 7,280 homes on council owned land. This will support local authorities to achieve the ambition to release enough land for 160,000 homes by the end of March 2020.

The Department is making sure homes are built faster:

- Autumn Budget 2017 announced a review to investigate the gap between the number of planning permissions granted and the number of homes built in areas of high demand. The **Build Out Review** is now underway led by Sir Oliver Letwin. An interim report was published in March. In the report, Sir Oliver explained that the absorption rate - the rate at which newly constructed homes can be sold into the local market - appears to be the fundamental driver of the rate at which houses are built.
- Following an announcement at Autumn Budget, the Homes and Communities Agency was re-launched as **Homes England** in January 2018, and brings together land, money, expertise, planning and compulsory purchase powers to support the Government's ambition to deliver 300,000 homes a year by the mid 2020s.
- In February, the Department announced £866 million for 133 council-led **Housing Infrastructure Fund** projects to fund key local infrastructure, including new roads, cycle paths, flood defences and land remediation work - preparing the way for new homes.
- The Government continues to support **Modern Methods of Construction**, and at Autumn Budget 2017 announced the £170 million **Transforming Construction Fund** to support innovation.
- A cross-Government action plan on **construction skills** is in place, with the aim of ensuring that we have a UK-based workforce of the right size and with the right skills to deliver our long-term home building ambitions, alongside infrastructure and other construction needs. A £34 million house-building skills fund was announced at Autumn Budget 2017. Administered by the Department for Education with MHCLG input, it will support and incentivise innovative and employer-led approaches to construction training.

The Department is intervening to diversify the housing market, getting SMEs, custom builders, housing associations, institutional investors, and local authorities to build more homes:

- The **Home Building Fund** is on track to deliver 25,500 homes by 2020-21, and unlock a pipeline of up to 200,000 homes. Between April 2017 and March 2018 the fund delivered 8,342 starts and unlocked 29,216 homes. The funding is providing development finance to small builders, custom builders, and innovators to deliver homes. The funding is also supporting remediation of brownfield sites and supporting the delivery of essential infrastructure for housing. 63% of all contracted deals for the fund have been from SMEs.
- The Conservative Party Conference confirmed plans for a new generation of council and housing association homes. An additional £2 billion for the **Affordable Homes Programme** was announced, increasing public funding of the Programme to just over £9 billion. Previously, the Government's affordable housing policy primarily supported 'affordable rent' – rent of up to 80% of local market level – and low-cost home ownership. This announcement extended support for 'social rent', which is lower than 'affordable rent', and set according to national guidelines. In 2016-17, an additional 41,530 affordable homes were delivered in England (32,630 in 2015-16 and 66,700 in 2014-15).
- The Autumn Budget announced that the Department would act to enable greater **Local Authority Borrowing** through raising the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap by £1 billion in areas of high affordability pressures from 2019-20, through a competitive bidding programme.
- The **Affordable Housing Guarantee Scheme** helped to deliver more affordable housing by making debt cheaper for affordable housing providers. Between April 2017 and March 2018 the Department guaranteed £950 million of debt to support the delivery of 2,294 homes. This increases the total debt guaranteed and drawn under the scheme to £3.2 billion, supporting the delivery of 34,231 homes.
- The **Private Rented Sector Housing Guarantee Scheme** helped to deliver more housing by enabling purpose-built privately rented housing to access the debt capital markets. Between April 2017 and March 2018, the Department guaranteed just under £228 million of debt to support the delivery of 1,262 homes. Total approvals at the end of March 2018 amounted to over £1.4 billion, supporting the delivery of 7,177 homes. The Department is continuing to support self and custom builders through implementation of the 'Right to Build' legislation. Data published by the National Custom and Self Build Association estimates that there are now 33,000 people on Right to Build registers.

The Department is working to improve housing supply, but these changes will inevitably take time to have an effect. Therefore the Department is taking steps to help people now. We are working to ensure that, whether in the private or social sector, renting your home is affordable, safe and fair. This includes helping more people to buy a home; improving the quality of rented housing; working to prevent homelessness; and seeking to protect the most vulnerable.

The Department is working to improve people's access to and experience of the housing market:

- The Department is committed to bringing forward a **green paper on the future of social housing**. Engaging with 1,000 tenants so far, it has run an online survey for tenants and held roundtables with local authorities, housing associations, charities and academics.
- In November 2017, the draft **Tenant Fees Bill** was published proposing to ban letting fees paid by tenants. It proposes capping security deposits at six weeks' rent to ease the financial burden tenants can face at the start of a new tenancy, while ensuring a reasonable level of security for landlords.
- In October 2017, the Department published a call for evidence on regulating managing agents, and in December published a response to the consultation on **leasehold** houses and ground rents. The Department is also working with the Law Commission which has embarked on a programme of leasehold reform as part of their 13th Programme.
- In October 2017, the Department launched a call for evidence into making the **home buying and selling process** more efficient and less costly, and a Government response setting out an ambitious plan of action was published in March 2018.

- Over 38,000 homes² were bought under the **Help to Buy: Equity Loan** scheme between April and December 2017, which brings the total to over 158,000 homes since April 2013. Data for up to March 31st will be published in July-August 2018.
- Between April 2017 and December 2017, the **Right to Buy** scheme helped over 8,300 households³ to buy their home, bringing total sales since reinvigoration in April 2012 to more than 80,000.⁴

The Department is committed to helping vulnerable people:

- At Autumn Budget 2017, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to reduce homelessness and to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminate it altogether by 2027.
- The Department has continued to implement the **Homelessness Prevention Programme**, providing a total of £50 million in funding to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping. This is made up of £20 million for 28 **Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers**; doubling the **Rough Sleepers Fund** to £20 million, which funds 48 Rough Sleeping projects; and £10 million for 8 **Social Impact Bonds**.
- MHCLG also invested £28 million in three **Housing First pilots** in the West Midlands, Manchester and Liverpool. In Autumn 2017, the total number of rough sleepers counted and estimated in England was 4,751 (4,134 in 2016 and 3,569 in 2015).
- The Homelessness Reduction Taskforce and advisory panel are driving forward the implementation of a cross-Government strategy through bringing together Departments with a role in reducing homelessness and rough sleeping.
- The Department has also been working towards the full implementation of the **Homelessness Reduction Act**, which came into effect in April 2018. The Act requires local housing authorities to help all eligible applicants - rather than just those with a 'priority need' - and intervene earlier to prevent people becoming homeless in the first place.

Support Effective Local Government

The Department is working with local authorities to help them operate more sustainably, so they continue to deliver and improve the services that are valued by the public. The Department is taking steps to achieve this by supporting local authorities to move on to sustainable operating models and transform local services.

The Department is working with local authorities to support better, efficient public services:

- The **Troubled Families Programme** has so far supported 289,809 families against a target of 400,000 by 2020, with 104,809 brought onto the programme in 2017-18. The programme has achieved significant progress with 92,245 families (48,245 more than a year ago) having met their agreed improvement goals against each of their headline problems. In 13,907 of these families where progress has been achieved, one or more adults have succeeded in moving into continuous employment, an increase of 4,807 since last year. We have scaled up whole family working from a very low base - between January 2006 and March 2010 only 2,000 families had received whole family support in England.⁵
- The Department is piloting a new funding model ("Earned Autonomy") to provide local authorities with upfront payments to accelerate service reform, building on the existing Payments by Results system.
- The Government announced an additional £150 million to fund adult social care through the **Adult Social Care Support Grant** for 2018-19. We expect that councils will use it to build on their progress so far in supporting sustainable local care markets.⁶ The Department is also working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care, who are leading preparations for a green paper on care and support for older people.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/help-to-buy-equity-loan-scheme-and-help-to-buy-newbuy-statistics-april-2013-to-31-december-2017>

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/666553/Live_Table_691.xlsx

⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661597/LT_671.xlsx

⁵ Department for Education, 'Monitoring and Evaluation of Family Interventions' (information on families supported to March 2010) p. 5 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181676/DFE-RR044.pdf

⁶ This is in addition to the extra £2 billion for **adult social care** that was announced at the Spring Budget 2017.



The Department is also working to improve local government sustainability:

- The Department secured a **4 year financial settlement for local authorities**, which includes just over £44 billion of core spending power in 2018-19. This is the third year of the four-year offer which was accepted by 97% of local authorities in return for publishing efficiency plans. This settlement sees a real terms increase in available resources to local government over the next two years. Under this settlement offer, local authorities in England will receive more than £200 billion for local services over the five-year period 2015-2020.
- A **fair funding review** of relative needs and resources is considering a range of options for developing a more up-to-date and transparent funding formula for local authorities. A 12-week consultation on relative needs closed in March 2018 and there will be further sector engagement over the course of the year ahead.
- The Government announced in December 2017 the aim of increasing the level of **business rates retained by local government** from the current 50% to at least 75% in 2020-21. This will be delivered through the devolution of certain grants to local government, therefore giving local authorities more control over the money they raise.
- We have updated the statutory codes that govern **capital investment and financing** to ensure that local authorities take investment decisions after careful consideration of risk and proportionality, including the potential benefits, and to improve transparency.
- Development of the eight asset pools for **local government pension scheme investments** is well advanced. Two pools are already operational and the rest are expected to follow in the course of 2018. The pools' estimated recurring annual savings of at least £42 million have already been secured through reduced investment and asset servicing costs, and expect to revise their savings forecasts upwards from their original estimate (£200 million per annum by 2033 or £1-2 billion over the period).
- MHCLG has a framework in place to ensure **the accountability of the local government sector**, and an effective risk-based assessment process to provide an overview of local authorities facing financial and governance challenges. We work closely with the Local Government Association, and provided £21 million in 2017-18 to facilitate a comprehensive sector-led programme of improvement support.
- Where local government has failed, or is at risk of failing, in its best value duty the Secretary of State has powers to inspect and, on the basis of the evidence, intervene in local authorities. In January 2018 the Secretary of State announced a best value inspection of **Northamptonshire County Council**. On 27 March, the Secretary of State reached a 'minded to' decision on the appointment of Commissioners.
- MHCLG had two existing **statutory Interventions**, in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and in Rotherham, and one existing **Independent Improvement Panel** working with Birmingham City Council. In all three, progress has been made. Commissioners have been removed from Tower Hamlets, Rotherham has been given a 'Good' rating for children's services in their most recent Ofsted inspection, and in Birmingham recent appointments to a new permanent senior leadership team should provide the foundations for faster progress.

Ensure an Effective Response to the Grenfell Tower Fire

The Government is committed to **ensuring those directly affected have the support that they require**, including working with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to meet commitments to provide permanent rehousing to households.

The Government is also committed to **ensuring that high-rise residential buildings are safe and that residents feel safe** wherever they live.

The Prime Minister announced on 15 June 2017 that there would be a public inquiry into the fire at Grenfell Tower. The inquiry was formally established on the 15 August 2017 and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry was formally opened on the 14 September 2017.



The Government announced an independent forward-looking review of building regulations and fire safety on 28 July 2017. This review was commissioned by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Home Secretary to make recommendations for a sufficiently robust regulatory system for the future and to provide further assurance to residents that the buildings they live in are safe. The review's interim report was published in December and its final report was published in May 2018.

In 2017-18:

- By 18 June 2018, 135 households, who were residents of Grenfell Tower or Grenfell Walk, have moved out of emergency accommodation, 83 of which have been permanently rehoused.
- Through the appointment of the **independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce**, we have provided support and challenge to the Council on their recovery effort, including the publication of two Taskforce reports.
- Through the Ministerial Recovery Group (MRG), chaired by our Secretary of State, we have led the cross-Government response. The MRG has met 23 times.
- The Department has fully co-operated with the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and during the year completed all disclosure requests by the deadlines agreed with the Inquiry.
- Through its **Building Safety Programme**, the Department has provided testing regimes to enable the identification of high rise residential buildings that have potentially unsafe cladding of the type understood to have been present on Grenfell Tower and has provided support and advice on interim measures building owners should take to make buildings safe and to complete remediation work. It is supported in this work by an Independent Expert Advisory Panel and an Industry Response Group and local fire and rescue services have been visiting all affected buildings to ensure that safety measures are put in place.
- The Department believes it has identified all residential buildings in the social sector (local authority and housing association-owned) over 18m with aluminium composite material cladding that does not meet the requirements set out in building regulations guidance, and through local authorities, has made good progress in identifying similar buildings in private ownership.
- The Prime Minister announced on 16 May 2018 that the Government will fully fund the removal and replacement of unsafe aluminium composite material cladding on residential social housing buildings over 18m owned by councils and housing associations, with costs estimated at £400 million. This will ensure that local authorities and housing associations can focus their efforts on making these cladding systems safe for the buildings they own without undermining their ability to do important maintenance and repair work, or build new affordable homes. Properly remediating buildings with aluminium composite material cladding is a complex process that takes time and the Department is committed to ensuring it is done properly. As of 22 May 2018, remediation work had started on 107 (67%) of the 159 affected social sector buildings and of these, work had been completed on ten buildings.

Build Integrated Communities

The Department is leading on delivering the Government's bold vision for building strong integrated communities where people - whatever their background - live, work, learn and socialise together, based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities. In 2017-18:

- We published an **Integrated Communities Strategy** as a green paper which invited views on the ambitious programme of actions we propose to take at local and national level to deliver change.
- Through the **Controlling Migration Fund (CMF)**, launched in November 2016, the Government has helped local areas and services to cope where pressures emerge due to recent migration. To the end of March 2018, we had approved bids worth £42 million for 87 local authority areas. Additionally just over £21 million, of which £9.5 million was from the CMF, has also been granted to a total of 135 local authorities to build capacity to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

- The **Race Disparity Audit**, which was commissioned last year by the Prime Minister and published in October 2017, uncovered a complex picture of the outcomes for people from different ethnic backgrounds - providing a call to action to do more to tackle inequalities.
- Plans to establish a **National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre** took an important step forward in October 2017, with the conclusion of an international competition to select a design team. Ten shortlisted designs were displayed to the public at locations around the UK, including an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the summer. The winning design, by Adjaye Associates, was selected by a jury including the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Mayor of London, the Chief Rabbi, experts from architecture, art and design, and both first and second generation Holocaust survivors. The design is now being developed further to enable a planning application to be made to Westminster City Council.
- In July 2017, to mark the one year anniversary of the **community based sponsorship scheme for resettled refugees**, £1 million of additional funding was awarded to provide training and support. 53 refugees were welcomed by 10 community groups, including charities, faith groups and churches.
- 11,469 **refugees who have fled Syria have been resettled** across 270 different local authorities between the start of the scheme in 2014 and the end of December 2017. The Government has worked with local authorities and secured over 20,000 pledges of places for refugees. As of March 2018, 723 refugees had also been resettled under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS).

Grow Local Economies

The Government is committed to enabling communities to strengthen local economies across the whole country, by bringing together local leadership, investment and innovation to build an economy that benefits everyone.

The Department is **supporting local leadership** to increase local accountability, boost productivity and drive economic growth:

- In May 2017, the Department supported six areas around England to increase their local democratic mandate, through **mayoral elections** for combined authorities in Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Greater Manchester, West of England, and the West Midlands. Sheffield City Region held its mayoral elections in May 2018. In addition, the Government has agreed a non-mayoral deal with Cornwall. Since then, the Government has transferred £384 million to combined authorities, including a commitment to a £12 million Mayoral Capacity Fund over two years.
- At Autumn Budget 2017, the Government announced a second **devolution deal** for the West Midlands - over £260 million for housing, construction skills and transport - and new commitments to support devolution in Greater Manchester, including £243 million for transport investment. It also agreed a devolution deal with North of Tyne, including £600 million of new investment to bolster the local economy.
- Eight cities in England have been granted extra spending powers by the Department for the **European Regional Development Fund**, through the establishment of a decision-making body in each city.
- The Department is supporting the Territorial Offices in their work with the **devolved administrations** to support local economic growth across the United Kingdom, with 6 established deals in place in 2017-18. In March 2017, the Government agreed a deal to jointly invest up to £241 million with the Welsh Government in the Swansea Bay City Region. In August 2017, a Heads of Terms agreement was signed with Edinburgh and South East Scotland for UK Government and Scottish Government to jointly invest up to £600 million in the region over the next 15 years. At Autumn Budget 2017, the Government committed to negotiating deals with North Wales, the Borderlands and Belfast, on which the Department is supporting the relevant Territorial Offices.
- As key local delivery partners, the Department has been working to support and clarify the role of **Local Enterprise Partnerships** (LEPs). In October 2017, the Department published Mary Ney's review of LEP governance and

transparency. In January 2018, it produced best practice guidance for LEPs in meeting the recommendations from the review, and is working with them to support implementation. In addition, in November 2017, the Department launched a Ministerial Review led by Ministers in MHCLG, BEIS and HM Treasury to review the roles and responsibilities of LEPs.

The Department is **implementing the Industrial Strategy and delivering the Government's local growth strategy** in collaboration with Local Enterprise Partnerships, local businesses, investors, universities and public sector partners:

- The Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth provides dedicated Ministerial support and oversight to help deliver the **Northern Powerhouse Strategy** (published in November 2016). The **Midlands Engine** has received support from the Secretary of State as Midlands Engine Ministerial Champion. On 22 September, the Midlands Engine Partnership published their Vision for Growth, a locally owned and developed vision for the Midlands Engine.
- Following the publication of the Government's Industrial Strategy White Paper in November 2017, the Department is working with three 'trailblazer' areas (Greater Manchester, the West Midlands and the Cambridge - Milton Keynes - Oxford Corridor) to develop **Local Industrial Strategies**.
- The Government has agreed a housing plan with Oxfordshire to support the **Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Corridor**. Working closely with the Department for Transport and other partners, MHCLG is developing plans to deliver crucial infrastructure, housing and a local industrial strategy to drive investment and growth in the Corridor.
- At Autumn Budget 2017, Sir John Armitt was announced as Chair of the **Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission**. The Commission has set out its priorities of supporting people to develop the right skills and providing high quality housing to capitalise on the vast economic potential of the Thames Estuary.
- In April 2017, the Department created 12 new **Enterprise Zones**, bringing the total number of Enterprise Zones to 48.

The Department is **delivering local investment** to boost productivity and drive local growth through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Local Growth Fund (LGF):

- £1,273 million **ERDF growth funding** had been confirmed for 506 projects by February 2018. This funding is allocated across the country, supporting a shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors and helping new and growing businesses to thrive.
- The Government provided **Local Growth** funding to Local Enterprise Partnerships to use in their areas, channelling £1.25 billion in 2017-18 to boost productivity and growth.
- The Department announced funding to run a fifth round of the **Coastal Communities Fund (CCF)**, promoting sustainable economic growth so that people are better able to respond to the changing economic needs and opportunities in their area. The Government has committed at least £40 million to support CCF Round 5 in England for projects taking place over 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Support a Smooth Exit from the European Union

- As the Government prepares to **leave the European Union**, the Department is engaging with local communities, providing reassurance about existing ERDF funding, and continuing to ensure that new projects are agreed and funding gets to local economies.
- The Department is leading a cross-Government programme to create a new **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)**, following our exit from the European Union. The UKSPF will replace current European funding for local areas, and will focus investment on reducing inequalities within and between communities across all four nations, increasing productivity to improve economic growth.
- The Department is leading a programme to understand the implications of exiting the EU on local government and housing delivery, including the impact on the adult social care and construction workforces.

Responding to challenges facing the Department

The Department has faced some substantial challenges this year, as well as achieving significant progress in many areas. Following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, the Department has mobilised a new building safety programme, identified residential buildings at risk and ensured interim safety measures are in place. However, the nature of testing and remediation works is a lengthy process and is likely to be ongoing until 2020.

Net additions to housing stock are continuing to grow, but not yet at the pace required to ease affordability pressures. The Department has announced a series of reforms, including a new National Planning Policy Framework, and secured significant new funding to drive the step change in delivery that is required. However, more needs to be done to build capacity and capability across the sector, so we can leverage this funding to drive a market that will deliver 300,000 homes a year. Housing supply has never before reached 300,000 in England, using the net additions measure of supply.

In March 2018, an error in the methodology used to calculate the sums due to local authorities participating in business rate retention pilots led to an overpayment of £36 million. As set out in the Governance Statement, this money was not reclaimed by the Department and a ministerial direction was issued in year. An independent review has been commissioned into the internal processes and procedures that underpin the Department's oversight of business rates and related systems.

Attracting and retaining the best capability is and will continue to be an important challenge, particularly in the context of a growing Department. It is, however, a challenge to which we are rising: in 2017-18 we attracted 586 new starters, compared to 268 the previous year; and turnover fell from 10.7% in 2016-17 to 9.8% in 2017-18.

Our People



Our goal is to have skilled, talented, trusted, diverse and high-performing people, who are proud to work for MHCLG and are supported by effective and inclusive leaders

Our objective is firmly to establish MHCLG as a great place to work, where our people are able to deliver key Government priorities. We continue to make progress as evidenced through our People Survey results from 2017. Our engagement level increased for the sixth year in succession and now stands at 64% and we are amongst the top performers across Government in seven of the nine engagement themes.

We recognise the need to sustain this improvement and adapt to meet new and evolving challenges, ensuring we have the capabilities to meet policy ambitions and our operational delivery responsibilities. We reviewed and updated our 2016 People Plan in July 2017 and a further refresh of our People Plan will be introduced in July 2018. Our key actions and achievements in the last 12 months include:

<p>The right people for the right roles at the right time</p>	<p>A new and transformed approach to recruitment resulting in reduced time to hire, supported by the introduction of new tools and technology to improve selection and a new recruitment hub which reduces the administrative burden on vacancy managers.</p>
<p>Core Curriculum and Professional Development</p>	<p>A Core Curriculum with an enhanced focus on digital, commercial, project delivery and line management capability. Over 337 development and training events delivered in 2017-18 with 6,210 attendees.</p>
<p>Always aspiring to be better</p>	<p>A more streamlined, less bureaucratic performance management system with an emphasis on development, supported by performance coaching training for line managers.</p>
<p>Inclusion and wellbeing</p>	<p>We updated our strategy and action plan for inclusion and diversity in 2017. We have over 20 trained Fair Treatment Ambassadors and continue to invest in this key issue. We launched a comprehensive wellbeing plan in 2017 and have over 50 Mental Health Ambassadors.</p>
<p>Making the most of what MHCLG offers</p>	<p>We held our annual Departmental People Awards in 2017. Our approach to developing diverse talent has been assessed as excellent by the Cabinet Office. We introduced a new HR Self Service system giving an improved user experience and better management information.</p>

Our Ways of Working



Our goal is to maximise our resources and deliver efficiencies whilst making real improvements to the way we work

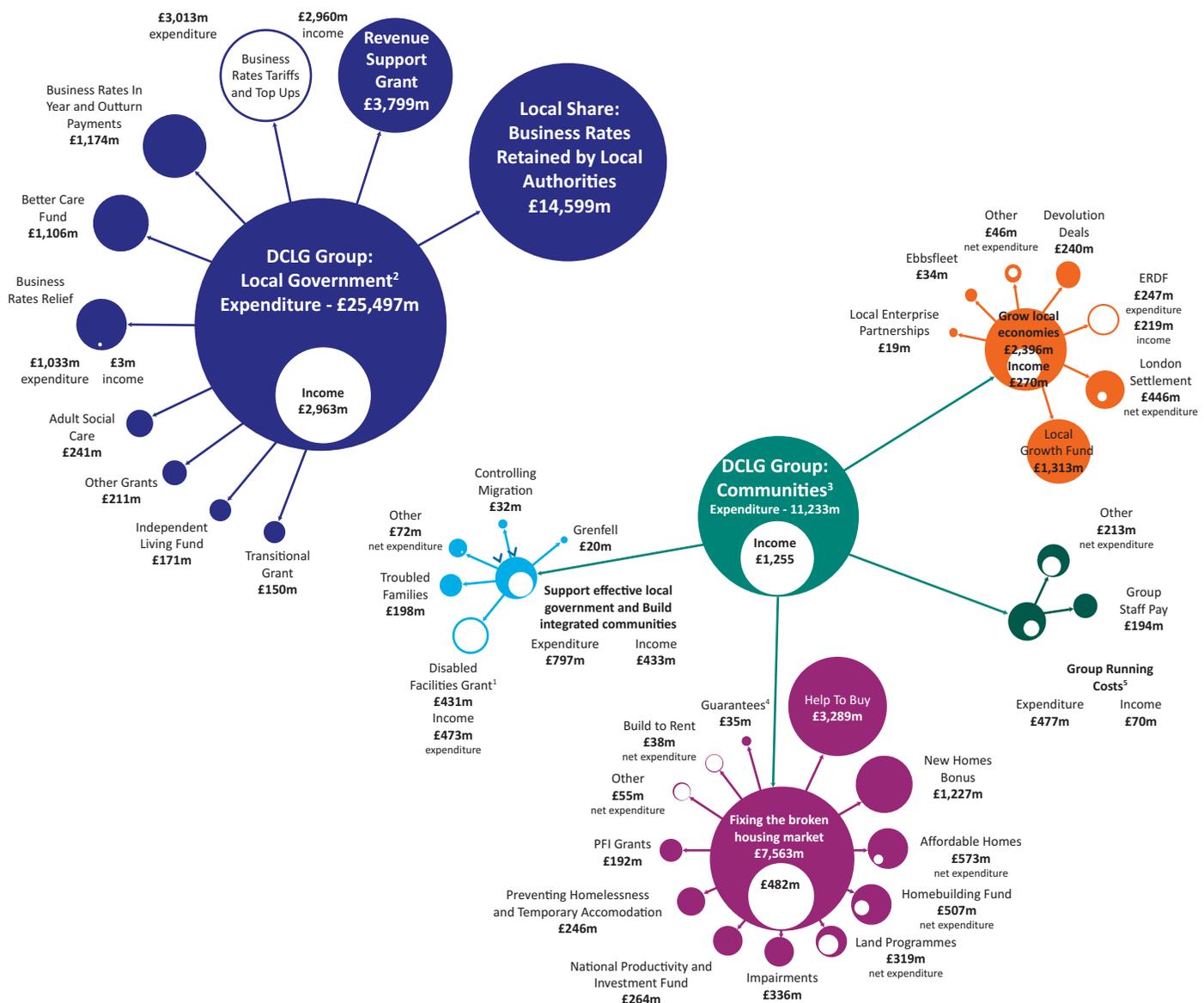
We are committed to improve the way we work while delivering savings. MHCLG and our ALBs have already achieved 50% of the savings in our administration budget required of us over the Spending Review period. Alongside this, we have started a refreshed business planning exercise to review how the Department will look and feel in future. This process will aim to ensure that we can deliver on our expanded range of policy priorities. This is supported by our People Plan, which helps our people to operate and develop in a manner which effectively supports business delivery. We have made progress in the following areas:

<p>Strengthening our corporate capability</p>	<p>We have appointed a new Chief Financial Officer and begun to build our new commercial and risk teams; as well as bolstering our analytical, digital and finance teams to provide added support and assurance in the delivery of MHCLG objectives.</p>
<p>Strengthening the capacity of our ALBs</p>	<p>We launched a refocussed national housing agency - Homes England - to bring together funding with a clear remit to deliver new homes and intervene more directly in the housing market when needed.</p>
<p>New portfolio approach to delivery</p>	<p>We established Portfolio Boards, increasing accountability for project delivery across our major policy portfolios.</p> <p>We are also working on flexible approaches that allow us to maximise the value of our different funding streams, such as to adapt our interventions according to the needs of particular places.</p> <p>We appointed a new Head of Profession to embed programme management expertise across the Department, spreading learning from the approach taken by our Building Safety Programme.</p>
<p>Improving our ability to work flexibly</p>	<p>We have begun the procurement of new mobile devices and operating systems that will encourage greater collaboration between teams and across the Department. These devices will be rolled out to all our people across the next year.</p>
<p>Building our digital capacity</p>	<p>We appointed a Chief Digital Officer and a Chief Technology Officer, as well as a new team, to improve our IT infrastructure and build our ability to collect, analyse and publish more data that will benefit the public.</p>
<p>Great Policy Making</p>	<p>The second year of our Great Policy Making campaign - a programme of interventions to improve our support for Ministers - has demonstrated strong growth. There were over 1,000 attendees to the range of courses and events and a total of 8 deep dives to help policy teams think differently about the problems they face.</p>
<p>Increasing income</p>	<p>Our administration income from financial transactions (investments) increased this year from £28 million to £42 million.</p>

Our Expenditure and Financial Position

Group Budget 2017-18

The diagram below represents the 2017-18 Departmental Group budget⁷ of £32,512 million net expenditure, split between expenditure on local government funding and on communities. Local government funding is provided to local authorities and the majority⁸ can be spent on any service. The Department administers this funding on behalf of central government. The communities budget is used to fund the Department's programmes and, in the diagram, has been split by Departmental priorities and running costs. During the 2017-18 supplementary estimate process, the Department surrendered £817 million of budget (2.5% of the Departmental Group budget). The majority of the surrender was from the Accelerated Construction and Starter Homes programmes and will be used to support the expansion of the Affordable Homes Programme in future years.



Notes: 1 Income from the Department of Health and Social Care
 2 This bubble represents a budget called Local Government DEL and the portion of the Department's AME budget related to local government funding
 3 This bubble represents a budget called Communities DEL and the remaining portion of the Department's AME budget related to communities
 4 This expenditure represents the increase in the accounting valuation of the liability associated with the borrowing that the Department provides a guarantee for. Please see Note 1 in the Financial Statements for more information.
 5 Running costs include administration expenditure (see below) and expenditure related to movements in pension scheme liabilities and additions and impairments of capital assets used to run the Department. Further detail on the Department's budgets can be found in the Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report from page 57.

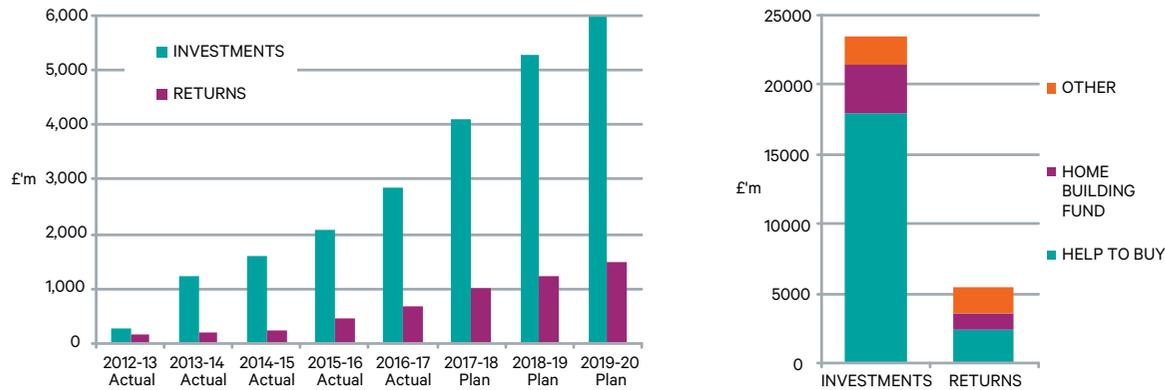
7 Supplementary Estimates 2017-18

8 Local share, Revenue Support Grant, business rates relief, top-ups and in year and outturn payments can be spent on any service.

Group Loans, Investments and Returns

In working to achieve its objectives, the Department has increasingly made loans and investments that generate returns instead of giving grants. The charts below shows the Department's past and planned⁹ outlay on loans and investments, and the returns (capital and interest) that will be generated from them between 2012-13 and 2019-20¹⁰.

MHCLG Group loans and investments and related returns 2012-13 to 2019-20 by year and cumulatively



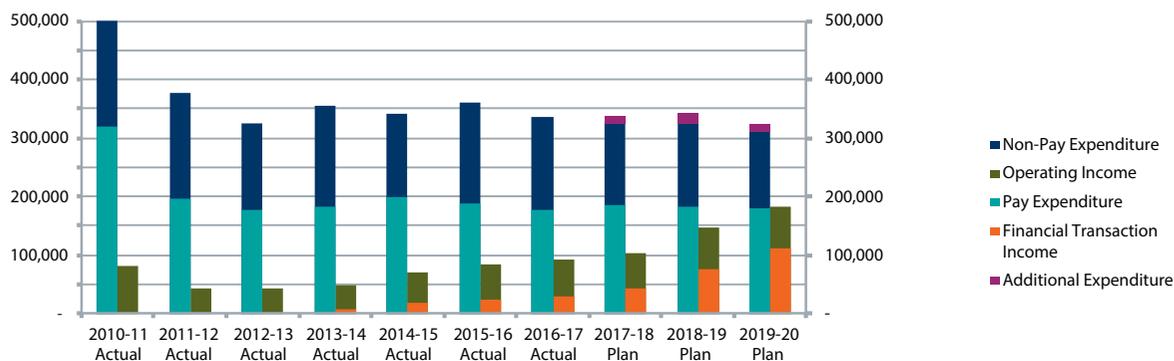
Group Administration Expenditure

Administration costs represent the net cost of running the Departmental Group. They include the cost of paying staff and non-pay expenditure such as office and IT costs. The Departmental Group also receives some income from investments which HM Treasury has classified as administration income. The chart below⁹ shows that, as the Department's investment income increases, the Department is increasingly able to fund its own running costs.

The chart also shows that the group's administration costs^{11,12} have been on a decreasing trajectory as the Department seeks and makes efficiency savings. Between 2010 and 2015, the Department accepted the largest budget cuts of any Department, and decreased budgeted administration expenditure by 40% in real terms.

At the 2015 Spending Review, the Department committed to making a further 30% real terms saving on administration budgets based on activities required of the Department at the time. The Department will continue to drive the efficiencies to which it is committed. However, during 2017-18, the Department began additional new work on housing policy, overseeing the Grenfell recovery and response and the building safety programme. The chart shows the current additional administration costs of new work that has so far been agreed and incorporated into budgets from 2017-18.

MHCLG Group Administration Expenditure 2010-11 to 2019-20



9 Planned figures in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 are based on budgets ([Supplementary Estimates 2017-18](#) and [Main Estimates 2018-19](#))

10 Returns include Help to Buy receipts generated when the department receives back its 'equity share' in homes. These receipts are passed to HM Treasury's consolidated fund and are outside of departmental budgets.

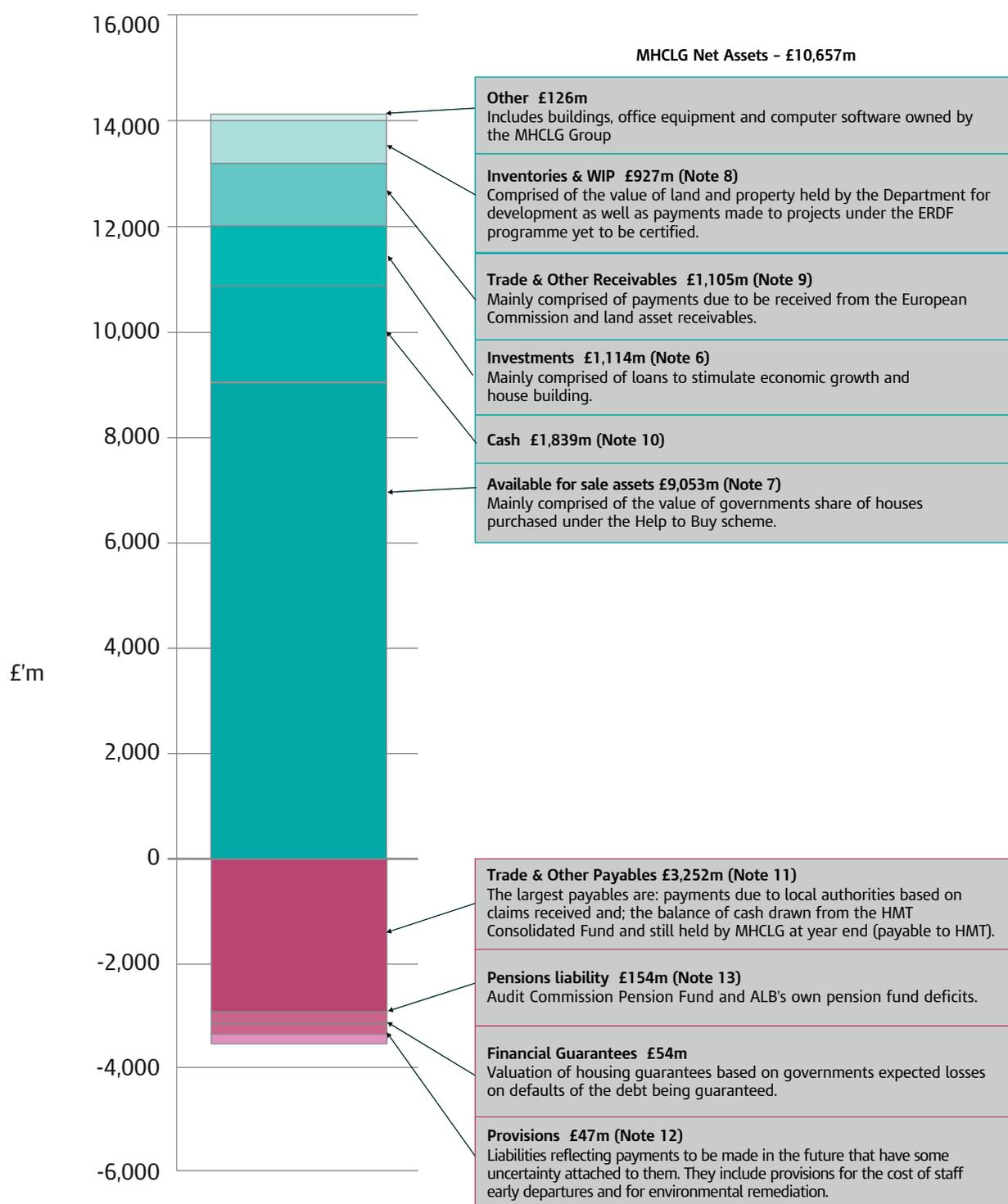
11 One-off non-pay costs have been removed from the figures as follows: 2013-14: £30m payment to reduce a deficit on an ALB pension, £27m moving costs, 2014-15: £18m investment property upwards revaluation.

12 Figures in the charts are represented on a nominal basis

Group Financial Position

The Department's Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2018 shows the size of our asset base which is predominantly made up of the Department's investment in the Help to Buy scheme. The relevant Notes to the Financial Statements have been referenced in the diagram for further information. The Governance Statement describes how the Department manages the financial and credit risk of its portfolio of financial instruments.

MHCLG Group Assets & Liabilities as at 31 March 2018



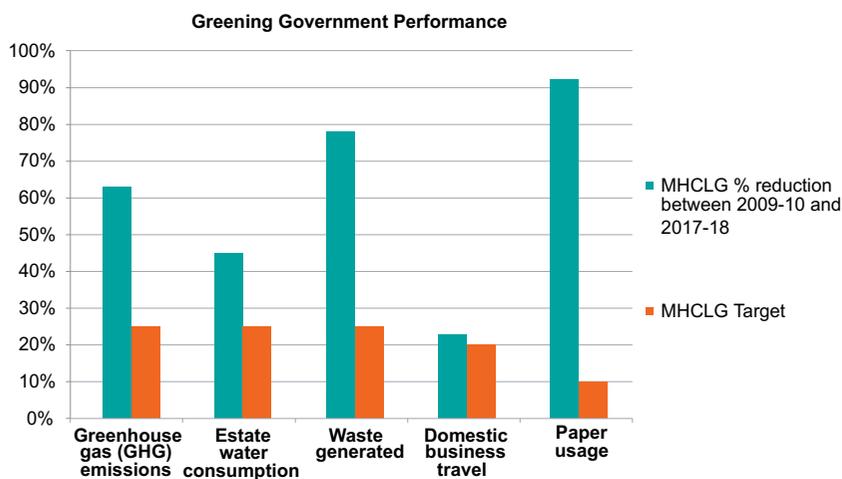
Sustainability Report

Sustainability is about applying economic, social and environmental thinking to an issue and paying particular attention to the long-term consequences. It can be thought of as a long-term, integrated approach to achieving quality of life improvements while respecting the need to live within environmental limits.

We subscribe to a number of targets including the mandatory Greening Government Commitments (GGC)¹³ for reducing energy, water, paper and other resource use, reducing travel and managing waste.

Non-financial data presented in this report is for a 12 month period from January 2017 to December 2017. The Department reports on all its executive agencies and arm's-length bodies. Non-financial information will include the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

The data in the chart below shows our present position on our Greening Government Commitments for the financial year ending 2017-18 against a 2009-10 baseline.



In 2017-18 the Department met or exceeded the GGC targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, water, waste arising, landfill and paper use, as well as reducing associated financial costs.

In our London headquarters, we have introduced the following building initiatives:

- The banning of disposable plastic cups in tea points and catering facilities;
- The provision of food and compostable waste bins;
- The re-lamping of lights with energy efficient LED replacements;
- The provision of a real-time energy use display; and
- Participation in events including Earth Hour, Biodiversity Day and Recycling Week

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Department has continued to reduce its total in-scope gross greenhouse gas emissions throughout 2017-18, achieving a total reduction of 64% since the 2009-10 baseline year. This has been achieved largely through improved building management (primarily relating to heating and cooling), estate rationalisation and co-location, and adopting more resource efficient behaviours.

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/greening-government-commitments>

Greenhouse Gas Emissions ¹⁴		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
Non-Financial Indicators (tonnes CO ₂ e)	Total Gross Scope 1 (Direct) GHG emissions	1,921	1,386	1,628	1,538	1,470	
	Total Gross Scope 2 (Energy indirect) emissions	6,849	7,186	5,835	5,296	5,268	
	Total Gross Scope 3 (Official business travel) emissions	2,130	2,234	1,647	1,743	1,617	
	Total Emissions - Scope 1, 2 & 3	10,900	10,806	9,110	8,577	8,355	
Related Energy Consumption (MWh)	Electricity: Non-Renewable	1,091	822	0	0	0	
	Electricity: Renewable	14,284	13,718	12,624	12,854	14,456	
	Gas	10,438	7,494	7,105	6,755	6,446	
	Total Energy Consumption	25,813	22,034	19,729	19,609	20,902	
Financial Indicators (£'000)	Expenditure on Energy	2,019	1,603	1,238	1,210	1,104	
	CRC Licence Expenditure	98	179 ¹⁵	197	78	47	
	Expenditure on accredited offsets (e.g. Government Carbon Offsetting Fund)	1	0	0	0	0	
	Expenditure on official business travel	3,880	4,192	2,712	3,829	1,511 ¹⁶	
	Expenditure on domestic air travel	65	35	21	31	21 ¹⁶	
International Business Travel		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
Non-Financial Indicators (Tonnes CO ₂ e)	Flights	35	26	51	24	75	
	Rail	1	1	1	1	<1	
	Total	36	27	52	25	75	
Waste		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
Non-Financial Indicators (tonnes CO ₂ e)	Total waste	681	728	732	470	479	
	Hazardous waste	2	1	3	0	0	
	Non-hazardous waste	Landfill	117	145	145	46	43
		Reused/Recycled	492	434	500	293	306
	Incinerated/energy from waste	70	148	84	131	130	
	Reams of Paper Procured	30,966	26,052	14,745	11,586	6027	
Financial Indicators (£'000)	Total disposal cost	108	111	75	86	66	
	Non-hazardous waste	Landfill	nk	nk	nk	nk	nk
		Reused/Recycled	nk	nk	nk	nk	nk
	Paper Procured	85	75	47	14	12	
Water Consumption		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
Non-Financial Indicators (m ³)	Water Consumption	Office Estate	33,227	41,687	19,143	31,592	31,358
		Whole Estate	49,521	71,340	47,990	51,318	54,974
Financial Indicators (£'000)	Water Supply & Sewage Costs	109	106	82	78	53	

14 In line with DEFRA guidance, the Department's greenhouse gas emissions data is not weather corrected.

15 The increase in expenditure relates to Homes England (previously known as the Homes & Communities Agency) participating in the Department's CRC return.

16 Figures based on core Department only.

Other Sustainability Commitments

The Department is committed to procuring sustainably and reports against a number of transparency commitments as part of the Greening Government Commitments framework:

Other Sustainability Commitments	
Sustainable Procurement	The newly established procurement team in MHCLG is responsible for leading on complex, strategic, high-value and high-profile procurements and will be developing an updated policy on Sustainable Procurement. In addition, the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) continues to run call-off and/or sub-OJEU competitions for common goods and services on behalf of MHCLG and they have indicated that they will always aim to comply with the Greening Government Commitments. Any new procurement staff will be provided with training on sustainable procurement and objectives and training needs for the Procurement Team are identified through the performance management review process and reviewed throughout the reporting year. We will ensure that sustainability is embedded in MHCLG Centre procurement practice, and for mapping progress against the Sustainable Procurement Flexible Framework tool. In particular we will be encouraging a close working relationship between ourselves and the Department's arm's-length bodies such as the Planning Inspectorate and Homes England (previously known as Homes & Communities Agency).
SMEs	For 2017-18, the Department's total expenditure with Small Medium Enterprise organisations was 22% with an aspirational target of 33% by 2022. The figure includes both direct and indirect spend (i.e. spend with subcontracted third parties). SME Figures will be finalised in July 2018 after validation by the Crown Commercial Service.
Climate Change Adaption	Climate resilient designs are incorporated in retrofit projects and new builds. In addition, robust business continuity plans are in place to manage occurrences of extreme weather events.
Biodiversity & Natural Environment	Our staff are able to participate within the MoJ Ecology network and take part in Bio Blitzes, to record biodiversity on our estate.
Procurement of Food & Catering	All food supplied is produced to UK or equivalent standards. Menus are designed to reflect in-season produce and purchased locally where feasible to do so to reduce food miles and to assist in supporting our local suppliers. The Government Buying Standard for Food and Defra's Balanced Scorecard are requirements in the Department's Future Facilities Management contract specification.
Sustainable Construction	All new build and major refurbishments are required to achieve a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating of excellent or very good, in line with the Government Buying Standards.

Sustainable Development, Climate Change Adaption and Rural Proofing in the policy work of the Department

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is integral to policy work in the Department, notably in planning policy and economic growth activities. The draft revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published for consultation on 5 March sets out more clearly the Government's view of what sustainable development means for the planning system. This closed on 10 May 2018 and a final revised NPPF will be published in the summer.

Rural proofing

MHCLG supports policy makers to consider the relevant policy tests that need to be considered (e.g. Public Sector Equality Duty, Environmental Impact Assessment and Rural Proofing) through internal guidance, training events and communications to raise awareness as part of the Great Policy Making campaign. The Rural Proofing impact assessment is an important element of that suite of checks. Consideration of rural proofing is reflected across the policy spectrum.

In 2016, MHCLG published jointly with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) a Call for Evidence for the Rural Planning Review, which sought evidence on how the planning system is operating in rural areas and invited ideas about how the planning system could be improved to support sustainable rural life and businesses. In responding to the review and addressing key messages that emerged, MHCLG has set out a further set of consultation questions as part of the Housing White Paper: Fixing our broken housing market.

The White Paper proposed to amend the NPPF to encourage local planning authorities to identify opportunities for villages to thrive, especially where this would support services and help meet the authority's housing needs. This proposal was strongly supported. The revised NPPF proposes to make clear that, in rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs.

The White Paper also proposed to amend the NPPF to give stronger support to rural exception sites. There was also strong support for this proposal and in the revised NPPF we propose to make clear that local planning authorities should support opportunities to bring forward rural exception sites that will provide affordable housing to meet identified local needs.

The Department has engaged widely as part of the consultation on the revised draft NPPF. Responses and feedback received will inform the final version of the revised NPPF.

Climate Change Adaptation

The Department is preparing for the next National Adaptation Programme (helping to make the UK more resilient to the effects of climate change) due in 2018. MHCLG regularly participates in the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP), for which DEFRA provides the secretariat. This forum provides Government with a perspective of how local authorities and their partners are adapting to climate change issues.

The Department continues to ensure that policies with long term implications are robust in the face of changing weather, extreme events and sea-level rise from climate change. The draft revised NPPF sets out proposed changes to ensure new development is robust to a changing climate, including the impacts of rising temperatures.

In 2016, MHCLG, working with DEFRA and the Environment Agency, commenced a review of planning legislation, Government planning policy and local planning policies concerning sustainable drainage in relation to the development of land in England, which will fulfil the commitment in the Housing and Planning Act 2016. This review is due to be published shortly, and the findings have informed proposed changes to the revised NPPF.

Other Required Reporting

The Department is required to report against various other topics in its Annual Report and Accounts as per the requirements set out in PES (2017) 11:

- Section 70 of the Charities Act 2006 sets out a power for Ministers to give financial assistance to charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institutions and requires that payments made under this power are reported. The table at Annex A sets out the financial assistance provided by the Secretary of State under this power for the year 2017-18, totalling £19.049 million (2016-17: £17.907 million).
- No complaints against the Department were accepted for investigation by the Parliamentary Ombudsman during the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- In 2017-18 the Department processed 15,462 pieces of treat official correspondence from members of the public. Of these, 75% of letters requiring a response were replied to within our target of fifteen working days.

Melanie Dawes CB
Accounting Officer
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

11 July 2018

Accountability Report

Introduction

The accountability report is included to meet key accountability requirements to Parliament. It is structured as follows:



Corporate Governance Report

Explains the composition and organisation of the Department's governance structures.

The Directors' Report – page 26

Details the members of the ministerial, non-executive and executive team who form the Departmental Board.

Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities – page 29

Explains the responsibilities of the Permanent Secretary as the Department's Accounting Officer.

Governance Statement – page 30

The Accounting Officer's statement and conclusions on the system of controls and governance framework in place at the Department.



Remuneration & Staff Report

Provides detail on remuneration and staff that Parliament and other users see as key to accountability.

Remuneration Report – page 43

Details the remuneration and pension interests of the Department's board members.

Staff Report – page 51

Details the cost and composition of the Department's workforce and describes how the Department is supporting the development and diversity of its people.



Parliamentary Accountability & Audit Report

Brings together the key Parliamentary accountability documents.

Statement of Parliamentary Supply – page 60

Reports the financial year's expenditure (based on HMT budgeting principles) set against the Department's budget (estimate) as approved by Parliament.

Other Parliamentary Accountability Disclosures – page 67

Reports information as required by 'Managing Public Money' on regularity of expenditure and remote contingent liabilities and by 'PES 2017 (11)' on historic and future planned Departmental expenditure based on HMT budgeting principles.

Certificate and Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General – page 77

Reports the conclusion of the Comptroller & Auditor General's audit of the financial statements and other information as marked in the accountability report as 'subject to audit'.

Corporate Governance Report

The Directors' Report

Our Departmental Board

During 2017-18 the Department consisted of the core Department, one Executive Agency and ten other arm's-length bodies (ALBs). Note 21 of the Accounts provide a full list of public bodies sponsored by the Department and identifies those that are consolidated into the accounts of the Departmental Group ('the Group').

The Departmental Board, comprising of Ministers, Non-Executive Directors and the Executive Team, met three times in the year. Each member's attendance at Departmental Board meetings is noted below. The Board's role is to advise on and supervise five key areas: strategic clarity; commercial sense; talented people; results focus; and management information. The Department also has a Non-Ministerial Board which met four times in 2017-18. The Non-Ministerial Board is chaired by the Lead Non-Executive Director. It is attended by the Executive Team and Non-Executive Directors. Its role is to scrutinise organisational capability and culture.

Details of Ministers' areas of responsibility, the Department's Non-Executive Directors and the Executive Team can all be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government>

Information on significant interests held by board members which may conflict with their management responsibilities can be found in Note 19 Related Party Transactions in the accounts.

In response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the Department created a new Director-General led Building Safety Group in 2017-18.

Our Ministers as at 31 March 2018



The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and chair of the Departmental board
Attended 3 of 3 board meetings



Dominic Raab MP

Minister of State for Housing and Planning
From 10 January 2018
Attended 1 of 1 board meetings



Rishi Sunak MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Local Government
From 10 January 2018
Attended 1 of 1 board meetings



Jake Berry MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth
From 14 June 2017
Did not attend any board meetings



Heather Wheeler MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Housing and Homelessness
From 10 January 2018
Attended 1 of 1 board meetings



Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Faith (and Northern Ireland)
Did not attend any board meetings

Our Non-Executive Directors



Nick Markham
Lead Non-Executive Director

Attended 3 of 3 board meetings



Mary Ney
Non-Executive Director

Attended 3 of 3 board meetings



Pam Chesters
Non-Executive Director
From 11 September 2017

Attended 3 of 3 board meetings



Daniel Morley
Non-Executive Director
From 18 September 2017

Attended 2 of 2 board meetings

Our Executive Directors



Melanie Dawes CB
Permanent Secretary

Attended 3 of 3 board meetings



Jo Farrar
Director General, Local Government
and Public Services

Attended 2 of 3 board meetings



Helen MacNamara
Director General, Housing and
Planning

Attended 2 of 3 board meetings



Simon Ridley
Director General, Decentralisation
and Local Growth

Attended 3 of 3 board meetings



Tamara Finkelstein
Director General, Building Safety
Group
From 21 June 2017

Attended 1 of 3 board meetings



Rachel McLean
Director General, Chief Financial
Officer
From 29 January 2018

Attended 1 of 1 board meetings



Christine Hewitt
Director, People, Capability and
Change

Attended 3 of 3 board meetings



Lise-Anne Boissiere
Director, Strategy
From 20 April 2017

Attended 3 of 3 board meetings

Other Ministers who served in the Department during 2017-18 were:

- Alok Sharma MP - Minister of State for Housing & Planning (until 9 January 2018) - Attended 2 of 2 board meetings
- Gavin Barwell MP - Minister of State for Housing & Planning (until 9 June 2017) - Did not attend any board meetings
- Andrew Percy MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Northern Powerhouse (until 14 June 2017) - Did not attend any board meetings
- Marcus Jones MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Local Government (until 9 January 2018) - Attended 1 of 2 board meetings

Other non-executive directors who served in the Department during 2017-18 were:

- Grenville Turner - Non-executive director (until 26 April 2017) - Did not attend any board meetings

Other executive directors who served in the Department during 2017-18 were:

- Louise Casey - Director General, Independent Review of Integration (until 31 July 2017) - Did not attend any board meetings
- Jacinda Humphry - Acting Director General, Chief Financial Officer (until 26 January 2018) - Attended 1 of 2 board meetings

Auditors

The core, agency, arm's-length body and group accounts have been audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) under various statutes with the exception of the Leasehold Advisory Service (audited by Beever & Struthers). Further details are given in the accounts of the bodies concerned.

The total cost of the audit across the Departmental Group is £797,500 of which £381,500 is a cash charge and £416,000 is a notional charge (2016-17: £369,000 cash costs and £416,000 notional charge totalling £785,000).

The audit fee for the core Department is £295,000 (2016-17: £295,000), broken down as £290,000 for the Departmental audit, and £5,000 for the cost of consolidation work. This includes £15,000 for the Departmental audit of the Whole of Government Accounts submission made by the Department to HM Treasury.

In addition, the Department meets the costs for audit of the Business Rates-related accounts. The fees are all notional charges and are included in the Group Accounts. The fees on these audits are as follows:

- Main Rating Account: £38,000 (2016-17: £38,000)
- Levy Account: £7,000 (2016-17: £7,000)
- Trust Statement: £19,000 (2016-17: £19,000)

The NAO performed other statutory audit work, including value for money studies, and other reports to management at no cost to the Department.

Personal Data Related Incidents

The Department, its Agency and ALBs manage a range of data which relates to staff and citizens, most of which is used to support policy analysis and review and does not allow the identification of individuals. Procedures and processes are in place to protect information and data and to ensure it is only used for the purposes for which it was collected.

Four personal data incidents were reported to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) during the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. In all cases, the ICO determined that no action was required of us. In the first case, a contracted company accidentally published the names and bank details of 35 private sector tenants. The details were viewed by local authorities only. In the second incident, a probationer passed the Department's Emergency out of hours contact list to a friend in the Police College. In the third incident, Royal Mail lost two Disclosure Scotland forms. In the fourth incident, a registered envelope containing personal information of a former member of staff was received and signed for and subsequently lost.

Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

Under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 (the GRAA), HM Treasury has directed the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to prepare, for each financial year, consolidated accounts detailing the resources acquired, held or disposed of and the use of resources during the year by the Department (inclusive of its executive agency) and its sponsored non Departmental and other arm's length public bodies designated by order made under the GRAA by Statutory Instrument 2017 number 1256 (together known as the 'Departmental Group', consisting of the Department and bodies listed in Note 21 to the accounts). The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Department and the Departmental Group and of the net resource outturn, application of resources, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flows of the Departmental Group for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and in particular to:

- Observe the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Ensure that the Department has in place appropriate and reliable systems and procedures to carry out the consolidation process;
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis including those judgements involved in consolidating the accounting information provided by non Departmental and other arm's-length public bodies;
- State whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual, have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the accounts; and
- Prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

On 1 March 2015, HM Treasury appointed Melanie Dawes, the Permanent Head of the Department, as Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The Accounting Officer of the Department has also appointed the Chief Executives or equivalents of its sponsored non Departmental and other arm's length public bodies as Accounting Officers of those bodies. The Accounting Officer of the Department is responsible for ensuring that appropriate systems and controls are in place to ensure that any grants that the Department makes to its sponsored bodies are applied for the purposes intended and that such expenditure and the other income and expenditure of the sponsored bodies are properly accounted for, for the purposes of consolidation within the accounts. Under their terms of appointment, the Accounting Officers of the sponsored bodies are accountable for the use, including the regularity and propriety, of the grants received and the other income and expenditure of their organisation.

The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the assets of the Department or sponsored body, are set out in Managing Public Money published by HM Treasury.

So far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the external auditors are unaware. The Accounting Officer has taken all steps that she ought to have taken to make herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Department's auditors are aware of that information.

The annual report and accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and the Accounting Officer takes personal responsibility for the annual report and accounts and the judgments required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

Governance Statement

Introduction

2017-18 has been a year of significant change and challenge for the Department. The number of priorities within our Single Departmental Plan has increased over the past year and the scale of our financial and credit risk in the housing market continues to increase. The Department set out the following strategic objectives in its Single Departmental Plan in December 2017¹⁷:

1. Fix the broken housing market
2. Support effective local government
3. Ensure an effective response to the Grenfell Tower fire
4. Build integrated communities
5. Grow local economies
6. Support a smooth exit from the European Union

We have maintained strong governance to manage these objectives. This Governance Statement sets out:

- The governance framework of the Department, how the Department's Board and its supporting governance structures operate, including how I gain assurance over the Department's system of internal control, the operation of our arm's-length bodies (ALBs) and accountability systems for local government;
- Our approach to managing risk, a summary of the strategic risks faced by the Department and how these are being addressed;
- An account of how the Board complies with HM Treasury's Corporate governance in central government departments: code of good practice; and
- How I assessed the effectiveness of the governance and assurance arrangements during the year.

This Statement covers the whole Group, reflecting the governance arrangements of our arm's-length bodies. Each of these organisations publishes their own Governance Statement as part of their Annual Reports and Accounts. Rather than duplicate information this Statement seeks to explain Group-wide and core Department governance arrangements and any issues that are significant to the Group as a whole.

The statement concludes with my assessment, as Accounting Officer, of the effectiveness of our governance arrangements.

¹⁷ MHCLG Single Departmental Plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-communities-and-local-government-single-departmental-plan/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government-single-departmental-plan>

The governance framework

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the delivery of the Department's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding public funds and Departmental assets. The governance framework for the Department has been designed to maintain the existing internal control environment whilst developing control in response to changes in the Department's risk profile. The governance structures are shown below in the diagram.

Departmental governance framework

Board committees:



Executive committees:



Clear terms of reference for each committee maintain clarity and accountability. The Departmental Board met three times during the year, the Non-Ministerial Board met four times, and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee met five times in 2017-18. The Executive Team meets routinely each week.

Attendance records for the Departmental Board meetings are provided in the Directors' Report, page 26.

In 2017-18, the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) was chaired by the lead non-executive board member, Nick Markham. Mark Sheridan was an independent member of ARAC throughout the year and Nick Whitaker, also an independent member, stepped down in November 2017. Pam Chesters and Daniel Morley, non-executive board members, joined the membership of ARAC from December 2017.

Accountability

Alongside the Board structures set out above, Ministers and I have clearly defined responsibilities that support good governance within the Department through Parliamentary accountability. The Secretary of State is responsible and answerable to Parliament for the exercise of the powers on which the administration of the Department depends. He has a duty to Parliament to account and to be held to account for the policies, decisions and actions of the Group.

As Permanent Secretary, I am appointed by HM Treasury as the Department's Accounting Officer and may be called to account in Parliament for the stewardship of the resources within the Department's control and the system of accountability for funding devolved to the local level.

Ministers are also subject to the Ministerial Code which provides assurance as to the propriety of their conduct. Upon appointment, Ministers' attention is drawn to the requirements of the Ministerial Code. As Permanent Secretary, I am responsible for advising Ministers on compliance with the Code.

In accordance with Managing Public Money, this Statement is required to summarise how the Department achieves local accountability for the grants it distributes.

The next two sections set out a summary of the scope of my accountability in relation to ensuring the proper use of public money at a local government level and how I discharge my accountabilities to ensure the regularity, propriety and value for money of these resources.

The Accounting Officer System Statement as part of the Accounting Officer System Statement¹⁸ sets out in more detail how the Department achieves accountability through all its relationships and delivery partners that are in place now and for the future, including local government and the Local Growth Fund. It therefore complements this Governance Statement, which is retrospective, covering systems in place over the last financial year.

The Local Government Accountability Framework

As the Department's Accounting Officer, I am responsible for the core local government accountability framework for local government and for ensuring that it is working and contains the right checks and balances.

I receive assurance advice twice a year that takes account of the available information to ascertain whether the core accountability framework for local authorities has remained robust. This information includes published reports on local audit and accounts, governance, and fraud, which speaks to regularity, propriety and achieving value for money locally.

The assurance advice for the period January to June 2017 and for the period July to December 2017 concluded that overall the local government accountability framework remains robust. The most recent advice makes a number of recommendations to explore the changing pressures on local authorities, including:

- Continuing to implement the recommendations provided in the December 2017 advice: to review the statutory framework; to make accountability reporting more efficient and transparent; consider if independent external input would help in preparation for the next Spending Review; work to expand our engagement across Government; and improve uptake of the existing sector support offer.
- Continuing to work within the Department and across Government to: assess emerging policies and events which could place additional pressure on local government sustainability; and to prepare for the 2019 Spending Review and exit from the EU.
- Reflecting on the impact which additional pressures may have on the role of statutory officers.
- Reviewing internal governance arrangements to support assurance of the local government accountability framework.

During the financial year 2017-18, there was one new non-statutory intervention in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, which commenced in July 2017. The Secretary of State appointed the independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce to provide challenge and support to the council, and to provide assurance to the Government on the long-term recovery from the Grenfell Tower Fire. The Department continued its statutory interventions in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, and the non-statutory intervention in Birmingham City Council.

In January 2018, the Secretary of State announced a best value inspection of Northamptonshire County Council which reported in March. On 27 March, the Secretary of State reached a "minded to" decision on the appointment of Commissioners and invited councils within the county area to submit proposals on restructuring. Commissioners were appointed on 9 May 2018.

In addition to the core accountability system, other Departments which oversee services run by local government publish statements that explain any other grants made to local authorities, and relevant legislation and regulation in relation to those services. These include the Department for Education, Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Transport.

¹⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dclg-accounting-officer-system-statement>

Local Growth Fund

I am the Accounting Officer for the Local Growth Fund, which is awarded to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) through Growth Deals. This Local Growth Fund accountability system sits alongside the Local Government accountability system statement¹⁷. I am accountable to Parliament for those elements of the fund which are awarded to LEPs from MHCLG's budgets. I am also responsible for the delivery system for Growth Deals within which LEPs invest the Local Growth Fund.

The Local Growth Fund assurance system is based on:

- The national LEP assurance framework which sets out standards around transparency, accountability and value for money which LEPs must comply with in composing their own local assurance frameworks;
- Annual assurance provided by the Section 151 Officer of the LEP's Accountable Body to the Accounting Officer;
- An annual assurance statement from the LEP Chair and Chief Executive which is published on the LEP website;
- Regular reporting against agreed output metrics;
- An evaluation framework;
- Annual performance conversations with each LEP.

Together these elements establish a mechanism for ensuring that funds are spent locally with regularity, propriety and value for money, with oversight of what is being delivered. Those elements of the Fund which remain in other Departments' budgets are also subject to their own funding and oversight mechanisms. These include the Department for Transport and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The Department also provides funding via the "Single Pot" to mayoral combined authorities which have been set up as part of devolution agreements. The Single Pot represents different lines of funding from both MHCLG and the Department for Transport. Assurances over the use of funding provided through the Single Pot are obtained via the accountability systems for local authorities and the Local Growth Fund, and the Department for Transport accountability system.

In October 2017 the Department published the findings of a review into LEP governance and transparency conducted by Mary Ney, MHCLG Non-Executive Director. Ministers accepted all the recommendations of this review and most have already been implemented. As part of this the Department is working with the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to create guidance for Section 151 Officers in LEP Accountable Bodies on their role.

Ministerial Direction

During 2017-18 the Secretary of State made a Ministerial Direction not to reclaim an overpayment of £36 million made to local authorities that were taking part in the 100% business rates retention pilot. My correspondence with the Secretary of State is available online¹⁹.

The Secretary of State and I agreed that the Department would carry out an independent review of the internal processes and procedures that underpin the Department's oversight of business rates and related systems. This work has already started and is planned to conclude in the summer.

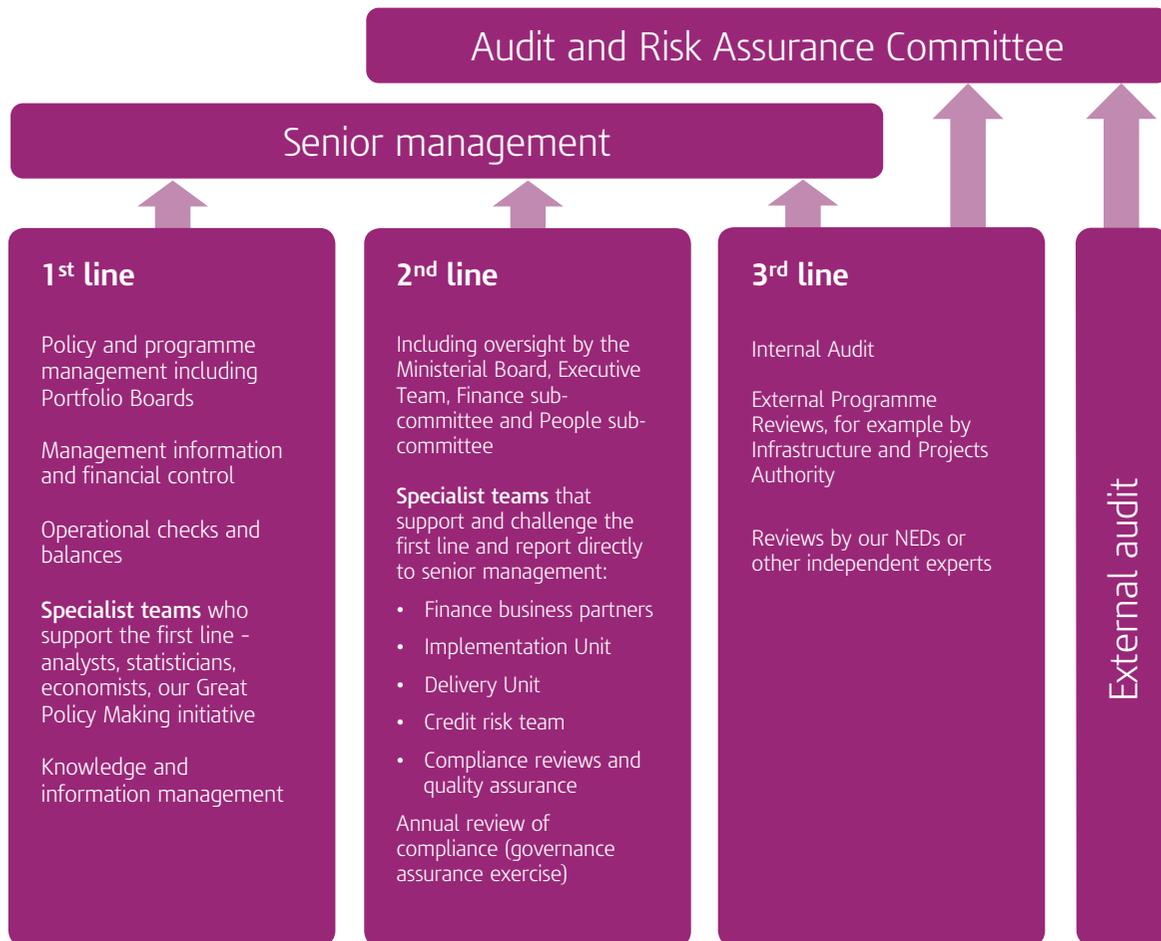
19 Ministerial direction correspondence: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-overpayment-ministerial-direction>

Approach to risk management

The Department operates a “three lines of defence” model, as set out in the diagram below.

The system is overseen by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee which is a delegated committee of the Board. The committee met five times during 2017-18 and considered:

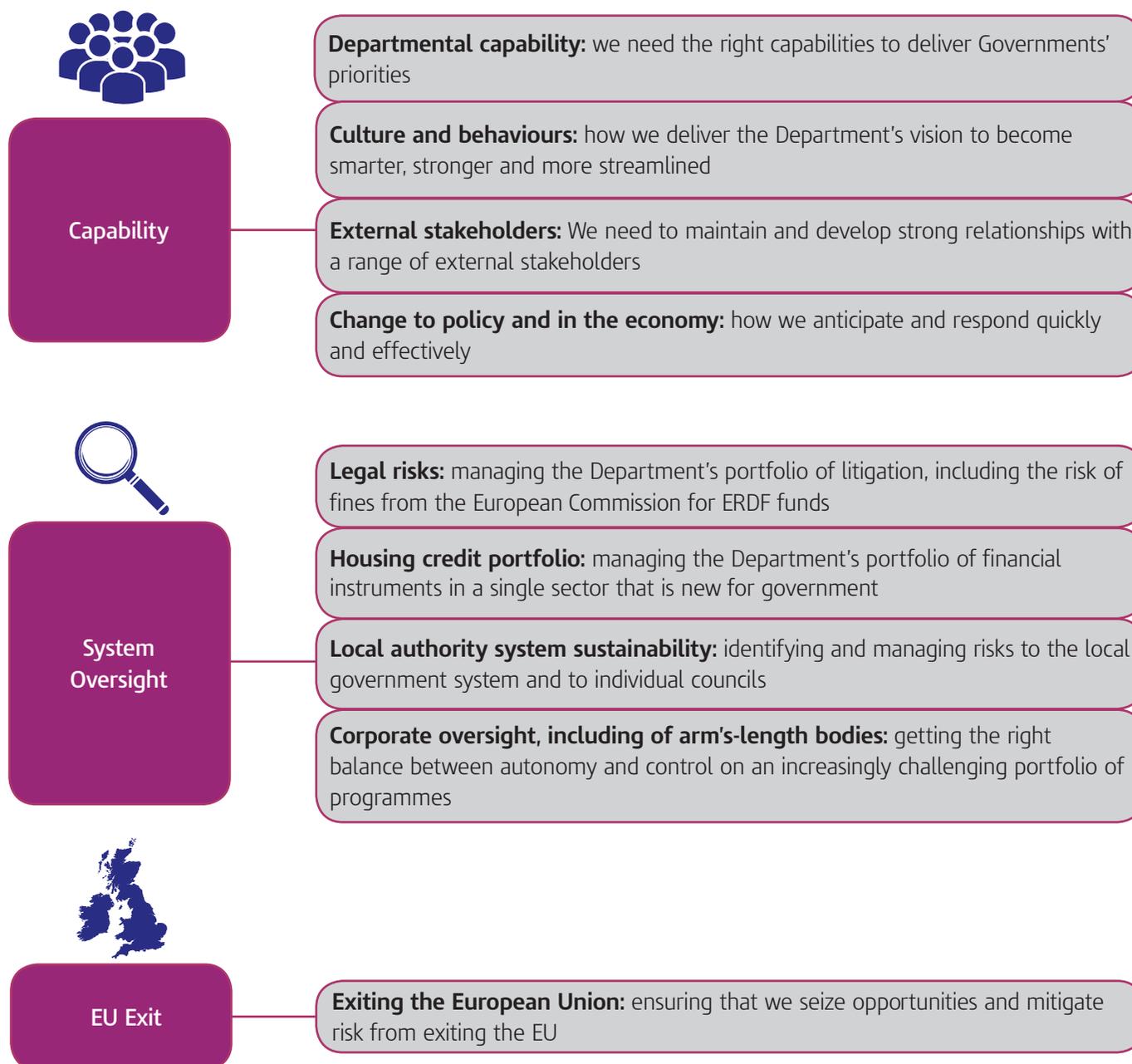
- Risk and how it is managed in the Decentralisation and Growth Group, Housing & Planning Group, Local Government and Public Services Group, and the Building Safety Programme;
- The Department’s reaction to the Grenfell Tower tragedy;
- The Department’s work preparing for EU exit along with any associated financial risks;
- The Department’s Whistleblowing policy and processes;
- The NAO’s assessment of value for money within the Department’s selected policy programmes; and
- The Government Internal Audit Agency’s (GIAA) scrutiny of the Department.



Programme boards are in place for each of the Department’s major policies, in which programme delivery and cross-cutting risks are managed. Portfolio boards for each Departmental policy group bring together information on performance and risk across each Portfolio. Where necessary, risks are escalated from programme and Portfolio boards to the Executive Team. The Executive Team also reviews cross-cutting strategic risks for the Department (see below), which are deep dived through the year. The Internal Audit opinion can be found on page 41.

Our strategic risks

The diagram below summarises the strategic risks faced by the Department, and further detail follows on the mitigating actions the Department is taking.



Departmental capability

Our objective is for MHCLG to have skilled, talented, committed, diverse and high-performing people, supported by effective leaders to ensure we have the right capability to deliver. We reviewed our comprehensive People Plan in July 2017 and are investing further in improving recruitment and resourcing, professional learning and development, line manager capability and developing talent. We have also revised our performance management process to focus on the development of our people through regular and high quality performance conversations. We continue to prioritise a diverse and inclusive culture and support resilience and employee welfare through a wide range of initiatives and a very strong offer on mental health and well-being.

Culture, behaviour and efficiency

We are developing our ways of working through a refreshed three year business planning process which has been and continues to be supported and informed by the following activities: an income review to identify potential new sources and a successful bid to HMT to secure appropriate resources, both completed in 2017-18; a new People Plan which will be publicised in 2018; the creation of a new and stronger Chief Financial Officer Group; a Better Place to Work programme promoting new ways to use the MHCLG estate more effectively and an upgrade of our IT systems; and a new Digital strategy to enable greater digital working. We continue to explore and progress the development of opportunities to join up, work in partnership and share back-office functions with our arm's-length bodies.

External Stakeholders

The buy-in and support of stakeholders is critical to delivering our objectives. The Department has an External Affairs team which is responsible for ensuring stakeholders are engaged on the right issues at the right stage in the process to ensure their views can be taken into account as policy is developed and implemented. Our Communications team ensures that we use a wide range of channels to keep all those with an interest in our agenda aware of the latest developments.

Changes to policy or in the economy

The Department needs to anticipate and respond quickly to changes in the policy and economic environment caused by external factors. Measures include:

- The Analysis and Data Division are improving our digital capabilities to source online information and further expand the use of data science to improve the Department's use of information to anticipate economic shocks and policy changes;
- The Resilience and Emergencies Division regularly reviews MHCLG's capacity to respond to high impact / low likelihood scenarios, including our ability to carry out our Lead Government Department responsibilities, and test Ministers and the Executive Team through the civil contingencies exercise programme;
- Officials actively work with Ministers to quickly identify changes ensuring an agile approach to policy prioritisation;
- Using our flexible resourcing model to match people to demand; and
- The Great Policy Making Team helps us make better use of evidence and lessons learnt from significant events and policy.

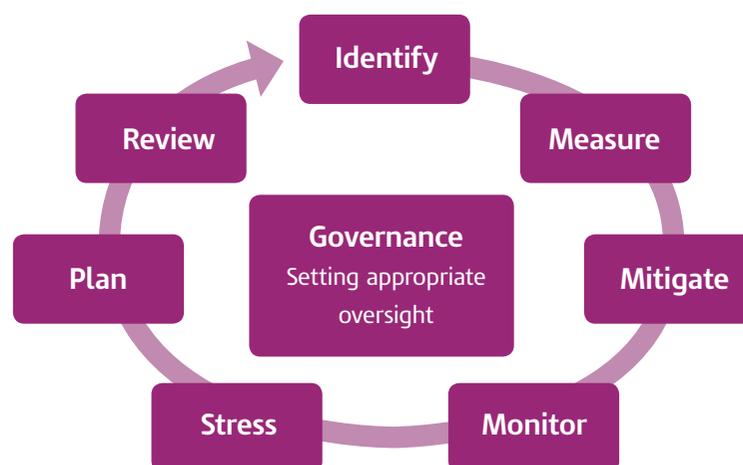
Legal risks

Legal risks are managed by designing legally robust policies, taking legally sound decisions and, where appropriate, changing the law in the right way to deliver policy. The Department applies knowledge from previous experience and cases. A Legislation Board is an established part of the Department's planning cycle and meets regularly to prioritise and manage primary and secondary legislation programmes.

Housing credit portfolio

Some of the Department's housing programmes are underpinned by the use of financial instruments such as loans, equity investments and financial guarantees, exposing the Group to significant credit and market risk. The portfolio continues to grow, but remains relatively immature, has not yet been through a market cycle, is concentrated in a single sector that is susceptible to economic shocks, and the investments are typically outside the appetite of other market investors and lenders.

Our approach to managing financial and credit risk in our portfolio



In 2017-18 the Department continued to develop and embed capability for managing financial risk, reviewing the tools used to identify and measure the risks associated with the portfolio of financial instrument based programmes, reviewing its risk appetite, and developing its contingency plans. The risk team has also continued to support colleagues in developing new financial transaction programmes, as well as regularly reviewing the risk profile on existing programmes.

The Department's primary delivery partner, Homes England (previously known as the Homes and Communities Agency), has also continued to build operational and resource capacity over the last year in order to effectively manage the delivery of these programmes on behalf of the Department. The Department has a Chief Risk Officer who sits within Homes England with accountability to me in my role as Accounting Officer, as well as to the Accounting Officer of Homes England.

An annual stress testing exercise has been in place since 2015 to help the Department measure and manage the risk of loss associated with a stress event, based on Bank of England cyclical stress test scenarios. The outcomes of the testing will continue to be used in future policy development, with contingency planning taking place to consider steps that could be taken to manage the Department's exposures in times of stress.

Local authority system sustainability

Local authorities are under a statutory obligation to set a balanced budget. Local authorities' chief finance officers can also issue a 'section 114' notice to impose immediate spending controls if it appears that an authority might spend more in a financial year than the resources available as was the case at Northamptonshire County Council. As Accounting Officer I have accountability for the local authority system and monitor the financial and operational performance of the sector. The Local Government Accountability Framework section (page 32) explains how we assess the sustainability of the local authority system.

The Department maintains and develops a systematic process for assessing the risk of significant service or financial challenges. The NAO 2018 report on financial sustainability referenced the improved oversight the Department has of the sector. We work with the local authority representative bodies, NAO, CIPFA and other government Departments. This provides us with opportunity to quality assure the methodology which underpins our tools for assessing the financial sustainability and understanding potential indicators of stress, identify sector trends, and model the future impacts of economic and policy scenarios in the local authority sector. We continue to encourage councils to take up opportunities to transform, be included in devolution deals and incentivise local authorities to encourage business rates growth through business rates retention policy.

Corporate oversight, including of Arm's-Length Bodies (ALBs)

The Department has an increasingly complex and challenging portfolio of programmes to deliver with our ALBs. We have one Executive Agency (EAs) and ten other arm's-length bodies (ALBs), as at 31 March 2018. A complete list of the Department's ALBs is provided in Note 21 of the accounts.

The Department's control and assurance framework needs to strike a balance between delegation and autonomy and the need for controls that provide sufficient assurance. The Department regularly reviews the internal control framework to ensure it is appropriate. We actively engage with internal audit, planning the annual cycle and demonstrating improvement in light of recommendations received.

Each ALB maintains its own governance structures and processes, appropriate to their business and scale. Each body has delegated authority from me in my role as Accounting Officer, with an appointed Accounting Officer.

During the year the Department has refreshed and embedded the Cabinet Office's Senior Sponsor partnership model²⁰ where responsibility for performance and the direction of the ALB is placed with a senior official within the Department, with a central partnership function handling matters relating to governance, finance and public appointments.

The Department continues to integrate its ALBs into the Departmental governance framework to maintain a consistent approach to delivering its objectives across the MHCLG group. The following actions have contributed towards strengthening the partnerships across the group:

- An annual risk-based impact assessment to ensure the level of sponsorship and the level of Accounting Officer engagement is proportionate to each organisation and aligned with Departmental priorities;
- Annual meeting for ARAC chairs where concerns affecting the Departmental group are considered;
- Annual forum for increased engagement between CEOs, Senior Sponsors and the ALB partnership team to discuss common issues and strategic priorities;
- A programme of updates to Framework Documents has been established, with 3 refreshed in this year;
- Improvements to key performance indicators for each ALB to enable increasingly effective performance assessments;
- Development of a consistent approach to ALB board effectiveness with annual appraisal reviews; and
- Departmental representatives attend the Audit and Risk Committees (ARAC) meetings of each ALB.

Each ALB Non-Executive Director is contractually required to declare to the Secretary of State any personal or business interest which may (or may be perceived to) influence their judgement in performing their functions and obligations. They are also responsible for withdrawing from discussions where any such conflict could influence their judgement. A register of interests is maintained by each ALB and is updated when relevant changes occur. ALB Non-Executive Directors are asked to update their declaration of interests annually.

These close working relationships have contributed to strengthening the integration of ALBs into a coherent and consistent Departmental approach to financial planning, risk management and decision making. Further work for 2018-19 includes:

- A meeting which took place in April 2018 to ensure all Senior Sponsors are clear about their responsibilities and to share best practice;
- Development of a programme of senior engagement with ALBs which will see the Permanent Secretary meet all ALB Chairs by the end of 2018 and an annual ALB conference, to which all ALB Chief Executives, Chairs, Senior Sponsors, the Permanent Secretary and Ministers will be invited; and
- Development of guidance and embedding new processes to ensure the effectiveness of ALB Boards.

²⁰ Partnerships between departments and arm's-length bodies: Code of Practice: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594345/Partnerships_between_departments_and_arm_s_length_bodies-code_of_good_practice.pdf

A significant programme of work is also underway to reset the relationship with Homes England, our largest ALB. This includes work to develop an updated Framework Agreement and Corporate Plan. We will establish a new single housing supply portfolio underpinned by robust project and programme management to drive our increased delivery ambition.

Exiting the European Union

We need to ensure that the Department seizes opportunities and mitigates risk to future policy development from exiting the European Union. Working closely with the Department for Exiting the European Union, the Department has developed preferred and contingency policy positions for the UK's negotiation strategy and domestic responses. The Department is leading a cross-Government programme to create a new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), following our exit from the European Union. The UKSPF will be a domestic programme of investment which will focus on reducing inequalities between communities across all four nations. The Department is also working closely with local government and other stakeholders throughout the negotiations to ensure the interests of every region are taken in account.

Our corporate governance

Departments are expected to apply the principles of *HM Treasury's Corporate governance in central government departments: code of good practice* unless good governance can be achieved by other means. Departments are also required to identify and explain any areas where they have departed from the Code. Over the past year, there have been no material departures from the Code.

To ensure compliance with the Code, we have put in place arrangements to handle conflicts of interest of Board Members, and use this Governance Statement to explain how conflicts (and potential conflicts) of interest have been resolved. As set out in their contract, each Non-Executive Director is required to declare to the Secretary of State any personal or business interest which may (or may be perceived to) influence their judgement in performing their functions and obligations. They are also responsible for withdrawing from discussions where any such conflict could influence their judgement. A register of interests is maintained by the Board Secretary which covers all executive and non-executive members, and is updated annually and when relevant changes occur.

Board Performance and Reporting

The Departmental Board is chaired by the Secretary of State. It oversees the Department's performance, seeks assurances on delivery, and provides advice and challenge. Accountability has been improved by enhancing performance reporting to the Departmental and Non-Ministerial Boards.

The last evaluation of the Board's effectiveness was conducted in March 2017. The evaluation made recommendations covering: meeting logistics and presentation of information at Board meetings; being better sighted on the work of the Board's Audit, Risk and Assurance sub-committee (ARAC) and the Department's Senior Talent and Pay Committee; engagement of junior Ministers; utilising the skills and expertise of non-executive Directors and inviting contributions from people other than Department officials. The Department is implementing these recommendations, and has already adopted improved reporting on delivery performance and the work of ARAC.

There were significant changes to the composition of the Board between 2017-2018. During this period new Ministers were given Departmental portfolios, new Non-Executive Directors joined the Departmental board, and a new secretariat team was also recruited. The appointment of a new Lead Non-Executive Director and ARAC Chair is also imminent. Given the extent of these changes, the next effectiveness evaluation has been deferred until autumn 2018.

The Departmental Board is supported by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee which is chaired by the Lead Non-Executive. This Committee is responsible for reviewing assurances on governance, risk, internal control, and the integrity of accounting and reporting procedures.

The Committee considered its effectiveness in May 2018 during a facilitated session guided by the NAO's ARAC Effectiveness Checklist, covering membership, skills, role and scope and communication and reporting. The exercise concluded that the Committee is performing effectively, though actions were identified to allow the Committee to build on their effectiveness. The Committee will work on implementing those actions in 2018-19.

The Non-Ministerial Board scrutinises organisational capability and culture. This board is chaired by the Lead Non-Executive and meets four times a year.

The Executive Team meets as the most senior official level committee of the Department. The Team oversees decisions on the corporate development of the Department, and reviews data on both delivery and corporate performance. Risk management is overseen through strategic risk reviews.

The Executive Team is supported by the People and Finance Sub-Committees. Once a month the Executive Team meeting expands to include Directors to ensure the widest possible representation is brought to key leadership decisions.

Fraud and error

The Department has a counter-fraud framework including a whistleblowing policy, a fraud response plan and online material for staff. The framework has been endorsed by the Finance Sub-Committee. We are further developing this framework in line with Cabinet Office standards and are implementing a continuous cycle of counter-fraud activities. These will include induction training, Counter-Fraud Awareness sessions and the targeted promotion of the Department's Counter Fraud Strategy in high-risk areas.

Whistleblowing

The whistleblowing champion is a member of the Executive Team and regularly raises awareness of the whistleblowing procedures and the importance of reporting any wrongdoings. The Department has nominated officers who are available to support people with whistleblowing queries. Officers are accessible on a dedicated telephone helpline.

The Department reports on the effectiveness of whistleblowing policy and procedures along with quantitative data to the Cabinet Office twice a year. Whistleblowing is also discussed by ARAC once a year.

The Civil Service launched a whistleblowing health check for government Departments to assess their culture and whether employees feel confident to speak up. In May 2017, the Department's whistleblowing champion, People Capability & Change team and Nominated Officers reviewed the whistleblowing health check. They felt confident that the Department had achieved and put in place the recommended processes and systems to engage with staff and to ensure that people have the knowledge and confidence to enable them to raise any concerns. The Department also revisited its whistleblowing procedures in early 2018 when compiling its response to the cross government Sue Owen Review of culture and procedures around sexual misconduct and harassment.

Information Security

The Department ensures that appropriate policies and guidance are in place to assure compliance with Cabinet Office mandates on electronic and physical data security. This includes annual inspections of the Department's registered files by the Records and Information Governance Services team.

During the year, four personal data incidents were reported to the Information Commissioner's Office. In each case it was determined that no further action was required. Further information on these incidents is provided on page 28.

The Department has carried out an extensive audit of its personal data information assets as a means of helping ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation. We did not identify any major issues which indicated that we needed a change of approach in the way we manage and protect physical and electronic data. However, we decided that these policies should be reviewed and processes could be more thoroughly documented and have started a programme

to ensure this is done. The Department is seeking assurance of GDPR compliance from each of its ALBs, and is monitoring data protection risks. The MHCLG Data Protection Officer is acting as Data Protection Officer for a number of our ALBs and this will support them in minimising risks as well as providing additional assurance to the Accounting Officer.

External scrutiny

The Department's work was the subject of four National Audit Office reports and four Public Accounts Committee reports in 2017-18. The Accounting Officer and members of her leadership team attended two PAC hearings which focussed on Homeless Households and Local Enterprise Partnerships to give evidence on value for money. In addition, the Department committed to recommendations published by the PAC on the integration of health and social care, which was jointly owned with DHSC, and 'Housing: State of the Nation'. For more detail please see the websites of the Public Accounts Committee and the National Audit Office.

Internal Audit opinion

One of the key sources of independent assurance within the Department comes from the activities of the Internal Audit function provided by the Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA). The internal audit programme is closely linked to the key risks of the Department, its Executive Agencies and other ALBs. Arrangements are in place to ensure that I am made aware of any significant issues which indicate that key risks are not being effectively managed. The internal audit service complies with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

MHCLG's Group Chief Internal Auditor provided a "Moderate assurance" rating for governance, risk management and control. There remain a number of areas where the Department should continue to focus its efforts to strengthen the control environment and improve its internal audit rating. These include:

- Enterprise Risk Management;
- Strengthening portfolio management of the change programmes;
- Building capacity in the corporate centre; and
- Ensuring that its delivery partners have the capacity to deliver its key policy programmes.

Governance assurance exercise

The Department undertakes a governance assurance exercise at the end of each financial year. Four independent panels, each led by a NED, provided challenge to the Department's senior management. The Directors General and Directors presented evidence to demonstrate how they complied with the Department's governance and internal control requirements, and summarised key achievements and challenges they faced during the year. Panels were attended by independent directors and Internal Audit, and were observed by the NAO.

The panels were satisfied that the Department had demonstrated appropriate governance and assurance across its business and that risk management had been effective during the year. They were further assured that the Department had suitable plans in place to continue to manage the business and address the strategic risk areas that were identified by the Department as part of the challenge process. These included:

- The Department relies heavily on local authorities and its ALBs to deliver its strategic objectives. The Department must maintain a balance between monitoring and intervening in these partners' activities;
- Departmental capacity and capability, especially due to the significant turnover of leadership and staff within 2017-18;
- Strengthening the central corporate support function to tighten the link between resource inputs and programme outcomes to achieve effective policy delivery; and
- The risks and opportunities of leaving the EU.



My conclusion

I have reviewed the evidence provided by the governance assurance exercise, the Internal Audit opinion, and NAO and PAC reports, and am satisfied that the Department has maintained a sound system of internal control during this reporting period.

Though the Department has faced significant challenges and change during this period, the governance framework and control environment has been fully operational. Existing assurance and risk management processes continue to be adapted and refreshed to reflect the changing challenges faced by the Department.



Remuneration and Staff Report

Remuneration Report

The Remuneration Report provides detail on the remuneration and pension interests of the Department's board members. The Remuneration Report refers to the core Department only. Similar Remuneration Reports are available in the Annual Reports and Accounts of the individual ALBs.

All tables and the Pay Multiples section of the Remuneration Report have been subject to audit.

Remuneration Policy

The remuneration of senior civil servants is set by the Prime Minister following independent advice from the Review Body on Senior Salaries. The Review Body also advises the Prime Minister from time to time on the pay and pensions of Members of Parliament and their allowances; on Peers' allowances; and on the pay, pensions and allowances of Ministers and others whose pay is determined by the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975.

The Review Body takes account of the evidence it receives about wider economic considerations and the affordability of its recommendations. Further information about the work of the Review Body can be found at: www.ome.uk.com

Civil service contracts

The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 requires Civil Service appointments to be made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. The Recruitment Principles published by the Civil Service Commission specify the circumstances when appointments may be made otherwise.

Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open-ended. Early termination, other than for misconduct, would result in the individual receiving compensation as set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Further information about the work of the Civil Service Commission can be found at: www.civilservicecommission.org.uk

Remuneration (including salary) and pension entitlements

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of the ministers and most senior management (i.e. Board members) of the Department who have been in post at some point in the current or prior year.

No benefits in kind were received by any minister or official named in the tables below in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Single total figure of remuneration

Ministers	Salary £		Full year Equivalent Salary if different £		Pension benefits ⁽¹⁾ £ (to nearest £1,000)		Total remuneration £ (to nearest £1,000)	
	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17
The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP Appointed 14 July 2016	67,505	48,270	-	67,505	18,000	13,000	86,000	61,000
Dominic Raab MP ⁽²⁾ Appointed 10 January 2018	7,154	-	31,680	-	-	-	7,000	-
Rishi Sunak MP Appointed 10 January 2018	5,052	-	22,375	-	1,000	-	6,000	-
Jake Berry MP Appointed 14 June 2017	17,838	-	22,375	-	5,000	-	23,000	-
Heather Wheeler MP Appointed 10 January 2018	5,052	-	22,375	-	2,000	-	7,000	-
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth Appointed 16 July 2016	105,076 ⁽³⁾	74,570 ⁽³⁾	-	105,076 ⁽³⁾	24,000	11,000	129,000	86,000
Alok Sharma MP Left 9 January 2018	18,190	-	31,680	-	5,000	-	23,000	-
Gavin Barwell MP Left 9 June 2017	5,984	22,397	31,680	31,680	1,000	6,000	7,000	28,000
Andrew Percy MP Left 14 June 2017	4,599	15,699	22,375	22,375	1,000	4,000	6,000	20,000
Marcus Jones MP Left 9 January 2018	17,323	22,375	22,375	-	4,000	6,000	21,000	28,000
The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP Left 13 July 2016	-	19,235	-	67,505	-	5,000	-	24,000
Mark Francois MP Left 14 July 2016	-	9,112	-	31,680	-	3,000	-	12,000
Brandon Lewis MP Left 14 July 2016	-	9,112	-	31,680	-	2,000	-	11,000
James Wharton MP Left 15 July 2016	-	6,496	-	22,375	-	1,000	-	7,000
Baroness Williams of Trafford Left 15 July 2016	-	30,506 ⁽³⁾	-	105,076 ⁽³⁾	-	11,000	-	42,000

(1) The value of PCPF pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increase excludes increases due to inflation or any increase or decrease due to a transfer of pension rights. This is a different basis to the way CETV in the Ministerial Pension Benefits table is calculated.

(2) Dominic Raab opted out of the pension scheme.

(3) Figure quoted includes House of Lords Allowance.

Single total figure of remuneration

Officials	Salary £'000		Full year Equivalent Salary if different £'000		Bonus Payments £'000		Other Benefits £ (to nearest £1,000)		Pension benefits ⁽¹⁾ £ (to nearest £1,000)		Total remuneration £ £'000	
	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17
Melanie Dawes ⁽²⁾ Permanent Secretary	160-164	160-164	-	-	-	15-19	25,000	-	-	60,000	185-190	235-240
Helen MacNamara Director General Appointed 1 September 2016	130-134	75-79	-	130-134	15-19	-	-	-	92,000	97,000 ⁽³⁾	235-240	170-175 ⁽³⁾
Jo Farrar Director General Appointed 1 September 2016	140-144	80-84	-	140-144	-	-	-	-	56,000	32,000	195-200	115-120
Simon Ridley Director General	130-134	125-129	-	130-134	5-9	10-14	-	-	51,000	105,000	185-190	240-245
Tamara Finkelstein ⁽⁴⁾ Director General Appointed 21 June 2017	95-99	-	125-129	-	-	-	-	-	22,000	-	115-120	-
Rachel McLean Director General Appointed 29 January 2018	20-24	-	140-144	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	30-35	-
Christine Hewitt Director	85-89	85-89	-	-	-	10-14	-	-	11,000	66,000	100-105	160-165
Lise-Anne Boissiere Director Appointed 20 April 2017	80-84	-	85-89	-	5-9	-	-	-	81,000	-	170-175	-
Louise Casey Director General Left 31 July 2017	45-49	140-144	140-144	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	65,000 ⁽³⁾	55-60	205-210 ⁽³⁾
Jacinda Humphry Acting Director General Left 26 January 2018	90-94	100-104	115-119	-	10-14	-	-	-	53,000	39,000	155-160	140-145
Stephen Meek Director Left 31 March 2017	-	115-119	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,000	-	150-155	-
Peter Schofield Director General Left 17 July 2016	-	40-44	-	135-139	-	15-19	-	-	19,000	-	75-80	-
Helen Edwards Director General Left 31 August 2016	-	35-39 ⁽⁵⁾	-	165-169	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35-39

Note: Bandings above are in the format: £ 0-£4,999, £ 5,000-£9,999, £10,000-£14,999, £15,000-£19,999

(1) This column only shows pension benefits for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and Civil Servants and Other Pension Scheme (CSOPS). The value of PCSPS and CSOPS pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) plus (the real increase in any lump sum) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increase excludes increases due to inflation or any increase or decrease due to a transfer of pension rights. This is a different basis to the way CETV in the Officials' Pension Benefits table is calculated.

(2) Melanie Dawes joined the Partnership pension scheme from 1 April 2017 and as such she did not accrue PCSPS or CSOPS pension benefits in 2017-18. The employer contributions to her Partnership pension account were £24,900 (to the nearest £100) in 2017-18 and are included in the Other Benefits column of this table.

(3) A retrospective update to pension data was carried out by the pension provider, resulting in a change to the closing balance at 31 March 2017.

(4) Tamara Finkelstein was appointed on secondment from the Department of Health and Social Care.

(5) Helen Edwards worked reduced hours from 1 April 2016. She chose not to be covered by the Civil Service pension arrangements.

The Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) did not receive a salary in their capacity as Board Members and details of fees paid to them during 2017-18 are shown below (subject to audit):

Non-Executive Directors	Fees (£)	
	2017-18	2016-17
Nick Markham (Lead) ⁽¹⁾	20,000	17,500
Mary Ney Appointed 11 October 2016	15,000	6,875
Pam Chesters ⁽²⁾ Appointed 11 September 2017	8,365	-
Daniel Morley ⁽³⁾ Appointed 18 September 2017	8,077	-
Grenville Turner ⁽⁴⁾ Left 26 April 2017	-	15,000

(1) Nick Markham became acting lead non-executive on 1 October 2016, and as such his full year entitlement increased to £20,000

(2) Figure quoted is for the period 11 September 2017 - 31 March 2018. The full year fee entitlement is £15,000

(3) Figure quoted is for the period 18 September 2017 - 31 March 2018. The full year fee entitlement is £15,000

(4) Grenville Turner left on 26 April 2017. However, he did not claim any fees for the period in 2017-18.

Salary

'Salary' includes gross salary; overtime; reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances; recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances; and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation.

This report is based on accrued payments made by the Department, and thus recorded in these accounts. In respect of Ministers in the House of Commons, Departments bear only the cost of the additional Ministerial remuneration. Their salaries for services as MP (£76,011 from 1 April 2017) and various allowances to which they are entitled are borne centrally.

However, the arrangement for Ministers in the House of Lords is different in that they do not receive a salary but rather an additional remuneration which cannot be quantified separately from their Ministerial salaries. This total remuneration for Lord Bourne and Baroness Williams as well as any allowances to which they were entitled is paid by the Department and is, therefore, shown in full in the figures within the Ministers' remuneration table above.

Benefits in Kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the Department and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument. No Ministers or officials named in these tables received benefits in kind in 2016-17 or 2017-18.

Bonuses

Bonuses are based on performance levels attained and are made as part of the appraisal process. Bonuses relate to the performance in the year prior to the financial year that they are paid to the individual. The bonuses reported in 2017-18 relate to performance in 2016-17 and the comparative bonuses reported for 2016-17 relate to the performance in 2015-16.

Pay Multiples

Reporting bodies are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest-paid director in their organisation and the median remuneration of the organisation's workforce.

The banded remuneration of the highest paid board member in the Department, the Department's Permanent Secretary, in the financial year 2017-18 was £160k - £164k (2016-17, £175k - £179k). This was 4.3 times (2016-17: 4.6 times) the median remuneration of the workforce, which was £38,134 (2016-17: £38,638). In 2017-18, nil (2016-17, nil) employees received remuneration in excess of the highest-paid board member.

Remuneration of employees ranged from £20k - £24k to £160k - £164k (2016-17: £20k - £24k to £175k - £179k). Total remuneration includes salary, non-consolidated performance-related pay and benefits-in-kind. It does not include severance payments, employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

The median salary for 2017-18 has decreased by £504 compared to the 2016-17 median salary.

Compensation for loss of office

Andrew Percy MP left under severance terms on 14 June 2017 and received a compensation payment of £5k - £10k. Marcus Jones MP left under severance terms on 9 January 2018 and received a compensation payment of £5k - £10k. Dame Louise Casey left the Department under voluntary exit terms on 31 July 2017. She received a compensation payment of £95,000.

Ministerial Pension benefits

The table below shows the PCPF pension benefits accrued by ministers who have served as board members of the Department during the 2017-18 reporting year:

	Accrued pension at age 65 as at 31/03/18 £'000	Real increase in pension at age 65 £'000	CETV at 31/03/18 £'000	CETV at 31/03/17 £'000	Real increase in CETV £'000
The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP	5-10	0-2.5	85	67	7
Dominic Raab MP ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-	-
Rishi Sunak MP	0-5	0-2.5	1	-	-
Jake Berry MP	0-5	0-2.5	3	-	1
Heather Wheeler MP	0-5	0-2.5	9	7	1
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth	5-10	0-2.5	97	68	21
Alok Sharma MP	0-5	0-2.5	8	4	2
Gavin Barwell MP	0-5	0-2.5	20	19	-
Andrew Percy MP	0-5	0-2.5	4	3	-
Marcus Jones MP	0-5	0-2.5	11	7	1

(1) Dominic Raab opted out of the pension scheme.

Pension benefits for ministers are provided by the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF). The scheme is made under statute and the rules are set out in the Ministers' etc. Pension Scheme 2015, available at: <http://qna.files.parliament.uk/ws-attachments/170890/original/PCPF%20MINISTERIAL%20SCHEME%20FINAL%20RULES.doc>

Those ministers who are Members of Parliament (MPs) may also accrue an MP's pension under the PCPF (details of which are not included in this report). A new MP's pension scheme was introduced from May 2015, although members who were aged 55 or older on 1 April 2013 have transitional protection to remain in the previous final salary pension scheme.

Benefits for Ministers are payable from State Pension age under the 2015 scheme. Pensions are re-valued annually in line with Pensions Increase legislation both before and after retirement. The contribution rate from May 2015 is 11.1% and the accrual rate is 1.775% of pensionable earnings.

The figure shown for pension value includes the total pension payable to the member under both the pre- and post-2015 Ministerial pension schemes.

The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

This is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the pension benefits they have accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total Ministerial service, not just their current appointment as a Minister. CETVs are calculated in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

The real increase in the value of the CETV

This is the element of the increase in accrued pension funded by the Exchequer. It excludes increases due to inflation and contributions paid by the Minister. It is worked out using common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Officials' pension benefits

The table below shows the PCSPS and CSOPS pension benefits accrued by officials who have served as board members of the Department during the 2017-18 reporting year. Melanie Dawes joined the Partnership pension scheme from 1 April 2017 so did not accrue PCSPS or CSOPS pension benefits in 2017-18. Employer contributions to her Partnership pension account were £24,900 (to the nearest £100) in 2017-18.

Officials	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31/03/18 and related lump sum £'000	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age £'000	CETV at 31/03/18 £'000	CETV at 31/03/17 £'000	Real increase in CETV £'000's
Helen MacNamara	25 - 30 plus lump sum of 55 - 60	2.5 - 5 plus lump sum of 5 - 7.5	360	290 ⁽¹⁾	44
Jo Farrar	5 - 10 plus lump sum of Nil	2.5 - 5 plus lump sum of Nil	64	23	30
Simon Ridley	35 - 40 plus lump sum of 85 - 90	2.5 - 5 plus lump sum of Nil	509	457	17
Tamara Finkelstein	55 - 60 plus lump sum of Nil	0 - 2.5 plus lump sum of Nil	839	809	6
Rachel McLean	15 - 20 plus lump sum of Nil	0 - 2.5 plus lump sum of Nil	178	171	5
Christine Hewitt	30 - 35 plus lump sum of 90 - 95	0 - 2.5 plus lump sum of 0 - 2.5	670	619	10
Lise-Anne Boissiere	20 - 25 plus lump sum of Nil	2.5 - 5 plus lump sum of Nil	222	171	36
Louise Casey	35 - 40 plus lump sum of 85 - 90	0 - 2.5 plus lump sum of Nil	642	630 ⁽¹⁾	4
Jacinda Humphry	35 - 40 plus lump sum of 85 - 90	2.5 - 5 plus lump sum of 0 - 2.5	612	563	30

(1) A retrospective update to pension data was carried out by the pension provider, resulting in a change to the closing balance at 31 March 2017.

Pension benefits for officials are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 1 April 2015 a new pension scheme for civil servants was introduced - the Civil Servants and Others Pension Scheme (CSOPS) or alpha, which provides benefits on a career average basis with a normal pension age equal to the member's State Pension Age (or 65 if higher). From that date all newly appointed civil servants and the majority of those already in service joined alpha. Prior

to that date, civil servants participated in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The PCSPS has four sections: 3 providing benefits on a final salary basis (classic, premium or classic plus) with a normal pension age of 60; and one providing benefits on a whole career basis (nuvos) with a normal pension age of 65.

These statutory arrangements are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under classic, premium, classic plus, nuvos and alpha are increased annually in line with Pensions Increase legislation. Existing members of the PCSPS who were within 10 years of their normal pension age on 1 April 2012 remained in the PCSPS after 1 April 2015. Those who were between 10 years and 13 years and 5 months from their normal pension age on 1 April 2012 will switch into alpha (CSOPS) sometime between 1 June 2015 and 1 February 2022. All members who switch to alpha have their PCSPS benefits 'banked', with those with earlier benefits in one of the final salary sections of the PCSPS having those benefits based on their final salary when they leave alpha. (The pension figures quoted for officials show pension earned in PCSPS or alpha - as appropriate. Where the official has benefits in both the PCSPS and alpha the figure quoted is the combined value of their benefits in the two schemes.) Members joining from October 2002 may opt for either the appropriate defined benefit arrangement or a 'money purchase' stakeholder pension with an employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are salary-related and range between 4.6% and 8.05% for members of classic, premium, classic plus, nuvos and alpha. Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years initial pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum. Classic plus is essentially a hybrid with benefits for service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per classic and benefits for service from October 2002 worked out as in premium. In nuvos a member builds up a pension based on his pensionable earnings during their period of scheme membership. At the end of the scheme year (31 March) the member's earned pension account is credited with 2.3% of their pensionable earnings in that scheme year and the accrued pension is uprated in line with Pensions Increase legislation. Benefits in alpha build up in a similar way to nuvos, except that the accrual rate is 2.32%. In all cases members may opt to give up (commute) pension for a lump sum up to the limits set by the Finance Act 2004.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 8% and 14.75% (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee from a panel of providers. The employee does not have to contribute, but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.5% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

The accrued pension quoted is the pension the member is entitled to receive when they reach pension age, or immediately on ceasing to be an active member of the scheme if they are already at or over pension age. Pension age is 60 for members of classic, premium and classic plus, 65 for members of nuvos, and the higher of 65 or State Pension Age for members of alpha. (The pension figures quoted for officials show pension earned in PCSPS or alpha (CSOPS) - as appropriate. Where the official has benefits in both the PCSPS and alpha (CSOPS) the figure quoted is the combined value of their benefits in the two schemes, but note that part of that pension may be payable from different ages.)

Further details about the Civil Service pension arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk

The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value

A CETV is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the pension benefits they

have accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies.

The figures include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the member has transferred to the Civil Service pension arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their buying additional pension benefits at their own cost. CETVs are worked out in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

Real increase in the value of the CETV

This reflects the increase in the CETV that is funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Staff Report

Our People²¹

MHCLG is a unique Department, offering our people, who work at sites across England, experience in central policy, direct relationships with local areas and the opportunity to help deliver and witness the impact of policy on the ground. We are an ambitious Department: ambitious in what we can achieve and ambitious for our people. We published our People Plan in 2016 setting out five strategic priorities under which we have delivered a wide range of programmes and initiatives, which are helping to make MHCLG a highly performing and great place to work.

In July 2017, we published our “People Plan: One Year On” review, setting out the progress and achievements over the first year and reiterating our priorities for the remaining 12 months of the plan.

In the last 12 months the scope and profile of MHCLG has changed considerably. After several years of staff reductions, the priority work to address the issues highlighted by the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the ever-increasing profile of housing as a key domestic priority have meant that we are expanding again. We are increasing the capability of our corporate centre, particularly on Digital, Risk and Commercial, to enable delivery and ensure appropriate and robust governance and oversight of our responsibilities.

Consequently, we recruited more new people in 2017-18 than we did in the two previous years combined. Over the 12 months to April 2018, MHCLG grew by 312 full time equivalent employees.

This unprecedented growth has brought both opportunities and challenges. We have simultaneously brought in high-quality people with the right skills and attributes whilst also preserving the best of our culture and ensuring that our longer-standing colleagues continue to feel valued and engaged. Our key achievements and the progress made to date against the five priorities in our People Plan are detailed below.

The right people for the right roles at the right time

We have set up a new ‘Resourcing Hub’, taking the recruitment burden off managers and speeding up the process by using the latest technology and methods. We have also stepped up our corporate induction, offering an updated day-long session every month for new joiners and increasing our support to line managers.

Core Curriculum and Professional Development

Our internally designed and resourced Core Curriculum, shaped to support both individual and business needs, is firmly established as a key source of learning for our people with over 80% recommending their experience to others. This success was also reflected in the fact that our 2017 People Survey score for learning was amongst the highest across the Civil Service. We have trained and challenged all our senior leaders on inclusive leadership.

Always aspiring to be better

We have implemented a new streamlined and development focused approach to performance management, supported by the on-going roll out of performance coaching for line managers. We are amongst the highest scoring Whitehall Departments for “My Manager” in the People Survey.

Inclusion and well being

Inclusion is at the heart of what makes MHCLG a friendly and collaborative place, which is proving one of the great strengths on which we want to build. We maintained a focus on diversity and inclusion as a core priority through the launch of a comprehensive strategy and action plan around representation, inclusion and celebration. This included

²¹ For clarity, and unless shown otherwise, this section relates to the core Department only. Please refer to the Annual Report and Accounts of the individual bodies for information on human resources in the Department’s ALBs.

introducing a Fair Treatment programme with over 20 trained Fair Treatment Ambassadors and 50 Mental Health Ambassadors. As a result, 29% of our intake of SCS were from BAME backgrounds in 2017 and we achieved 82% on Inclusion and Fair Treatment in the 2017 People Survey - one of the top five high performers.

Making the most of what MHCLG offers

Our approach to identifying and developing Talent is rated as excellent by the Cabinet Office. Alongside this we have a range of successful careers programmes including apprenticeships, a summer diversity programme and work experience opportunities.

Against a backdrop of considerable change, we were delighted that our People Survey engagement score in 2017 improved by 5 points. This was the sixth consecutive year in which the score has risen and for the first time we were above the Civil Service average. We were also in the top performing group for 7 of the 9 areas that the Survey explores. However, we recognise there is still more to do, for example, we saw a drop in "pay and benefits" and "resources and workload".

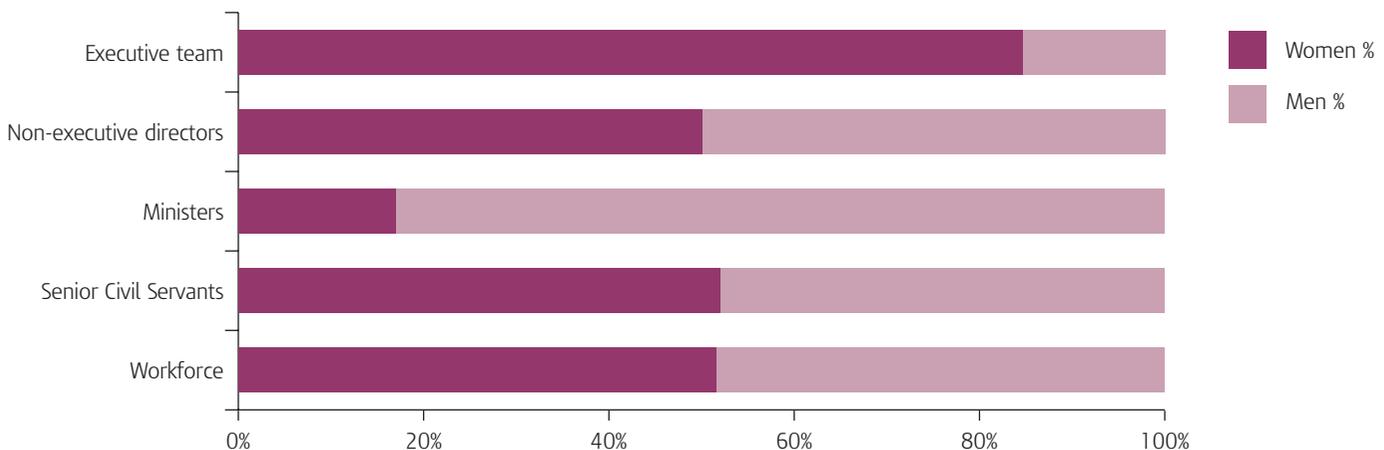
We know that although we made great strides last year there is more to do to ensure that everyone is able to contribute to delivering our key priorities. After hearing from everyone in the Department, we will be refreshing and updating our People Plan in the summer of 2018 to take us to 2020.

Staff Data

Gender Diversity

The Department's gender diversity statistics are shown in the graph below. In January 2018 we published data on our gender pay gap in line with other employers.

Staff Diversity by Gender - Core Department as at 31 March 2018



Health & Safety and Attendance Management

The Department's safety performance has remained strong during 2017-18. No accidents were reported to the Health and Safety Executive under Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) in 2017-18 (none in 2016-17). The Reportable Accident Rate was calculated as 0 per 100,000 employees. A total of 2 accidents were reported by employees in 2017-18, against 3 in 2016-17.

The Department's sickness absence has improved in 2017.

Average Working Days Lost

	Jan - Dec 2017 (AWDL) ⁽¹⁾	Jan - Dec 2016 (AWDL) ⁽¹⁾
Civil Service	6.8 ⁽²⁾	7.1
Core Department	4.9	6.2
Executive Agency	7.5	8.0

(1) AWDL: Average working days lost

(2) Civil Service AWDL is based on July 2016 - June 2017 data.

Staff with no sickness absence

	Jan-Dec 2017	Jan-Dec 2016
Core Department	70%	62%
Executive Agency	49%	47%

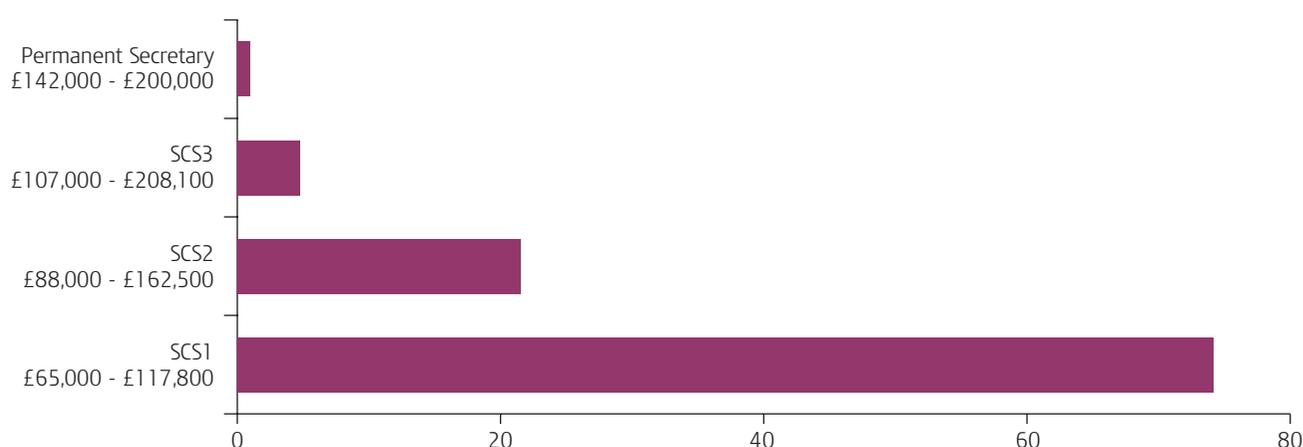
Trade Union Facility time

This data relates to both the Core Department and Executive Agency combined. There were 38 employees (37 full-time equivalents) who were relevant union officials during the year. Of these, 15 spent 0%, 23 spent 1%-50%, 0 spent 51%-99% and 0 spent 100% of their working hours on trade union facility time. The total cost of facility time (£91,035) was 0.08% of the total pay bill. Of the total paid facility time hours, 0% of those hours were spent on paid trade union activities.

Senior Civil Service salaries and staffing

At 31 March 2018 there were 100 Senior Civil Service staff, including the Permanent Secretary, on the core Department's payroll.

SCS Headcount by pay band as at 31 March 2018



Staff numbers and related costs

The following sections below have been subject to audit: Staff costs, Average number of full time equivalent persons employed, Reporting of civil service and other compensation schemes and Reporting the tax arrangements of public sector appointees.

Staff costs²²

						£'000
						2017-18
	Permanently Employed Staff	Others	Ministers	Special Advisers	Total	Total
Wages & Salaries	142,112	6,476	263	189	149,040	145,825
Social Security Costs	16,213	20	29	23	16,285	15,758
Pension Costs	39,760	16	-	36	39,812	33,439
Total Costs	198,085	6,512	292	248	205,137	195,022
Less Recoveries in respect of outward secondments	(2,097)	-	-	-	(2,097)	(2,167)
Total Net Costs	195,988	6,512	292	248	203,040	192,855
Of which:						
Core Department	86,313	2,741	292	248	89,594	84,161
Agency	31,430	341	-	-	31,771	33,495
Designated Bodies	80,342	3,430	-	-	83,772	77,366

Average number of full-time equivalent persons employed

						2017-18	2016-17
	Permanent staff	Others	Ministers	Special Advisers	Total	Total	
Core Department	1,292	310	5	3	1,610	1,500	
Agency	597	13	-	-	610	630	
Designated Bodies	1,072	66	-	-	1,138	1,181	
Total	2,961	389	5	3	3,358	3,311	

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS)

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and the Civil Servant and Other Pension Scheme (CSOPS) - known as "Alpha" are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but the Department is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The scheme actuary valued the scheme as at 31 March 2012. You can find details in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation (www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/about-us/resource-accounts/).

For 2017-18, employers' contributions of £18,578,296 (2016-17: £18,208,054) were payable to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme at one of four rates in the range 20.0% to 24.5% of pensionable earnings, based on salary bands. The scheme's actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation. The contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits accruing during 2017-18 to be paid when the member retires and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners.

Employees can opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. For 2017-18, employers' contributions of £157,301 (2016-17: 156,423) were paid to one or more of a panel of three appointed stakeholder pension providers. Employer contributions are age-related and ranged from 8% to 14.75%. Employers also match employee contributions up to 3% of pensionable earnings. In addition, for 2017-18, employer contributions of £0 (2016-17: £0), 0.5% of pensionable pay, were payable to the PCSPS to cover the cost of the future provision of lump sum benefits on death in service and ill health retirement of these employees.

²² Special Advisers wages and salaries include compensation in lieu of notice and untaken holiday pay paid to them on their resignation preceding the general election.

Contributions due to the partnership pension providers at the accounting date were £6,185 (2016-17: £7,235). Contributions prepaid at that date were nil.

One member of staff (2016-17: one) retired early on ill-health grounds; the additional accrued pension liabilities in the year amounted to nil (2016-17: £21,409).

Reporting of civil service and other compensation schemes - exit packages

In the core Department and Agency, redundancy and other departure costs have been paid in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, a statutory scheme made under the Superannuation Act 1972. Exit costs are accounted for in full when the exit has been agreed in accordance with IAS 19 and 37. Where the Department has agreed early retirements, the additional costs are met by the Department and not by the Civil Service pension scheme. Ill health retirement costs are met by the pension scheme and are not included in the table.

Staff employed by other bodies in the Departmental Group are not civil servants and redundancy and other departure costs are paid in accordance with the rules applying to the bodies in question. Further details are in the accounts of the bodies concerned.

Exit package cost band	2017-18				2016-17			
	Core Department and Agency				Departmental Group			
	Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages by cost band	Total number of exit packages by cost band	Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages by cost band	Total number of exit packages by cost band
<£10,000	-	3	3	2	-	3	3	8
£10,000 - £25,000	-	15	15	15	-	18	18	24
£25,000 - £50,000	-	25	25	16	-	30	30	43
£50,000 - £100,000	-	24	24	23	-	28	28	81
£100,000 - £150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£150,000 - £200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£200,001 onwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total number of exit packages	-	67	67	56	-	79	79	156
			£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000
Total cost	-	3,038	3,038	2,643	-	3,592	3,592	8,646

Expenditure on Consultancy and Temporary Staff

	£000		
	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Cost of Contingent Labour			
Core Department	1,640	1,236	2,858
Executive Agency	1,908	2,251	2,796
ALBs	3,052	2,502	3,463
Total	6,600	5,989	9,117
Cost of Consultancy			
Core Department	336	140	511
Executive Agency	-	-	-
ALBs	69	16	24
Total	405	156	535
Overall Total	7,005	6,145	9,652

Note: Contingent Labour - This is the provision of workers to cover business-as-usual or service delivery activities within an organisation. Temporary Staff are also often referred to as "Contingent Labour".

Note: Consultancy staff - This is the provision to management of objective advice relating to strategy, structure, management or operations of an organisation, in pursuit of its purposes and objectives. Such advice will be provided outside the business-as-usual environment when in-house skills are not available and will be time-limited.

Figures include VAT as applicable and irrecoverable

Reporting the tax arrangements of public sector appointees

As part of the Review of Tax Arrangements of Public Sector Appointees published by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 23 May 2012, Departments and their arm's-length bodies must publish information on their highly paid and senior off-payroll engagements.

The Department uses off-payroll arrangements for specialist or technical contractors and consultants to address urgent scarce skills gaps.

Off-payroll engagements as of 31 March 2018, for more than £245 per day and that last for longer than six months

	Main Department	Agency	ALBs
No. of existing engagements as of 31 March 2018	14	56	13
of which have existed for:			
less than one year at time of reporting	5	1	10
between one and two years at time of reporting	4	2	3
between two and three years at time of reporting	0	0	0
between three and four years at time of reporting	5	0	0
four years or more at time of reporting	0	53 ⁽¹⁾	0

(1) The majority of PINS off-payroll engagements are for Non-Salaried Inspectors (NSI's). The NSI's are registered for work with PINS and contracted to carry out specific casework within an agreed period. NSIs are the Inspectorate's flexible resource, allowing them to adjust their workforce to meet peaks and troughs in demand.

New off-payroll engagements, or those that reached six months in duration, between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018, for more than £245 per day and that last for longer than six months

	Main Department	Agency	ALBs
No. of new engagements, or those that reached six months in duration, between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018	7	3	45
Of which:			
No. assessed as caught by IR35	3	0	39
No. assessed as not caught by IR35	4	3	6
No. engaged directly (via Personal Service Company contracted to Department) and are on the departmental payroll	0	0	0
No. of engagements reassessed for consistency/assurance purposes during the year	0	53	7
No. of engagements that saw a change to IR35 status following the consistency review	0	0	0

Off-payroll engagements of board members, and/or, senior officials with significant financial responsibility, between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018

	Main Department	Agency	ALBs
No. of off-payroll engagements of board members, and/or senior officials with significant financial responsibility, during the financial year	0	0	0
Total no. of individuals both on and off-payroll that have been deemed "board members and/or senior officials with significant financial responsibility", during the financial year.	15	12	84

Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report

Introduction

As described on page 25, the Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report includes three sections: the Statement of Parliamentary Supply, Parliamentary Accountability Disclosures and the Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General. This introduction provides further detail on the figures presented in the Statement of Parliamentary Supply and in the Core Tables of the Parliamentary Accountability Disclosure section.

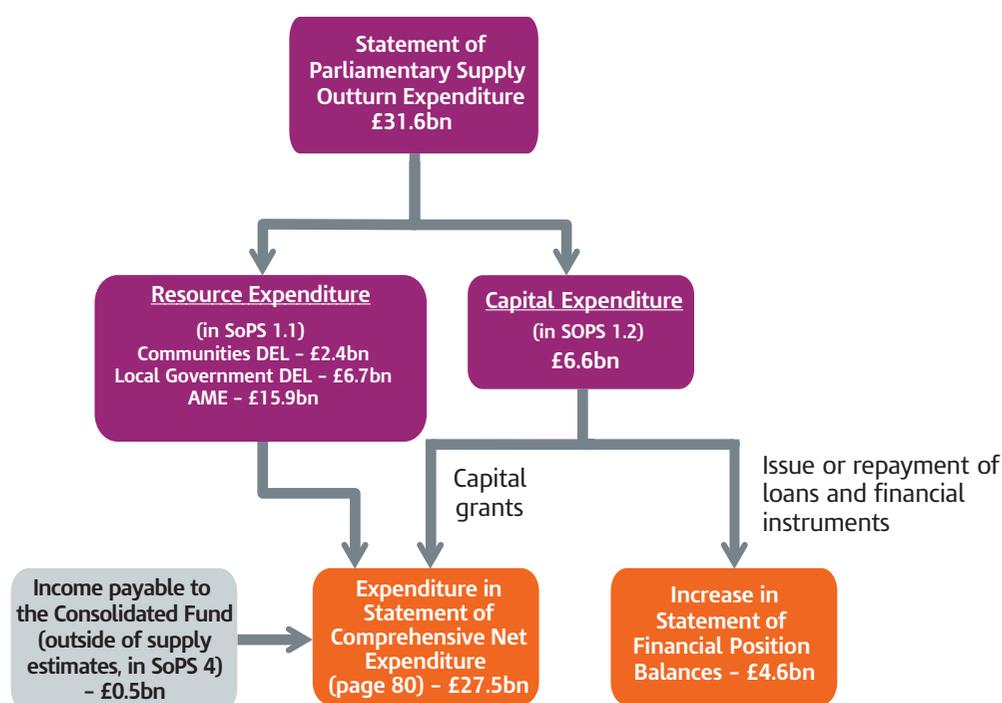
The Department's spending is shown in two presentations in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The **Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report** presents the Department's spend against the budgets set by Parliament in Supply Estimates. The final budgets for the year were set in the Supplementary Estimates²³.

The Department's budgets follow the international standards of the European System of Accounts. This allows HM Treasury to produce compliant National Accounts capable of international comparison.

The **Financial Statements** meanwhile apply international financial reporting standards as adapted for Government by the Financial Reporting Manual.

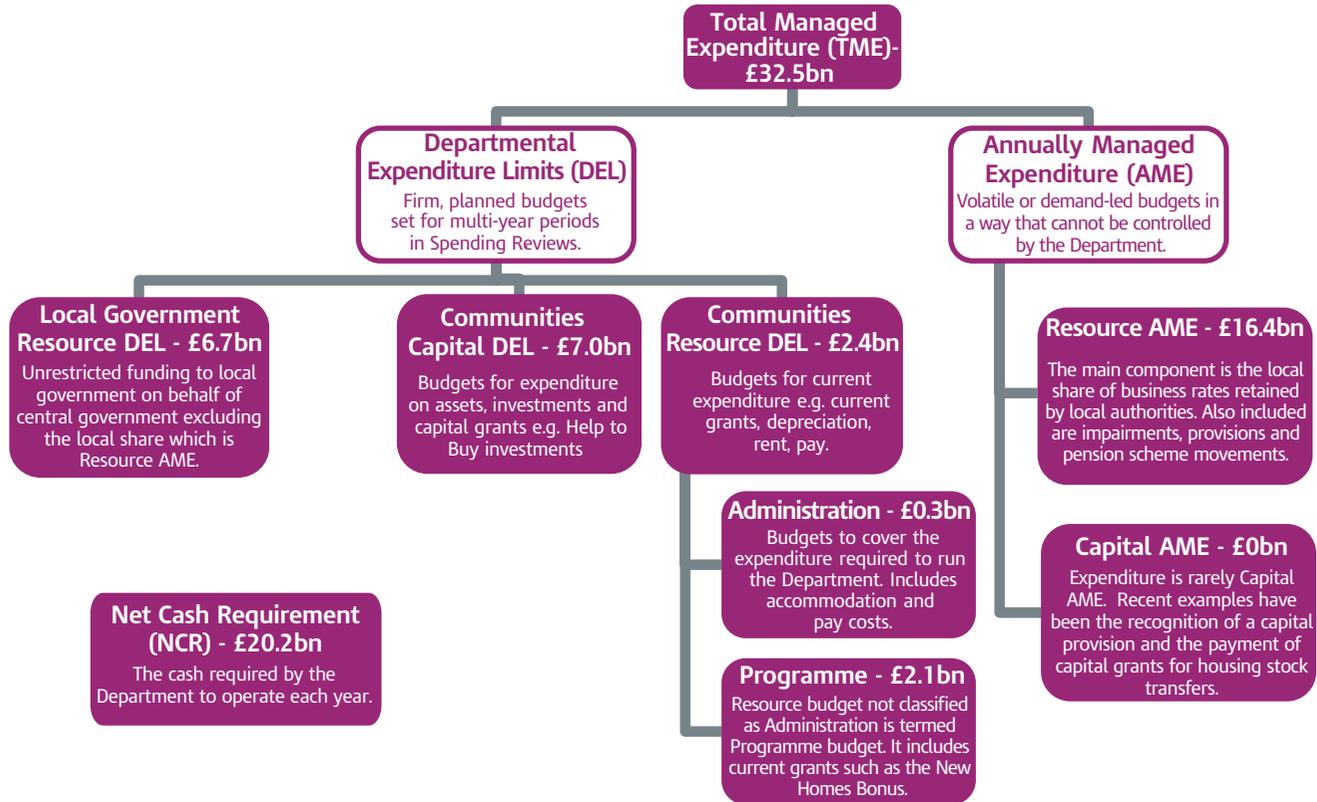
The diagram below shows how total spending from one presentation relates to the other. A more detailed reconciliation between resource expenditure in note SoPS 1.1 and net operating expenditure in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure in the Financial Statements can be found in SoPS 2 below.



23 [Supplementary Estimates 2017-18](#)

The Department's Budget and Outturn

The diagram below shows the Department's control totals which are the budget totals that we must not breach and which are set in Supply Estimates. MHCLG has a more complex budget than most Departments. We have two Resource DEL control totals, one for the funding we provide to local government on behalf of central government and one for the Department's own spending. These and other control totals are set out in the diagram below. A breach of any of these control totals would be a serious issue resulting in an audit qualification of the Department's accounts.



SoPS 1.1 and SoPS 1.2 report expenditure against each DEL or AME budgetary control limit, split by specific area of Departmental expenditure, for example Housing & Planning or Troubled Families. SoPS 1.1 reports resource expenditure and SoPS 1.2 reports capital expenditure. The specific areas of Departmental expenditure in budgets are called estimate rows.

The Core Tables on page 68 present expenditure at the same level of detail (i.e. by estimate row) and on the same basis as SoPS 1.1 and SoPS 1.2 over a seven year period.

The table below shows the main streams of expenditure contained within each estimate row presented in SoPS 1.1, SoPS 1.2 and the Core Tables.

Costs classified as Administration expenditure by HM Treasury are all incurred within Communities Resource DEL. The Administration expenditure Core Table therefore provides a subset of figures from the Departmental Resource Spending Core Table and the Administration Costs table in the SoPS therefore provides a subset of figures from the summary of Resource and Capital Outturn table and SoPS 1.1.

Estimate Row

Main Expenditure Streams

Communities DEL Estimate Rows

A: Local Government & Public Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Settlement to 2017-18 • Valuation Office Fees to 2016-17. HMRC now pay the fees. • Controlling Migration Fund from 2016-17
B: Housing and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Facilities Grant to 2017-18 • New Homes Bonus • PFI Housing Grants • Preventing Homelessness • Expenditure of the Planning Inspectorate - most of which is classified as Administration expenditure • Flexible Homelessness Support Grant from 2017-18
C: Decentralisation & Local Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution Deals from 2013-14 onwards • Local Growth Fund from 2015-16 onwards • Regional Growth Fund from 2012-13 to 2015-16
D: Troubled Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troubled Families Programme
E: Research, Data and Trading Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research & Development expenditure • Realised exchange rate losses • European Regional Development Fund related write-offs
F: MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure Costs	<p>The majority is classified as administration expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Pay • Estates costs e.g. rent, rates, utilities
G: Local Government & Public Services (ALB)(Net)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure of the Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS) and the Commission for Local Administration in England (CLAE) - the majority of which is classified as Administration expenditure
H: Housing and Planning (ALB)(Net)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Homes Programme • Help to Buy from 2014-15 onwards • Home Building Fund from 2016-17 onwards • Investment income received by Homes England (HE) (previously known as the Homes and Communities Agency) • Administration expenditure by HE on staff and estates • Expenditure by the Leasehold Advisory Service (LAS) and The Housing Ombudsman (THO) - most of which is classified as Administration expenditure • Expenditure by the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation - both Administration and Programme expenditure

Local Government DEL Estimate Rows

I: Revenue Support Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue support grant - central government funding provided to support local government services
J: Other Grants and Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant funding for former recipients of Independent Living Fund from 2015-16 onwards • Business rates and council tax reliefs and support from 2013-14 onwards • Additional Better Care Fund grant from 2017-18 onwards • Adult Social Care support grant in 2017-18 • Transitional grant from 2016-17 to 2017-18 • Rural services delivery grant from 2016-17 onwards
K: Business Rates Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments to local authorities whose income from business rates is below a baseline level

AME Estimate Rows

L: Housing & Planning; and Q: Housing & Planning (ALB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impairments of non-current and financial assets • Issue of Affordable Housing and Private Rented Sector Guarantees from 2014-15 onwards
M: Research, Data and Trading Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unrealised exchange rate losses and gains
N: MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure by the core Department on creation and release/utilisation of provisions and revaluation of estates
O: Non-Domestic Rates Outturn Adjustment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure relating to year end adjustments for business rates retention outturn.
P: Local Government & Public Services (ALB)(Net)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure on pensions by the VTS and the CLAE
R: Business Rates Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes the local share of business rates collected and retained by local authorities as well as other business rates retention payments and receipts

Statement of Parliamentary Supply (subject to audit)

In addition to the primary statements prepared under IFRS, the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FRM) requires the Department to prepare a Statement of Parliamentary Supply (SoPS) and supporting notes to show resource outturn against the Supply Estimate presented to Parliament, in respect of each budgetary control limit.

Summary of Resource and Capital Outturn 2017-18

								£'000	
								2017-18	2016-17
	SoPS Note	Estimate			Outturn			Outturn compared with Estimate: saving/ (excess)	Outturn Net Total
		Voted	Non-Voted	Total	Voted	Non-Voted	Total		
Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) -MHCLG Communities									
Resource	1.1	2,439,704	-	2,439,704	2,371,529	-	2,371,529	68,175	2,488,457
Capital	1.2	6,996,695	-	6,996,695	6,633,607	-	6,633,607	363,088	5,113,921
Spending in DEL - MHCLG Local Government									
Resource	1.1	6,717,639	-	6,717,639	6,713,538	-	6,713,538	4,101	8,229,106
Capital	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)									
Resource	1.1	16,358,183	-	16,358,183	15,936,171	-	15,936,171	422,012	12,566,876
Capital	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Resource	1.1	25,515,526	-	25,515,526	25,021,238	-	25,021,238	494,288	23,284,439
Total Capital	1.2	6,996,695	-	6,996,695	6,633,607	-	6,633,607	363,088	5,113,921
Total		32,512,221	-	32,512,221	31,654,845	-	31,654,845	857,376	28,398,360

Net Cash Requirement 2017-18

					£'000	
				2017-18	2016-17	
	SoPS Note	Estimate	Outturn	Outturn compared with Estimate: saving/(excess)		Outturn
Net Cash Requirement	3	20,207,397	16,527,714	3,679,683		16,801,337

Administration Costs 2017-18

					£'000	
				2017-18	2016-17	
	SoPS Note	Estimate	Outturn	Outturn compared with Estimate: saving/(excess)		Outturn
Administration Costs		271,891	223,716	48,175		242,409

The administration expenditure outturn was below budget because:

- The value of the Department's investment properties were revalued upwards during the year, reducing net outturn. This had not been budgeted for (in fact, a reduction in value had been budgeted for).
- Income from financial transactions (classified as administration income) was considered an area of uncertainty at the time the budget was set so a contingency budget was held. In the event, it was not required as income was under-achieved only slightly. Some contingency budget for other unforeseen expenditure was also unutilised.

Notes to the Statement of Parliamentary Supply

SoPS 1.1 Analysis of Net Resource Outturn by Section

	£'000									
	2017-18					2016-17				
	Administration		Outturn			Estimate		Net total compared to Outturn, adjusted for virements ⁽²⁾		Outturn
Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Net Total	Net total compared to Outturn	Net total compared to Outturn, adjusted for virements ⁽²⁾	Total	
Spending in Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (RDEL) - MHCLG Communities										
Voted expenditure										
A	-	-	-	138,790	(2,246)	136,544	90,312	(46,232)	-	207,171
B	46,134	(9,173)	36,961	1,732,864	(4,306)	1,728,558	1,769,151	3,632	3,632	1,822,372
C	-	-	-	155,316	(41,998)	113,318	127,761	14,443	14,443	136,825
D	-	-	-	213,618	-	213,618	196,972	(16,646)	-	170,807
E	-	-	-	6,516	(4,985)	1,531	37,983	36,452	19,806	13,987
F	168,697	(33,279)	135,418	2,707	(1,266)	1,441	187,556	50,697	3,071	135,410
G	19,115	-	19,115	-	-	-	17,721	(1,394)	-	17,177
H	32,222	-	32,222	(47,197)	-	(47,197)	12,248	27,223	27,223	(15,292)
Total Voted	266,168	(42,452)	223,716	2,202,614	(54,801)	2,147,813	2,439,704	68,175	68,175	2,488,457
Total spending in RDEL - MHCLG Communities	266,168	(42,452)	223,716	2,202,614	(54,801)	2,147,813	2,439,704	68,175	68,175	2,488,457

(1) Expenditure and income on these estimate rows are presented net in the Gross column per HM Treasury guidance. All other estimate rows present expenditure and income separately; expenditure in the Gross column and income in the Income column.

(2) Parliament does not vote on how budget within a control total is distributed across the estimate row sub-headings. As a result, and per the HMT Supply Estimates Manual, the Department has discretion to move budget between estimate rows via 'virements'.

	£'000									
	2017-18					2016-17				
	Administration		Outturn			Estimate		Outturn		
Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Net Total	Net total compared to Outturn	Net total compared to Outturn, adjusted for virements ⁽¹⁾	Net Total	Total
Spending in Resource DEL - MHCLG Local Government Voted expenditure										
I	-	-	-	3,799,500	-	3,799,500	3,799,502	2	2	7,205,326
J	-	-	-	2,907,825	(3,041)	2,904,784	2,908,882	4,098	4,098	998,629
K	-	-	-	9,254	-	9,254	9,255	1	1	25,151
Total spending in RDEL - MHCLG Local Government	-	-	-	6,716,579	(3,041)	6,713,538	6,717,639	4,101	4,101	8,229,106
Total RDEL spend	266,168	(42,452)	223,716	8,919,193	(57,842)	8,861,351	9,157,343	72,276	72,276	10,717,563

(1) Parliament does not vote on how budget within a control total is distributed across the estimate row sub-headings. As a result, and per the HMT Supply Estimates Manual, the Department has discretion to move budget between estimate rows via 'virements'.

	£'000									
	2017-18					2016-17				
	Administration		Outturn			Estimate		Net total compared to		Outturn
Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Net total compared to	Outturn	Net total compared to	Total	
						Outturn, adjusted for virements ⁽²⁾				
Spending in Resource Annually Managed Expenditure (RAME)										
Voted expenditure										
Local Government & Public Services	-	-	-	33,466	-	33,466	(33,466)	-	5,511	
L Housing and Planning	-	-	-	13,967	(2,065)	11,902	24,062	24,062	68,391	
M Research, Data & Trading Funds	-	-	-	-	(12,262)	(12,262)	20,362	20,362	1,625	
N MHCLG Staff, building and infrastructure costs	-	-	-	6,172	-	6,172	39,164	39,164	(3,854)	
O Non-Domestic Rates Outturn Adjustment	-	-	-	30,167	-	30,167	50,919	50,919	656	
P Local Government & Public Services (ALB) ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	803	-	803	1,659	1,659	2,428	
Q Housing & Planning(ALB) (Net) ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	143,962	-	143,962	306,002	272,536	77,519	
R Business Rates Retention Decentralisation & Local Growth	-	-	-	18,727,740	(3,005,779)	15,721,961	13,310	13,310	12,412,600	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	
Total spending in RAME	-	-	-	18,956,277	(3,020,106)	15,936,171	422,012	422,012	12,566,876	
Total RDEL & RAME spend	266,168	(42,452)	223,716	27,875,470	(3,077,948)	24,797,522	494,288	494,288	23,284,439	

(1) Expenditure and income on these estimate rows are presented net in the Gross column per HM Treasury guidance. All other estimate rows present expenditure and income separately: expenditure in the Gross column and income in the Income column.

(2) Parliament does not vote on how budget within a control total is distributed across the estimate row sub-headings. As a result, and per the HMT Supply Estimates Manual, the Department has discretion to move budget between estimate rows via 'virements'.

SoPS 1.2 Analysis of Net Capital Outturn by Section

	£'000						2016-17
	2017-18			2016-17			Outturn
	Gross	Income	Net	Net Total	Net Total compared to Outturn	Net total compared to Outturn, adjusted for virements ⁽²⁾	Net
Spending in Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit (CDEL) - MHCLG Communities							
Voted expenditure							
A Local Government & Public Services	786,062	(14,487)	771,575	443,449	(328,126)	-	424,512
B Housing and Planning	631,101	(552,546)	78,555	337,956	259,401	259,401	55,496
C Decentralisation and Local Growth	1,574,520	(119,472)	1,455,048	1,450,872	(4,176)	-	1,756,812
D Troubled Families	532	-	532	832	300	300	827
E Research, Data & Trading Funds	4,768	(2,559)	2,209	4,768	2,559	2,559	21,188
F MHCLG Staff, building and infrastructure costs	7,057	(513)	6,544	13,198	6,654	6,654	4,652
G Local Government & Public Services (ALB)(Net) ⁽¹⁾	448	-	448	550	102	102	202
H Housing and Planning (ALB)(Net) ⁽¹⁾	4,318,696	-	4,318,696	4,745,070	426,374	94,072	2,850,232
Total spending in CDEL - MHCLG Communities	7,323,184	(689,577)	6,633,607	6,996,695	363,088	363,088	5,113,921

(1) Expenditure and income on these estimate rows are presented net in the Gross column per HMT Treasury guidance. All other estimate rows present expenditure and income separately: expenditure in the Gross column and income in the Income column.

(2) Parliament does not vote on how budget within a control total is distributed across the estimate row sub-headings. As a result, and per the HMT Supply Estimates Manual, the Department has discretion to move budget between estimate rows via 'virements'.

SoPS 2 Reconciliation of Net Resource Outturn to Net Operating Expenditure

	SoPS Note	£'000	
		2017-18	2016-17
Total Resource Outturn in Statement of Parliamentary Supply:	1.1	25,021,238	23,284,439
Add: Capital Grants		2,751,277	2,540,764
Capital budget adjustments ⁽¹⁾		(70,719)	(59,817)
Asset transfers		27,582	24,973
Less: Income outside the ambit of the estimate payable to the Consolidated Fund	4.1	(174,716)	(188,751)
Net Operating Expenditure in Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure		27,554,662	25,601,608

(1) The capital budget adjustments include profit on disposal of certain financial assets that is recorded in net operating expenditure in the financial statements but is not recorded in SoPS budgets and research and development costs which are recorded in net operating expenditure in the financial statements but are recorded in the capital budget rather than the resource budget in SoPS.

SoPS 3 Reconciliation of Net Resource and Capital Outturn to Net Cash Requirement

£'000

	SoPS Note	2017-18		
		Estimate	Outturn	Net total outturn compared with Estimate: saving/(excess)
Resource Outturn	1.1	25,515,526	25,021,238	494,288
Capital Outturn	1.2	6,996,695	6,633,607	363,088
Accruals to cash adjustments:				
<i>Adjustments to remove non-cash items:</i>				
Depreciation and amortisation		(98,077)	(3,927)	(94,150)
New provisions and adjustments to previous provisions		(2,294)	(6,874)	4,580
Other non-cash items		(14,608,141)	(14,165,170)	(442,971)
<i>Adjustments for NDPBs:</i>				
Remove voted resource and capital		(5,228,015)	(4,468,049)	(759,966)
Add cash grant-in-aid		4,346,503	3,703,023	643,480
<i>Adjustments to reflect movements in working balances:</i>				
Increase/(decrease) in inventories		-	89,488	(89,488)
Increase/(decrease) in receivables		300,000	72,117	227,883
(Increase)/decrease in payables		2,981,386	(352,429)	3,333,815
Use of provisions and pension fund adjustments		3,814	14,777	(10,963)
Other Adjustments		-	(10,087)	10,087
Net cash requirement		20,207,397	16,527,714	3,679,683

SoPS 4 Income payable to the Consolidated Fund

4.1 Analysis of income payable to the Consolidated Fund

In addition to income retained by the Department, the following is payable to the Consolidated Fund (cash receipts being shown in italics).

	Outturn 2017-18		Outturn 2016-17	
	Income	<i>Receipts</i>	Income	<i>Receipts</i>
Income outside the ambit of the Estimate ⁽¹⁾	174,716	<i>174,716</i>	188,751	<i>188,751</i>
Other amounts collectable on behalf of the Consolidated Fund ⁽²⁾	479,871	<i>479,871</i>	294,060	<i>294,060</i>
Excess cash surrenderable to the Consolidated Fund	-	-	2	<i>2</i>
Total amount payable to the Consolidated Fund	654,587	<i>654,587</i>	482,813	<i>482,813</i>

The figures above comprise of:

(1) Monies received from local authorities for excess receipts generated from the disposal of housing assets (i.e. assets held under part 2 of the Housing Act 1985 accounted for in local authorities Housing Revenue Accounts). Referred to as CFER income (consolidated fund extra receipt) in Note 5 to the financial statements.

(2) Receipts in relation to the Help to Buy scheme as those home owners who are part of the scheme sell their homes and repay their equity loan.

4.2. Consolidated Fund Income collected as agent

Consolidated Fund income shown in SoPS Note 4.1 above does not include any amounts collected by the Department where it was acting as agent of the Consolidated Fund rather than as principal. Full details of income collected as agent for the Consolidated Fund are in the Department's Trust Statement published as part of the Annual Report and Accounts from page 106.

Parliamentary Accountability Disclosures

Financial Overview

Significant variances against Estimate

At the start of each year we estimate our costs for each budget type and we monitor these throughout the year. The size of our budget, along with economic, environmental and social changes means there will inevitably be some variance from our Estimates. The Statement of Parliamentary Supply on page 60 shows our 2017-18 outturn figures against Estimates.

Where the comparison of outturn against Estimate has shown an overspend or an underspend of more than £2 million and 10% this is explained below:

Estimate	Subhead	Outturn £m	Budget £m	Variance to Estimate %	Explanation
Resource Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limit (RDEL) - MHCLG Communities					
A	Local Government & Public Services	137	90	-52%	The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea have been working quickly and carefully to find suitable permanent accommodation for those who lost their homes in the Grenfell Tower and Walk. However, the pace was slower than expected and this has resulted in costs for the Department on the Grenfell response being £28m higher than expected. In addition, an extra £11m was spent on the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) programme. The budget was held for this on the Decentralisation and Local Growth line.
C	Decentralisation & Local Growth	113	128	11%	£11m of this budget was used to fund the UASC programme (as above).
D	Troubled Families	214	197	-9%	Troubled families is a multi year demand led programme where funding is provided dependent on local authority activity on the programme, the whole picture of which is sometimes not known until after budgets are agreed for the year.
E	Research, Data & Trading Funds	2	38	96%	A budget set aside for ERDF write-offs was not fully utilised. In addition, favourable movements in the euro/sterling exchange rate meant we did not incur the level of realised exchange rate loss on the ERDF programme that we had budgeted for.
F	MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure Costs	137	188	27%	The value of the Department's investment properties were revalued upwards during the year, reducing net outturn. This had not been budgeted for (in fact, a reduction in value had been budgeted for). In addition, income from financial transactions was considered an area of uncertainty at the time the budget was set so a contingency budget was held. In the event, it was not required as income was under-achieved only slightly. Some contingency budget for other unforeseen expenditure was also unutilised.
H	Housing and Planning (ALB) (Net)	(15)	12	>100%	Due to restrictions on the types of homes that can be built on land reserved for starter homes, the Homes England's starter home land has a lower value than it would if it were designated for general market housing. Budget was therefore set aside for a reduction in value (impairment) of land that may have been allocated for starter homes in 2017-18. Less land than expected was allocated for starter homes in the year due to a change in the programme and so there was lower than expected impairment on Homes England land. Without that expenditure, the net outturn was a credit due to income from disposal of land inventories coming in on budget.
Resource Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (RAME)					
	Local Government & Public Services	33	0	>100%	There was an impairment of an available for sale asset owned by the Department due to a downward revaluation of the receipts due to the Department taking into account current market and other factors. The budget for this is held on the Housing & Planning (ALB) (net) row.
L	Housing and Planning	12	36	67%	Budget set aside for an increase in the value of financial guarantee liabilities was not fully utilised as draw down of PRS guarantees was slower than expected.
M	Research, Data & Trading Funds	(12)	8	>100%	Favourable movements in the euro/sterling exchange rate meant we did not incur the level of unrealised exchange rate loss on the ERDF programme that we had budgeted for.
N	MHCLG Staff, building and infrastructure costs	6	45	86%	Budget set aside for the impairment of investment properties was not utilised due to an increase in their value this year.
O	Non-Domestic Rates Outturn Adjustment	30	81	63%	A contingency budget held for audit adjustments on business rates retention transactions was not fully utilised.
Q	Housing & Planning(ALB) (Net)	144	450	68%	Budget was set aside for unexpected impairments on housing market related assets owned by Homes England, but only a small amount was required.

Estimate Subhead	Outturn £m	Budget £m	Variance to Estimate %	Explanation
Capital Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limit (CDEL) - MHCLG Communities				
A Local Government & Public Services	772	443	-74%	The Greater London Authority were paid an Affordable Housing grant out of the budget held for the wider Affordable Homes programme on the Housing & Planning row below.
B Housing and Planning	79	338	77%	See the row above.
E Research, Data & Trading Funds	2	5	56%	The Department spent less on various small capital projects during the year. In addition, a budget set aside for capital ERDF write-offs was not fully utilised.
F MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure Costs	7	13	50%	The Department spent less on IT system improvements than anticipated.

Core Tables²⁴ - Departmental Expenditure Outturn and Plans

The tables on the following pages show the Department's expenditure outturn for 2017-18 and the four prior years, along with the planned expenditure for the next two years.

The Spending Review in Autumn 2015 set the overall Departmental budget up to 2019-20 for resource expenditure and to 2020-21 for capital expenditure. This was amended in subsequent fiscal events and Estimates. Autumn Budget 2017²⁵ announced a package of more than £15bn of new financial support over the next five years to support the objective of fixing the broken housing market. This takes total financial support for housing to at least £44bn up to 2022-23. In 2018-19, the new funding includes:

- Additional funding for Help to Buy equity loan of £10bn across the SR period - £2.4bn in 2018-19
- Additional £1.5bn in loan and equity funding as part of the Home Building Fund to support SMEs who cannot access the finance they need to build - £308m in 2018-19
- £400m of loan and equity funding for estate regeneration to deliver new affordable homes in high-demand areas - £50m in 2018-19

Excluding these changes, over the course of this Spending Review, the Department's resource programme is expected to fall. This reflects the reducing budget for New Homes Bonus, which accounts for 57% of the resource programme budget in 2017-18. This is partly offset by budget increases for other policy priorities such as the Troubled Families and Homelessness Reduction programmes, and programmes supporting the growth of local economies.

²⁴ The values within all the Core Tables for the years 2013-14 to 2016-17 have been adjusted to strip out outturn figures for any functions that have been transferred in or out of the Department as part of Machinery of Government changes that have occurred since. The most significant change has been the transfer of the Fire Policy function which transferred to the Home Office on 1 April 2016.

²⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/autumn-budget-2017>

Departmental Resource Spending

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Plan	Plan
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Spending in DEL - MHCLG Communities							
Voted expenditure							
<i>Of which:</i>							
A: Local Government & Public Services	428,320	304,821	399,405	207,171	136,544	104,601	58,823
B: Housing and Planning	908,299	1,194,642	1,472,648	1,822,372	1,765,519	1,803,213	1,575,209
C: Decentralisation & Local Growth	178,039	188,246	68,896	136,825	113,318	203,400	171,150
D: Troubled Families	140,969	127,854	72,335	170,807	213,618	221,196	180,000
E: Research, Data and Trading Funds	13,058	30,208	(5,530)	13,987	1,531	31,044	18,275
F: MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure Costs	205,041	141,199	158,755	135,424	136,859	199,721	224,247
Departmental Unallocated Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,166
G: Local Government & Public Services (ALB) (net)	20,108	24,541	19,716	17,177	19,115	18,259	14,657
H: Housing and Planning (ALB)(net)	90,975	31,640	(12,308)	(15,518)	(14,975)	236,129	(30,764)
Non voted expenditure							
Housing and Planning	-	188	(358)	-	-	-	-
Total Spending in DEL - MHCLG Communities	1,984,809	2,043,339	2,173,559	2,488,245	2,371,529	2,817,563	2,267,763
Spending in DEL - MHCLG Local Govt							
Voted expenditure							
<i>Of which:</i>							
I: Revenue Support Grant	15,200,902	12,700,735	9,532,754	7,205,326	3,799,500	1,378,991	2,153,823
J: Other grants and payments	983,295	865,300	1,223,544	998,629	2,904,784	2,889,821	3,417,240
K: Business Rate Retention	297,224	90,790	1,417	25,151	9,254	35,000	50,000
Total Spending in DEL - MHCLG Local Govt	16,481,421	13,656,825	10,757,715	8,229,106	6,713,538	4,303,812	5,621,063
Total Resource DEL	18,466,230	15,700,164	12,931,274	10,717,351	9,085,067	7,121,375	7,888,826
Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)							
Voted expenditure							
<i>Of which:</i>							
Local Government & Public Services	-	-	(102)	5,511	33,466	10,000	-
L: Housing and Planning	7,741	(1,770)	4,454	68,391	11,902	139,161	161
M: Research, Data and Trading Funds	15,273	(22,078)	6,424	1,625	(12,262)	8,100	8,100
N: MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure Costs	(18,247)	(2,176)	2,961	(3,854)	6,172	(1,552)	(1,162)
O: Non-Domestic Rates Outturn Adjustment	261,736	-	-	656	30,167	300,000	300,000
P: Local Government & Public Services (ALB)(Net)	719	(4,760)	408	2,428	803	2,151	2,185
Q: Housing and Planning (ALB)(Net)	(53,692)	78,232	34,238	77,745	143,962	851,752	711,193
R: Business Rate Retention	10,861,568	11,661,903	12,174,150	12,412,600	15,721,961	21,273,104	13,422,000
Decentralisation & Local Growth	-	-	7,282	2,000	-	-	-
Total Resource AME	11,075,098	11,709,351	12,229,815	12,567,102	15,936,171	22,582,716	14,442,477
Spending in Non-Budget Expenditure Limits							
Voted expenditure							
Prior Period Adjustment	-	(47,704)	-	-	-	-	-
Total Resource	29,541,328	27,361,811	25,161,089	23,284,453	25,021,238	29,704,091	22,331,303

Departmental Capital Spending							
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Plan	Plan
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Spending in DEL – MHCLG Communities							
Voted expenditure							
<i>Of which:</i>							
A: Local Government and Public Services	854,600	922,801	830,843	424,512	771,575	643,644	70,094
B: Housing and Planning	223,600	190,338	(7,937)	55,496	78,555	4,438,820	6,348,500
C: Decentralisation & Local Growth	554,753	894,567	1,328,023	1,756,812	1,455,048	1,160,086	728,800
D: Troubled Families	-	-	-	827	532	-	-
E: Research, Data and Trading Funds	5,225	5,493	-	21,188	2,209	5,970	5,805
F: MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure Costs	2,025	2,870	(16,977)	4,652	6,544	10,665	2,365
G: Local Government and Public Services (ALB)(Net)	232	169	163	202	448	150	150
H: Housing and Planning (ALB)(Net)	2,088,754	2,316,235	1,715,215	2,850,232	4,318,696	3,157,244	3,731,687
Departmental Unallocated Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	(125,939)
Total Spending in DEL – MHCLG Communities	3,729,189	4,332,473	3,849,330	5,113,921	6,633,607	9,416,579	10,761,462
Total Capital DEL	3,729,189	4,332,473	3,849,330	5,113,921	6,633,607	9,416,579	10,761,462
Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)							
Voted expenditure							
<i>Of which:</i>							
L: Housing and Planning	-	120,882	207,035	-	-	-	-
Total Spending in AME	-	120,882	207,035	-	-	-	-
Total Capital	3,729,189	4,453,355	4,056,365	5,113,921	6,633,607	9,416,579	10,761,462

Included within Departmental Resource Spending:

Administration budgets							
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Plan	Plan
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Voted expenditure							
B: Housing and Planning	37,431	32,195	41,715	38,240	36,961	37,758	34,534
F: MHCLG Staff, Building & Infrastructure Costs	204,423	139,552	156,697	133,430	135,418	197,221	221,747
G: Local Government & Public Services (ALB)(Net)	20,108	24,541	19,716	17,177	19,115	18,259	14,657
H: Housing and Planning (ALB)(Net)	101,078	55,907	57,237	53,350	32,222	12,290	(31,866)
Non Voted Expenditure							
Housing and Planning – Contingency Fund Advance	-	188	(358)	-	-	-	-
Total Administration expenditure	363,040	252,383	275,007	242,197	223,716	265,528	239,072

Interpreting the Core Tables

The rows called Departmental Unallocated Provision represent small unallocated budgets in both Resource DEL and Capital DEL which exist to help fund programmes in the future should the need arise.

Below, we have provided detail to help explain significant movements on the estimate row lines shown in the core tables above.

The Administration expenditure table provides a subset of figures from the Departmental Resource Spending table and, as such, detail on administration costs are provided within the first section below about the Resource DEL - Communities budget. In addition, the trend in administration expenditure is illustrated by the graph found on page 18.

Resource DEL - Communities

- A: Local Government & Public Services - From 2017-18, the Valuation Office Agency budget for business rate valuation and appeals transferred to HMRC.
- B: Housing and Planning - Planned expenditure peaks in 2018-19 due to planned expenditure on the Right to Buy Pilot (£140m).
- C: Decentralisation and Local Growth - Expenditure increases as a result of the increased devolution deal budget. The budget for 2018-19 includes funding for two areas not funded in previous years.
- D: Troubled Families - The budget for 2018-19 includes £41 million reprofiled from 2017-18 to more accurately match the budget with delivery.
- E: Research Data and Trading Funds - The row includes a budget for potential write offs and exchange rate losses that may be incurred on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes.
- F: MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure - The increase in our resource administration spend in 2018-19 and 2019-20 is caused by flexibilities the Department was awarded at Autumn Budget to employ additional resources to deliver expanded programmes.

From 2018-19, the Department is allowed to retain £72m of income from investment interest and charges to offset the costs of running the Department. This increases our income shown on Row H and our expenditure shown on row F. In 2019-20, we expect to generate income in excess of this cap and this will be returned to HM Treasury. The amount that cannot be retained (estimate £43.5m in 2019-20) is included in Row F as expenditure and Row H as income.

- H: Housing and Planning (ALB) (net) - The peak in 2018-19 is caused by a large impairment budget in that year, part of which relates to the Starter Homes programme. Changes to the Starter Homes programme in 2018-19 mean that this budget is unlikely to be fully utilised. This is offset by an increase in income from investments which are classified as administration by HM Treasury.

Resource DEL - Local Government

The Local Government Resource DEL figures have not yet been adjusted to represent any effect on the Department's budgets of the possible move to greater local authority retention of business rates.

- I: Revenue Support Grant - Part of the Department's remit is to manage and provide funding to local government on behalf of central government. 32% of Local Government DEL will be paid as Revenue Support Grant in 2018-19. This funding can be spent by local authorities on any service. The budget is decreasing across this SR period, but Local Government Core Spending Power is expected to rise by 1.9% in 2018-19 and 1.1% in 2019-20. Core Spending Power is a measure of the wider resources available to local government including council tax and retained business rates. The Department publishes an annual summary of Core Spending Power - the 2018-19 publication can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/core-spending-power-final-local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018>

- J: Other Grants and Payments - In 2017-18, the local authority funding on this estimate row was increased by new expenditure on Better Care Fund and Adult Social Care grants. In 2018-19 there is an increase in the value of the Business Rates Reliefs given to local authorities but an overall decrease in the budget due to the Adult Social Care Support grant having not yet been incorporated into budgets. The increase in 2019-20 is due to the Better Care Fund grant reaching £1.8bn (£1.1bn in 2017-18).
- K: Business Rates Retention - The row provides budget for the safety net payments to local authorities whose income from business rates is below a baseline level.

Resource AME

- L: Housing and Planning - Rise in budgets in 2018-19 is caused by the increasing scope of the Department's housing portfolio and larger expected exposure over the coming financial year, particularly on the Private Rented Sector guarantee programme. 2019-20 expenditure on the guarantees programmes are not yet incorporated into budgets.
- M: Research, Data and Trading Funds - The row provides budget for unrealised losses on foreign exchange movements that may occur as a result of the Department's work as the Managing Authority of the ERDF programme.
- N: MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure - The row provides budget for the creation and release of the core Department's provisions. Note 12 provides more detail.
- O: Non-Domestic Rates Outturn Adjustment - The row contains a £300m budget for 2018-19 and 2019-20 which has been set aside for outturn adjustments against prior year business rates expenditure following receipt of the audited NNDR3 forms in the following year. The Department originally held the same size budget for outturn adjustments in 2017-18, though this was not utilised and surrendered during the Supplementary Estimates process.
- P: Local Government and Public Services (ALB) (net) - The row records the pension costs of the VTS and the CLAE.
- Q: Housing and Planning (ALB) (net) - The Department has set aside increasing budgets for AME to cover potential impairments or devaluations in the Group's portfolio of financial assets, primarily the Homes England interest in Help to Buy properties. The amount used each year has been much lower than budgeted. In 2017-18, a budget of £450m was held on this row.
- R: Business Rates Retention - Since 2013-14, local authorities retain at least 50% of the business rates they collect, which forms a significant portion of their income. Retained business rates are recorded as a non cash expenditure item in the Department's accounts and the amount estimated to be retained by local authorities in 2018-19 is £21.3 billion. This is an increase over the 2017-18 estimate and reflects an expanded programme of 100% business rate pilots and growth. The 2018-19 100% business rates pilots are for one year only. Ministers have confirmed that there will be pilots in 2019-20, but until the pilot programme is finalised it is too early for it to be reflected in AME numbers for that year.

Capital DEL - Communities

- A: Local Government & Public Services - 2018-19 planned expenditure relates to loans and grants awarded to the Greater London Authority as part of the London Settlement. These have not currently been budgeted for post 2018-19 and this explains the reduction of planned expenditure in 2019-20.
- B: Housing and Planning - Planned expenditure is on an increasing trajectory from 2017-18 as a result of planned capital expenditure under the new National Productivity Infrastructure Fund and significant new funding received at Autumn Budget for Help to Buy.

- C: Decentralisation and Local Growth - The budget reduces over the remainder of Parliament due to a reduction in the Local Growth Fund budget.
- D: Troubled Families - The row records expenditure on research and development for the Troubled Families programme which was newly classified as capital expenditure by HM Treasury from 2016-17.
- E: Research, Data and Trading Funds - The row records other capital expenditure on research and development.
- F: MHCLG Staff, Building and Infrastructure - The row records the core Department's expenditure on the purchase of non-current assets, mostly IT system improvements.
- G: Local Government and Public Services (ALB)(net) - The row records capital expenditure on the purchase of non-current assets by two ALBs: the VTS and the CLAE.
- H: Housing and Planning (ALB)(net) - Expenditure on the Help to Buy programme remains a significant proportion of the budget and causes the peak in 2017-18. The figures also include a significant increase in expenditure on both the Affordable Homes programme from 2017-18, and on the Home Building Fund in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Regularity of Expenditure (subject to audit)

Losses, special payments and gifts

Managing Public Money and the FReM (both available on www.gov.uk) require the Department to produce a statement showing losses and special payments by value and by type. Where cases individually exceed £300,000, details of those cases must be disclosed.

	2017-18				2016-17			
	Core Department and Agency		Departmental Group		Core Department and Agency		Departmental Group	
	Cases	£'000	Cases	£'000	Cases	£'000	Cases	£'000
Losses (general)	38	36,229	106	36,247	27	6	122	11
Claims abandoned	55	9,773	69	11,317	46	11,334	196	11,456
Fruitless payments	5	232	5	232	10	36	10	36

	2017-18				2016-17			
	Core Department and Agency		Departmental Group		Core Department and Agency		Departmental Group	
	Cases	£'000	Cases	£'000	Cases	£'000	Cases	£'000
Special Payments	89	1,878	89	1,878	120	1,957	120	1,957

The Secretary of State made a Ministerial Direction not to reclaim an overpayment of £36 million made to local authorities that were taking part in the 100% business rates retention (BRR) pilot (see the Governance Statement for more detail). This resulted in a total write-off of £36 million. 24 local authorities were overpaid by more than £300k and 5 were overpaid by less.

In the normal course of administering the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) which is now closed, the Department pays grants to projects. When the project does not spend the grant in line with the conditions of the grant, the Department seeks to recoup the funds. Where funds cannot be re-couped, they are written off. There were 18 ERDF payment recovery write-offs individually below £300k with a total value of just over £1 million. There were a further two ERDF and three RGF write-offs each greater than £300k.

Cases over £300k	£'000
Two ERDF payment recovery write offs each greater than £300k (claims abandoned)	3,144
Three RGF payment recovery write offs each greater than £300k (claims abandoned)	5,209
24 BRR 100% pilot payment write offs each greater than £300k (general losses)	35,158
Homes England - Custom Build Programme write offs greater than £300k (claims abandoned)	1,476

Gifts, as defined by Managing Public Money, must also be disclosed and detailed where the value is greater than £300,000. Neither the Department, nor its ALBs made any reportable gifts in 2017-18 (2016-17: nil).

Fees and Charges (subject to audit)

The following information provides an analysis of the services for which a fee is charged.

Objectives	2017-18			2016-17		
	Full Cost	Income	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Full Cost	Income	Surplus/ (Deficit)
PINS - Local plans, major specialist casework and national infrastructure	(11,581)	5,915	(5,666)	(12,309)	7,267	(5,042)
THO - Membership of Housing Ombudsman scheme	(5,811)	6,004	193	(5,237)	4,567	(670)
HCA - The Regulator of Social Housing ⁽¹⁾	(5,117)	5,117	-	-	-	-
Total	(22,509)	17,036	(5,473)	(17,546)	11,834	(5,712)

(1) Statutory fees in relation to the regulation of Registered Provider (RPs) were charged from 1st October 2017

Contingent liabilities not required to be disclosed under IAS 37 but included for parliamentary reporting and accountability purposes (subject to audit)

Quantifiable

The Department has entered into quantifiable contingent liabilities by offering guarantees.

- The Department provides a guarantee scheme for the affordable housing sector, guaranteeing debt of no more than £3.5 billion. At the reporting date, the Department had approved borrowing of circa £3.5 billion of which £3.2 billion had been drawn down. The guarantees have been valued in accordance with IAS39 and have been recognised as a financial guarantee in the Statement of Financial Position with a value of £27.9 million.
- The Department provides a guarantee scheme for the private rented sector, guaranteeing debt of no more than £3.5 billion. At the reporting date, the Department had approved borrowing of circa £1.4 billion of which £0.4 billion had been drawn down and is covered by the guarantee scheme. The guarantees have been valued in accordance with IAS39 and have been recognised as a financial guarantee in the Statement of Financial Position with a value of £26.7 million.

The Department has not entered into any quantifiable contingent liabilities by offering indemnities or by giving letters of comfort.

Unquantifiable

The Department has entered into the following unquantifiable contingent liabilities by offering guarantees, indemnities or by giving letters of comfort. None of these is a contingent liability within the meaning of IAS 37 since the likelihood of a transfer of economic benefit in settlement is too remote.

- The Department provides a guarantee under the NewBuy scheme to underwrite a percentage of mortgage lending risk. These guarantees have been measured in accordance with IAS 37 as they do not fit the recognition criteria for a financial instrument under IAS 39. Any liability arising as measured under IAS 37 is considered too remote for recognition as a contingent liability at the date of these accounts but is disclosed for parliamentary reporting and accountability purposes.
- The Department has given an indemnity to the Official Receiver for the former Sahaviriya Steel Industries UK (SSI) Steel works site in Redcar, unlimited in value, to protect him against liabilities incurred in connection with activities undertaken by consultants carrying out site assessments activity on the site he had responsibility for keeping safe. An indemnity was also given to the South Tees Site Company (STSC) for the period when it held responsibility for keeping the site safe to cover all liabilities suffered or incurred as a result of the site assessment activity.
- In 2016, the UK Government announced that the Government would guarantee, after the UK has left the EU, EU funded structural and investment fund projects signed before the UK leaves the EU, providing they are good value for money and in line with domestic strategic priorities. The financial settlement has now been signed off by both UK & EU Commission negotiators in a draft Withdrawal Agreement and welcomed by the EU-27 at March European Council. The guarantee will therefore only be called in the event that the Withdrawal Agreement is not ratified. The Department is responsible for the European Structural Fund so discloses a quantifiable contingent liability of £1.3bn relating to European Regional Development Fund and discloses a further unquantifiable contingent liability relating to European Territorial Cooperation element of the European Regional Development Fund.

Melanie Dawes CB
Accounting Officer
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

11 July 2018

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and of its Departmental Group for the year ended 31 March 2018 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. The Department comprises the core Department and its agency. The Departmental Group consists of the Department and the bodies designated for inclusion under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 (Estimates and Accounts) Order 2017. The financial statements comprise: the Department's and Departmental Group's Statements of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Financial Position, Cash Flows, Changes in Taxpayers' Equity; and the related notes, including the significant accounting policies. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

I have also audited the Statement of Parliamentary Supply and the related notes, and the information in the Accountability Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Department's and the Departmental Group's affairs as at 31 March 2018 and of the Department's net operating expenditure and Departmental Group's net operating expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 and HM Treasury directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects:

- the Statement of Parliamentary Supply properly presents the outturn against voted Parliamentary control totals for the year ended 31 March 2018 and shows that those totals have not been exceeded; and
- the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis of opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my certificate. Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard 2016. I am independent of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit and the financial statements in the UK. My staff and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the group financial statements. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the Statement of Parliamentary Supply properly presents the outturn against voted Parliamentary control totals and that those totals have not been exceeded. The voted Parliamentary control totals are Departmental Expenditure Limits (Resource and Capital), Annually Managed Expenditure (Resource and Capital), Non-Budget (Resource) and Net Cash Requirement. I am also required to obtain

evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Other Information

The Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises information included in the annual report, other than the parts of the Accountability Report described in that report as having been audited, the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- the parts of the Accountability Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury directions made under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000;
- in the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified any material misstatements in the Performance Report or the Accountability Report; and
- the information given in the Performance and Accountability Reports for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- the financial statements and the parts of the Accountability Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Sir Amyas C E Morse
Comptroller and Auditor General
 National Audit Office
 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
 Victoria
 London
 SW1W 9SP

16 July 2018

Financial Statements

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

For the year ended 31 March 2018

All activities are continuing

This account summarises the expenditure and income generated and consumed on an accruals basis. It also includes other comprehensive income and expenditure, which include changes to the values of non-current assets and other financial instruments that cannot yet be recognised as income or expenditure.

		2017-18		2016-17	
		Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Note					
	Staff Costs	121,365	205,137	117,656	195,022
	Operating Expenditure	30,637,089	31,457,716	28,540,787	29,144,937
	Operating Income	(3,870,099)	(4,108,191)	(3,446,665)	(3,738,351)
	Grant-in-aid to ALBs	3,703,023	-	2,566,387	-
	Net Operating Expenditure for the year ended 31 March	30,591,378	27,554,662	27,778,165	25,601,608
	Total Expenditure	34,461,477	31,662,853	31,224,830	29,339,959
	Total Income	(3,870,099)	(4,108,191)	(3,446,665)	(3,738,351)
	Net Operating Expenditure for the year ended 31 March	30,591,378	27,554,662	27,778,165	25,601,608
	Other Comprehensive Net Expenditure:				
	Items that will not be reclassified to net operating expenditure:				
	Net (Gain)/Loss on:				
	Pensions Schemes	13,405	(23,990)	25,842	43,762
	Income tax on items in other comprehensive expenditure	-	14,533	-	8,873
	Disposal of available for sale assets recognised in net expenditure	-	82,849	-	68,012
	Items that may be reclassified to net operating expenditure:				
	Fair value gain on available for sale assets	-	(143,319)	-	(148,199)
	Total comprehensive expenditure for the year ended 31 March	30,604,783	27,484,735	27,804,007	25,574,056

The Notes on pages 86 to 105 form part of these accounts.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 March 2018

This statement presents the financial position of the Departmental Group. It comprises three main components: assets owned or controlled by the Group; liabilities owed to other bodies; and equity, the remaining value of the Group.

£'000

		31 March 2018		31 March 2017	
	Note	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Non-current assets					
Property, plant and equipment		21,856	26,621	23,421	27,404
Intangible assets		8,328	33,544	6,424	10,478
Investments	6	251,492	1,113,921	118,738	778,007
Available for sale financial assets	7	99,482	9,053,430	151,558	6,569,490
Investment properties		65,022	65,022	46,336	46,336
Trade and other receivables	9	39,201	165,371	20,330	171,605
Total non-current assets		485,381	10,457,909	366,807	7,603,320
Current assets					
Inventories	8	147,420	927,443	57,932	648,531
Trade and other receivables	9	371,839	939,895	335,265	675,130
Cash and cash equivalents	10	1,588,308	1,838,863	1,628,766	1,820,893
Total current assets		2,107,567	3,706,201	2,021,963	3,144,554
Total Assets		2,592,948	14,164,110	2,388,770	10,747,874
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	11	2,573,269	2,971,202	2,277,206	2,546,645
Provisions	12	4,141	14,906	4,631	22,295
Total current liabilities		2,577,410	2,986,108	2,281,837	2,568,940
Non-current assets plus/less net current assets/liabilities		15,538	11,178,002	106,933	8,178,934
Non-current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	11	267,597	280,504	246,697	261,037
Provisions	12	16,146	32,039	13,654	27,361
Pensions	13	170,630	153,743	161,866	175,317
Financial guarantees		54,567	54,567	34,404	34,404
Total non-current liabilities		508,940	520,853	456,621	498,119
Assets less liabilities		(493,402)	10,657,149	(349,688)	7,680,815
Taxpayers' equity					
General fund		(330,260)	10,801,822	(200,007)	7,848,071
Revaluation reserve		311	251	367	307
Pension reserve		(163,453)	(144,924)	(150,048)	(167,563)
Total taxpayers' equity		(493,402)	10,657,149	(349,688)	7,680,815

Melanie Dawes CB
Accounting Officer
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

11 July 2018

The Notes on pages 86 to 105 form part of these accounts.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2018

The Statement of Cash Flows shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Departmental Group during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Department generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of service costs and the extent to which these operations are funded by way of income from the recipients of services provided by the Group. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash inflows and outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Departments' future public service delivery.

		2017-18		2016-17		
		Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	
Note						
Cash Flows from Operating Activities						
	Net Operating Expenditure	SoCNE	(30,591,378)	(27,554,662)	(27,778,165)	(25,601,608)
Adjusted for:						
	Finance costs	4,5	3,402	(41,432)	23,896	(18,878)
	(Profit)/loss on disposal of non-current assets	4,5	-	(79,720)	(3,787)	(68,232)
	Depreciation and amortisation	4	3,927	7,624	5,377	8,267
	Revaluation of non-current assets passing through the SoCNE	4	(20,362)	(20,362)	5,823	5,823
	Impairment of non-current assets	4	40,967	136,570	53,272	103,930
	Increase/decrease in inventories	8	(89,488)	(269,126)	233,472	226,826
	Other non cash transaction	4,5	44,505	43,817	16,646	16,547
	(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables		(72,117)	(32,519)	(8,937)	(36,780)
	Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		352,429	479,490	(394,006)	(319,102)
	Movement in provisions	4	6,874	6,139	898	8,138
	Utilisation of provision	12	(4,872)	(8,850)	(5,533)	(14,960)
	Pension fund adjustments		(9,905)	(3,234)	(6)	2,921
	Local share (business rates retained by local authorities)	4	14,587,527	14,587,527	11,588,387	11,588,387
	Adjustments for Corporation Tax		-	(14,533)	-	(8,873)
	Adjustments for net operating (gains)/losses - asset transfers	4,5	1,676	27,582	-	24,973
Net Cash outflow from operating activities			(15,746,815)	(12,735,689)	(16,262,663)	(14,082,621)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities						
	Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(4,201)	(5,784)	(3,718)	(4,091)
	Purchase of intangible assets		(2,930)	(27,015)	(2,527)	(5,997)
	Financial assets issued		(231,188)	(4,015,002)	(152,825)	(2,870,225)
	Proceeds on disposal of financial assets		13,295	605,998	12,760	399,752
	Proceeds from disposal of Fire Service College assets held for sale		-	-	1,532	1,532
	Repayment of financial assets	6	99,113	324,949	88,139	265,359
	Interest received	5	5,034	43,281	1,739	28,193
	Other adjustments - investing activities		(34)	(34)	(105)	(105)
Net Cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities			(120,911)	(3,073,607)	(55,005)	(2,185,582)

£'000

		2017-18		2016-17	
	Note	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Cash Flows from Financing Activities					
From the consolidated fund (supply) - current year		16,536,782	16,536,782	17,991,702	17,991,702
Capital element of payments in respect of finance leases		(3,174)	(3,174)	(3,042)	(3,042)
Interest paid	4	(5,804)	(5,806)	(5,992)	(6,043)
Foreign exchange movements	4,5	3,577	3,577	8,176	8,176
Net Cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities		16,531,381	16,531,379	17,990,844	17,990,793
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period before adjustment for receipts and payments to the Consolidated Fund					
		663,655	722,083	1,673,176	1,722,590
Receipts due to the Consolidated Fund which are outside the scope of the Department's activities		-	-	(7)	(7)
Payments due to the Consolidated Fund		(704,113)	(704,113)	(436,394)	(436,394)
Other balances surrenderable to the Consolidated Fund	SoPS4.1	-	-	2	2
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period after adjustment for receipts and payments to the Consolidated Fund		(40,458)	17,970	1,236,777	1,286,191
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	10	1,628,766	1,820,893	391,989	534,702
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	10	1,588,308	1,838,863	1,628,766	1,820,893

The Notes on pages 86 to 105 form part of these accounts.

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity

For the year ended 31 March 2018

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Departmental Group, analysed into 'general fund reserves' (i.e. those reserves that reflect a contribution from the Consolidated Fund). The Revaluation Reserve reflects the change in asset values that have not been recognised as income or expenditure. The General Fund represents the total assets less liabilities of a Department, to the extent that the total is not represented by other reserves and financing items. The Pension Reserve reflects actuarial gains/losses on pension schemes.

£'000

	Note	General Fund	Revaluation Reserve	Pension Reserve	Total Reserves
Balance at 31 March 2016		5,452,300	16,537	(121,247)	5,347,590
Comprehensive Net Expenditure	SOCNE	(25,530,294)	-	(43,762)	(25,574,056)
Non cash charges - auditor's remuneration	4	416	-	-	416
Local share (business rates retained by local authorities)	4	11,588,387	-	-	11,588,387
Other adjustments to reserves		-	-	(48)	(48)
Transfers between reserves		18,736	(16,230)	(2,506)	-
Total recognised income and expenses for 2016-17		(13,922,755)	(16,230)	(46,316)	(13,985,301)
Net Parliamentary Funding		16,801,337	-	-	16,801,337
CFERs payable to the Consolidated Fund	SoPS4.1	(482,811)	-	-	(482,811)
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-
Sub Total		16,318,526	-	-	16,318,526
Balance at 31 March 2017		7,848,071	307	(167,563)	7,680,815
Comprehensive Net Expenditure	SOCNE	(27,508,725)	-	23,990	(27,484,735)
Non cash charges - auditor's remuneration	4	416	-	-	416
Local share (business rates retained by local authorities)	4	14,587,527	-	-	14,587,527
Transfers between reserves		1,407	(56)	(1,351)	-
Total recognised income and expenses for 2017-18		(12,919,375)	(56)	22,639	(12,896,792)
Net Parliamentary Funding		16,527,713	-	-	16,527,713
CFERs payable to the consolidated fund	SoPS4.1	(654,587)	-	-	(654,587)
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-
Sub Total		15,873,126	-	-	15,873,126
Balance at 31 March 2018		10,801,822	251	(144,924)	10,657,149

The Notes on pages 86 to 105 form part of these accounts.

Core Department and Agency Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity

For the year ended 31 March 2018

£'000

	Note	General Fund	Revaluation Reserve	Pension Reserve	Total Reserves
Balance at 31 March 2016		(345,350)	16,546	(124,206)	(453,010)
Comprehensive Net Expenditure	SOCNE	(27,778,165)	-	(25,842)	(27,804,007)
Non cash charges - auditor's remuneration		416	-	-	416
Local share (business rates retained by local authorities)	4	11,588,387	-	-	11,588,387
Transfers between reserves		16,179	(16,179)	-	-
Total recognised income and expenses for 2016-17		(16,173,183)	(16,179)	(25,842)	(16,215,204)
Net Parliamentary Funding		16,801,337	-	-	16,801,337
CFERs payable to the Consolidated Fund	SoPS4.1	(482,811)	-	-	(482,811)
Transfer of assets and liabilities		-	-	-	-
Sub Total		16,318,526	-	-	16,318,526
Balance at 31 March 2017		(200,007)	367	(150,048)	(349,688)
Comprehensive Net Expenditure	SOCNE	(30,591,378)	-	(13,405)	(30,604,783)
Non cash charges - auditor's remuneration		416	-	-	416
Local share (business rates retained by local authorities)	4	14,587,527	-	-	14,587,527
Transfers between reserves		56	(56)	-	-
Total recognised income and expenses for 2017-18		(16,003,379)	(56)	(13,405)	(16,016,840)
Net Parliamentary Funding		16,527,713	-	-	16,527,713
CFERs payable to the consolidated fund	SoPS4.1	(654,587)	-	-	(654,587)
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-
Sub Total		15,873,126	-	-	15,873,126
Balance at 31 March 2018		(330,260)	311	(163,453)	(493,402)

The Notes on pages 86 to 105 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Departmental Accounts

Note 1. Statement of Accounting Policies

1. General

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury under section 5 (2) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

The accounting policies adopted are in accordance with the 2017-18 FReM issued by HM Treasury and apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context. Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which has been judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Departmental Group for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected.

2. Basis of consolidation

These Financial Statements consolidate those of the core Department, the Department's Executive Agency and those arm's-length bodies (ALBs) which fall within the Departmental boundary as defined by the FReM; these bodies make up the 'Departmental Group'. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is the ultimate parent of the Departmental Group and its results, along with those of the Department's Executive Agency, are presented in columns labelled 'Core Department & Agency'. Transactions between, and balances with, entities included in the Departmental Group are eliminated. A list of all those entities within the Departmental boundary is given in Note 21.

3. Impact of standards and interpretations in issue but not yet effective

The Department has assessed the following standards and amendments that have been issued but are not yet effective and determined not to adopt them before the effective date:

- IFRS 9 Financial Instruments - effective from 2018-19. The standard introduces new classification categories and subsequent measurement requirements for financial assets as well as the introduction of a new approach for calculating and recognising impairments.

Under IFRS 9, the classification of financial assets will be determined by reference to the asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the business model in which the asset is held, resulting in the asset being assigned one of three classifications: amortised cost, fair value through profit and loss or fair value through other comprehensive income.

The Department's available for sale assets will be classified at fair value through profit and loss. The assets will continue to be accounted for at fair value however; any change in fair value will now be recognised in net expenditure. This will increase volatility in net expenditure and result in the elimination of the fair value reserve (currently included in the general fund balance).

The Department's other financial assets, which would have previously been designated as loans and receivables, will be classified at amortised cost and therefore impacted by the introduction of a new impairment model. The model requires the recognition of a loss allowance based on *expected* credit losses as opposed to *incurred* credit losses as required by the previous standard, bringing forward the recognition of losses on these financial assets. The loss allowance will be updated at each reporting date reflecting the changes in credit risk since initial recognition. Assets classified at amortised cost are, in the main, held by Homes England (previously known as the Homes & Communities Agency), for more detail on the new impairment model, refer to Homes England Annual Report and Accounts.

Whilst there are significant changes in the treatment of financial assets, the classification and measurement of financial liabilities under IFRS 9 remains largely unchanged from the previous standard.

The FReM has confirmed that the Department shall not restate comparatives for 2017-18 and instead will recognise any difference between the carrying amount at 31 March 2018 under IAS 39 and the opening balance on 1 April 2018 under IFRS 9 in the opening reserves of the 2018-19 financial year. Opening reserves are expected to decrease by between £30m and £40m, this impact assessment has been estimated under an interim control environment with models that continue to undergo development and validation.

- IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers - effective from 2018-19. IFRS 15 establishes a model that should be applied when reporting information about the nature, amount and timing of revenue from a contract with a customer. Its application in the public sector context has been interpreted by the FReM. The new standard is not expected to have a material impact on the Department.
- IFRS 16 Leases - effective from 2019-20. The standard largely removes the distinction between operating and finance leases for lessees by introducing a single lessee accounting model that requires a lessee to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value. The application of IFRS 16 in the public sector context has yet to be confirmed by the FReM. The most significant effect of the new requirements is expected to be an increase in lease assets and liabilities on the Department's statement of financial position, however the financial impact cannot currently be reasonably estimated.

4. Significant estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make estimates and judgements that affect amounts reported. Estimates and judgements are based on knowledge of current facts and circumstances, historic experience and other relevant factors. Where significant estimates and judgements have been made, the relevant accounting policy or note to the accounts will provide further details.

5. Inventories

The Homes England (previously known as the Homes & Communities Agency) property/development assets, consisting of land and buildings, are valued in accordance with IAS2.

A valuation of the whole portfolio is carried out as at each reporting date by both internal and external qualified valuers, with independent external valuers appointed for the majority of the portfolio's value and also to value complex properties. The determination of the portfolio value, by its nature, involves a significant amount of estimation uncertainty and accordingly, is a significant estimate within the accounts. In all cases valuations are in accordance with RICS Valuation - Professional Standards (9th Edition) published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

A receivable (net of VAT) from the disposal of development property assets is recognised when there is a legally binding sale agreement, which has become unconditional and irrevocable by the end of the reporting period, subject to any provisions necessary to cover residual commitments relating to the property.

Claims for payment to 2007-13 and 2014-20 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) projects are initially charged against work in progress and only recognised as an expense once certified as compliant with the ERDF Regulations, such that the related ERDF income can be recognised. Where any amounts charged to work in progress subsequently fail certification, recovery of the cost is sought from projects. Further details about the ERDF balances included in these accounts can be found in Annex B.

6. Financial Assets

The Department's financial assets are classified as either available for sale assets or loans and receivables, in line with IAS 39. See Note 14 for more information.

7. Financial Guarantees

The Department provides Affordable Housing guarantees over borrowing to Private Registered Providers to facilitate access to borrowing at competitive interest rates to fund the building of affordable housing. The guarantees are recognised in line with IAS 39 with a probability-weighted expected loss model used as the basis of the accounting valuation.

The Department also provides Private Rented Sector guarantees over borrowing to incentivise institutional investment in the supply of new, purpose built and professionally managed private rented sector homes. The guarantees are recognised in line with IAS 39 with the accounting valuation based on the lifetime fee that will be paid by the borrower in return for the guaranteed funds. This fee includes the cost of risk, administration costs and a fee to the Department based on appropriate remuneration.

The methodology used to determine the fair value of the guarantees is considered to be an area of significant estimation and judgment within the accounts.

8. Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme

Past and present employees of the core Department and Agency are covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). This comprises several schemes which are unfunded defined benefit schemes with varying contribution rules and rates. The Department recognises the expected cost of employers' contributions over the period during which it benefits from employees' services by payments to the PCSPS of amounts calculated on an accruing basis. Liability for payment of future benefits is a charge on the PCSPS and not recognised in these accounts.

For details of other pension schemes the Department holds, please see Note 13. Employees of arm's-length bodies (ALBs) are generally members of funded defined benefit schemes. More details of individual schemes are available in the annual accounts of the bodies concerned.

9. Grants

Grants made or received by the Department are recorded as expenditure or income respectively in the period that the underlying event or activity giving entitlement to the grant occurs, or with unringfenced grants on the occurrence of such other event giving rise to entitlement.

Grant-in-Aid payments from the core Department to ALBs are paid only when the need for cash has been demonstrated by the body concerned. ALBs treat receipts of Grant in Aid as financing in accordance with the FReM. These transactions are eliminated on consolidation.

Grant payments may need to be recovered from recipients for a variety of reasons depending on the grant conditions. Where recoveries are made income is recognised at the point that the invoice, or other notice requiring repayment, has been issued.

Grant expenditure and income in respect of Business Rates is also recognised at the point at which eligibility is determined. For the accounting year, Business Rates income is determined via NNDR1 claim forms submitted by local authorities and the associated expenditure, including the notional charge for the local share, and income are recognised once these claim forms are approved. The amounts recognised also include final adjustments to prior years' figures where eligibility has been confirmed by inclusion of audited figures in local authority NNDR3 returns. The local share refers to the business rates that local authorities retain under Business Rates Retention.

Grant expenditure and income in respect of ERDF is also recognised at the point at which eligibility is determined. Further details about the ERDF balances included in these accounts can be found in Annex B.

Note 2. Operating costs by operating segment

The Department's operating costs are analysed into four operating segments. Activities in respect of Finance and Corporate Services, Strategy, Communications & Private Office are not reported as a segment as these are all administrative functions. They do not meet the specified criteria of a reportable segment in line with IFRS 8 because they do not directly impact on performance.

Net programme expenditure against the four operating segments is shown in the following table. Programme expenditure on 'Research, Data and Trading Funds' and 'MHCLG staff, buildings and infrastructure' (Estimate Rows E and F in the Estimate) and administration expenditure is not allocated to segments and these form the reconciling items in Note 2.1.

		2017-18					2016-17				
	Note	Local Government and Public Services	Troubled Families	Housing and Planning	Decentralisation and Growth	Total	Local Government and Public Services	Troubled Families	Housing and Planning	Decentralisation and Growth	Total
Gross Expenditure	SoPS1.1	26,302,419	214,150	3,076,053	1,729,836	31,322,458	23,687,891	171,634	2,887,462	2,210,828	28,957,815
Income	SoPS1.1	(3,011,066)	-	(565,815)	(161,470)	(3,738,351)	(2,443,004)	-	(618,752)	(317,191)	(3,378,947)
Net Expenditure		23,291,353	214,150	2,510,238	1,568,366	27,584,107	21,244,887	171,634	2,268,710	1,893,637	25,578,868

The Department does not consider that assets and liabilities can be meaningfully allocated to segments and manages and reports on assets and liabilities as a single block. Therefore, in accordance with IFRS 8, no breakdown of assets and liabilities by segment is given.

2.1 Reconciliation between operating segments and CSocNE

The table below shows the small difference between expenditure analysed in Note 2 and total expenditure in our Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. It relates to the income and expenditure of the activities not included in Note 2 as operating segments along with non-budget income the Department passes to HM Treasury.

	Note	2017-18 Total	2016-17 Total
Total net expenditure reported for operating segments	2	27,584,107	25,578,868
Reconciling items:			
Income		(369,840)	(359,404)
Expenditure		270,468	354,592
Total net expenditure per Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure	SoCNE	27,484,735	25,574,056

Note 3. Staff Costs

	2017-18		2016-17	
Notes	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Staff Costs	121,365	205,137	117,656	195,022

The Staff Report, page 51, contains a full breakdown of staff costs.

Note 4. Operating Expenditure

£'000

		2017-18		2016-17	
	Notes	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Non-Cash Items					
Asset transfers: capital grant in kind expenditure		1,676	37,368	-	64,013
Depreciation and amortisation		3,927	7,624	5,377	8,267
Impairment of assets		40,967	194,839	53,272	154,059
Revaluation of assets		(20,362)	(20,362)	5,823	5,823
Loss on disposal of assets		-	53	103	103
ERDF write-offs and disallowances		1,371	1,371	3,485	3,485
ERDF exchange rate losses (unrealised)		-	-	1,625	1,625
Auditors remuneration		416	416	416	416
Increase/Decrease in provisions (Provisions provided for in year less any release)	12	6,874	6,139	898	8,138
Write-off of bad debt		42,718	42,030	12,745	12,646
Net interest on pension scheme liabilities	13	4,250	4,479	4,452	3,925
Admin charge on pension assets		1,014	1,171	1,064	1,195
Share of Loss of Joint Ventures and Associates	6	-	390	-	-
Notional costs		121	121	115	115
Local share (business rates retained by local authorities)		14,587,527	14,587,527	11,588,387	11,588,387
Other non cash costs		15,272	15,272	21,453	21,453
Total Non Cash Items		14,685,771	14,878,438	11,699,215	11,873,650
Cash Items					
Rentals under operating leases		427	1,406	409	1,406
Accommodation including rentals under operating leases		41,866	50,855	41,473	50,400
Research and development		8,301	8,301	7,194	7,194
Legal and professional services		15,150	39,435	185,964	203,140
Consultancy		276	334	585	895
Marketing and communications		1,095	1,607	7,663	7,888
Training and development		2,984	3,816	1,760	2,472
Auditor's remuneration		47	501	52	517
IT expenditure		19,211	22,988	20,795	25,022
Travel and subsistence		3,532	6,233	3,478	5,972
Early retirement and voluntary exit costs		7,041	7,041	5,073	5,073
ERDF exchange rate losses (realised)		-	-	-	-
Interest payable		5,804	5,806	5,992	6,043
Taxation		5,196	(7,414)	4,076	(3,400)
ERDF grants		143,019	143,019	302,775	302,775
Revenue support grant and PFI grant		4,017,658	4,017,658	7,424,375	7,424,375
Business rates retention (top ups)		3,058,592	3,058,592	2,453,096	2,453,096
Other capital grants to local authorities		2,641,353	2,716,508	2,595,243	2,675,070
Other current grants to local authorities		5,938,681	5,944,491	3,687,768	3,708,391
Other grants		31,785	536,799	68,695	356,815
Other cash costs		9,300	21,302	25,106	38,143
Total Cash Items		15,951,318	16,579,278	16,841,572	17,271,287
Total		30,637,089	31,457,716	28,540,787	29,144,937

The external auditors total group fees (notional and cash) for all statutory audit work were £798k. Of the £501k cash charge for Auditor's remuneration, £382k relates to external audit fees and the remaining relates to other assurance work not performed by external audit.

Note 5. Operating Income

		2017-18		2016-17	
		Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Notes					
Non Cash Items					
	Asset transfers: capital grant in kind income	-	9,786	-	39,040
	Gain on sale of non current assets and assets held for sale	-	139,111	3,890	168,508
	Increase in fair value - financial assets	-	7,365	236	6,156
	Decrease in fair value - financial liabilities	2,065	2,065	539	539
	ERDF exchange rate gains (unrealised)	12,262	12,262	-	-
	Notional income	121	121	115	115
	Share of profit of joint ventures and associates	6	-	-	10,055
	Total Non Cash Items	14,448	170,710	4,780	224,413
Cash Items					
	CFER income	174,716	174,716	188,751	188,751
	Grant income	469,069	477,451	435,891	449,282
	ERDF grant income	144,648	144,941	313,756	320,144
	Business rates retention (tariff)	3,005,779	3,005,779	2,442,056	2,442,056
	Goods and services	7,833	8,264	14,100	14,635
	Accommodation	25,406	32,097	24,908	32,577
	Fees	6,148	17,623	7,494	12,703
	ERDF exchange rate gains (realised)	3,577	3,577	8,176	8,176
	Interest and dividends	5,034	43,281	1,739	28,193
	ERDF match income	-	-	16	16
	Miscellaneous	13,441	29,752	4,998	17,405
	Total Cash Items	3,855,651	3,937,481	3,441,885	3,513,938
	Total	3,870,099	4,108,191	3,446,665	3,738,351

Note 6. Investments

Shares & Equity Investments relate to investments in joint ventures and are accounted for in accordance with IAS 28 via the Equity method.

Investment Funds, Private and Public Sector Loans are financial assets under IAS 39 and are categorised as Loans and Receivables.

- Investment funds relate to investment in the Coalfields Enterprise Fund and the Coalfields Growth Fund.
- The private sector loan additions in 2016-17 and 2017-18 relate to loans made under the Home Building Fund and Build to Rent programmes.
- Public Sector Loans primarily relate to loan facilities held with Greater London Authority and Manchester City Council. For further details on these loans, see Note 16.

Public Dividend Capital relates to the financing of the QEII conference centre.

	£'000					
	Shares & Equity Investments	Investment Funds	Private Sector Loans	Public Sector Loans	Public Dividend Capital	Total Investments & Loans
Opening balance at 1 April 2016	12,528	11,328	485,281	62,811	821	572,769
Additions	905	-	381,067	155,531	-	537,503
Write down/Impairments	-	(1,440)	(2,062)	-	-	(3,502)
Repayments	-	-	(165,119)	(100,240)	-	(265,359)
Profit/(loss) on JV or Associate	10,055	-	-	-	-	10,055
Reclassification	(2,323)	-	-	-	-	(2,323)
Transfer to receivables < 1year	-	-	(71,136)	-	-	(71,136)
Balance at 31 March 2017	21,165	9,888	628,031	118,102	821	778,007
Additions	2,081	-	680,322	233,190	-	915,593
Write down/Impairments	-	679	(7,536)	-	-	(6,857)
Repayments	-	-	(216,995)	(107,954)	-	(324,949)
Profit/(loss) on JV or Associate	(390)	-	-	-	-	(390)
Transfers in/(out)	-	-	(12,851)	-	-	(12,851)
Transfer to receivables < 1year	-	-	(234,632)	-	-	(234,632)
Balance at 31 March 2018	22,856	10,567	836,339	243,338	821	1,113,921
Of which:						
Core Department	5,000	10,567	-	235,104	821	251,492
Agencies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Designated bodies	17,856	-	836,339	8,234	-	862,429

Note 7. Available for sale financial assets

Available for sale financial assets are, in the main, made up of assets of Homes England (previously known as the Homes & Communities Agency) which represents their interests in housing developments and Help to Buy properties.

Movement in the fair value of available for sale assets is recognised within a fair value reserve, presented in these financial statements as part of the general fund. At 31 March 2018, the fair value reserve amounts to £351m of the total general fund. As detailed in the Statement of Accounting Policies, the fair value reserve will be eliminated on the introduction of IFRS 9 in 2018-19.

For further details on the accounting treatment and valuation of the available for sale assets, see the Homes England's Agency Annual Report and Accounts.

	2017-18		2016-17	
	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Opening balance at 1 April	151,558	6,569,490	187,747	4,627,758
Additions	-	3,099,409	-	2,332,722
Write offs	(38,781)	(126,874)	(31,436)	(82,187)
Disposals	(13,295)	(644,765)	(4,753)	(459,325)
Revaluations	-	143,319	-	148,199
Transfers	-	12,851	-	2,323
At 31 March	99,482	9,053,430	151,558	6,569,490

Note 8. Inventories

Inventories in respect of land and buildings relate to property and development land assets.

	2017-18		2016-17	
	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Land and buildings				
Opening balance at 1 April	-	590,599	-	544,913
Additions	-	318,552	-	214,342
Disposals	-	(70,859)	-	(118,527)
Impairments	-	(58,269)	-	(50,129)
Closing balance Land and buildings as at 31 March	-	780,023	-	590,599
ERDF Work in Progress				
Opening balance as at 1 April	57,932	57,932	291,404	291,404
Payments to Projects	193,669	193,669	75,266	75,266
Disposals	(104,181)	(104,181)	(308,738)	(308,738)
Closing balance ERDF as at 31 March	147,420	147,420	57,932	57,932
Total inventory closing balance as at 31 March	147,420	927,443	57,932	648,531

Note 9. Trade and other receivables

£'000

	2017-18		2016-17	
	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade receivables	1,283	94,012	845	88,231
Deposits and advances	-	42	-	40
VAT receivables	1,735	8,259	1,662	1,720
Other receivables	26,515	41,961	26,698	54,946
ERDF accrued income	273,672	273,672	256,738	256,738
Prepayments and accrued income	68,634	97,507	49,322	83,645
Current asset investments	-	424,442	-	189,810
Sub Total	371,839	939,895	335,265	675,130
Amounts falling due after more than one year:				
Trade receivables	-	106,644	-	133,506
Other receivables	23,938	43,464	19,364	37,133
ERDF advances	14,531	14,531	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	732	732	966	966
Sub Total	39,201	165,371	20,330	171,605
Total	411,040	1,105,266	355,595	846,735

Note 10. Cash and cash equivalents

£'000

	2017-18		2016-17	
	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Balance at 1 April	1,628,766	1,820,893	391,989	534,702
Net change in cash and cash equivalent balances	(40,458)	17,970	1,236,777	1,286,191
Cash Balance at 31 March	1,588,308	1,838,863	1,628,766	1,820,893
The following balances at 31 March were held at:				
Commercial banks and cash in hand	-	31,841	-	44,389
Government Banking Service	1,588,308	1,807,022	1,628,766	1,776,504
Balance at 31 March	1,588,308	1,838,863	1,628,766	1,820,893

Note 11. Trade and other payables

	2017-18		2016-17	
	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
	£'000			
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Taxation and social security	2,638	4,189	2,421	9,613
Trade payables	244	356,150	555	226,212
Other payables	339,427	355,073	13,496	29,704
Accruals	401,744	409,341	430,135	442,282
Finance lease	9,669	9,669	8,977	8,977
Deferred income	1,254	18,487	938	9,173
ERDF deferred income	229,985	229,985	191,918	191,918
Amount issued from the Consolidated Fund for supply but not spent	1,550,053	1,550,053	1,540,985	1,540,985
Consolidated fund extra receipts to be paid to the Consolidated Fund				
-received	38,255	38,255	87,781	87,781
-receivable	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	2,573,269	2,971,202	2,277,206	2,546,645
Amounts falling due after more than one year:				
Finance lease	89,877	89,877	93,742	93,742
ERDF deposits held	171,172	171,172	148,785	148,785
Other payables	3,161	10,605	-	11,985
Deferred income	3,387	8,850	4,170	6,525
Sub Total	267,597	280,504	246,697	261,037
Total	2,840,866	3,251,706	2,523,903	2,807,682

The 'Amount issued from the Consolidated Fund for supply but not spent' represents the balance of the cash held in the Department's bank account at year end that will be available for use on voted activities next year when it becomes 'Deemed Supply'.

Note 12. Provisions for liabilities and charges

	£'000			
	2017-18		2016-17	
	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
Opening balance at 1 April	18,285	49,656	22,920	56,478
Increase	7,828	10,112	2,846	9,826
Utilisation	(4,872)	(8,850)	(5,533)	(14,960)
Reversal	(954)	(3,953)	(1,948)	(2,676)
Unwinding of discount	-	(20)	-	988
Balance at 31 March	20,287	46,945	18,285	49,656
Of which:				
Current liabilities	4,141	14,906	4,631	22,295
Non-current liabilities	16,146	32,039	13,654	27,361
Balance at 31 March	20,287	46,945	18,285	49,656

Core Department provisions comprise:

(i) Early retirement provisions

The Department and its Agency meet the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme benefit for employees who retire early. An amount is paid annually to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme for the period between early departure and the normal retirement date. The Department and Agency provide for this in full when the early retirement becomes a binding liability.

(ii) Other provisions

In the core Department, these provisions include claims made by staff and third parties against the Department. The provision is calculated based on general experience of what the maximum for each type of claim is worth. Provisions are also made for dilapidations to comply with lease clauses for buildings which are occupied by the Department. The Department's dilapidation provisions are calculated based on the estimated cost of meeting future expenditure, in order to settle obligations in respect of lease clauses.

The rest of the Departmental Group provisions relate to Homes England (previously known as the Homes & Communities Agency). The Homes England Annual Report and Accounts provides further details.

Analysis of expected timing of discounted cashflows by type

	£'000		
	Early Retirement	Other	Total
Not later than one year	1,769	20,526	22,295
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,004	22,919	24,923
Later than five years	-	2,438	2,438
Balance at 31 March 2017	3,773	45,883	49,656
Not later than one year	2,584	12,322	14,906
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,967	28,072	32,039
Later than five years	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2018	6,551	40,394	46,945

Note 13. Pensions

The Core Department is responsible for the Audit Commission Pension Scheme, a funded scheme. The liabilities of this scheme are represented below in the Core Department & Agencies column. The staff of arm's-length bodies are members of a number of different pension schemes; full details are available in the accounts of the bodies concerned. The assets and liabilities for these schemes are included in the Departmental Group column below.

	2017-18		2016-17	
	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
				£'000
Reconciliation of defined benefit obligation				
Opening balance	1,274,139	2,239,476	1,043,378	1,809,975
Current service cost	-	19,083	-	13,084
Interest charges	34,028	59,257	35,038	62,502
Admin charge on pension liabilities	-	(79)	-	(95)
Contribution by members	-	1,607	-	4,247
Contribution by employer	-	64	-	-
Remeasurement of (gains)/losses on liability	(8,580)	(57,674)	221,452	397,231
Past service cost/(gains)	-	967	-	1,185
Losses/(gains) on curtailment	-	-	-	(39)
Transfers	-	(197)	-	195
Benefits paid				
Funded benefits paid	(27,743)	(54,834)	(25,723)	(48,639)
Unfunded benefits paid	(5)	(738)	(6)	(170)
Closing defined benefit obligation	1,271,839	2,206,932	1,274,139	2,239,476
Reconciliation of fair value of employer asset				
Opening balance	(1,112,273)	(2,064,159)	(912,864)	(1,686,509)
Interest income on scheme asset	(29,778)	(54,778)	(30,586)	(58,577)
Admin charge on pension assets	1,014	1,171	1,064	1,212
Contributions by members	-	(1,607)	-	(4,247)
Contributions by employer	(9,900)	(23,613)	-	(12,064)
Remeasurement of (gains)/losses on asset	21,985	33,684	(195,610)	(353,469)
(Losses)/gains on curtailment	-	1,082	-	1,051
Assets distributed on settlement	27,743	55,031	25,723	48,444
Closing fair value of employer asset	(1,101,209)	(2,053,189)	(1,112,273)	(2,064,159)
Closing net pension liability	170,630	153,743	161,866	175,317
of which:				
Funded	170,561	143,311	161,792	169,771
Unfunded	69	10,432	74	5,546

Audit Commission Pension Scheme (ACPS)

The ACPS is a defined benefit scheme. The scheme is a Registered Pension Scheme under the provisions of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004. The provision of a Crown Guarantee takes the pension scheme out of certain regulatory provisions that would otherwise apply.

The valuation of the scheme liabilities as at 31 March 2018 was completed by the Department's independent actuaries using the projected unit method.

Financial overview of the ACPS

The pension scheme assets are held in a separate trustee-administered fund to meet long-term pension liabilities to past employees. The Scheme's assets have been invested as follows:

Fair Value of Scheme Assets	£m	
	2017-18	2016-17
Diversified Growth Funds	738	834
Liability Driven Investment	231	278
Infrastructure	99	-
Property	33	-
Total	1,101	1,112

Overall, the Scheme's assets have decreased in value over the year to 31 March 2018. The Scheme invests in a Liability Driven Investment portfolio to mitigate the risks relating to interest rate and inflation rate changes. The net pension liability for the ACPS increased from £161.8 million to £170.6 million over the year. This is mainly due to lower than expected returns on the Scheme assets. This has, however, been partially offset by a contribution made to the Scheme by the Department of £9.9 million.

Principal assumptions

The financial assumptions used for purposes of the IAS 19 calculations for the five years to 2018 are shown in the table below.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Principal assumptions	% pa	% pa	% pa	%pa	% pa
Rate of inflation	3.25	3.30	3.05	3.20	3.50
Rate of salary increase	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.00 ^[1]
Discount rate for liabilities	2.65	2.70	3.40	3.35	4.40
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	3.25	3.30	3.05	3.20	3.50
Rate of increase of deferred pensions	3.25	3.30	3.05	3.20	3.50

[1] Until 31 March 2015, nil thereafter.

The assumed life expectations on retirement at age 60 were: for males retiring today, 28 years, for females retiring today, 29 years and for males and females retiring in 20 years, 31 years.

The following table shows the impact of a change in each of the principal assumptions used to value the scheme's liabilities.

Assumption	Change in assumption	Impact on scheme liabilities
Discount rate	Decrease by 0.5%	Increase by 12%
Rate of inflation	Increase by 0.5%	Increase by 11%
Rate of mortality	Mortality table rated down by one year	Increase by 3%

Note 14. Financial Instruments: Risk Management and Fair Value

The Department oversees a portfolio of financial instruments (including loans, guarantees and Help to Buy available for sale financial assets) much of which is outside the appetite of other market investors and lenders. The portfolio is continuing to increase in size and is largely concentrated in a single sector, housing.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. As the cash requirements of the group are largely met through the Estimates process, there is minimal liquidity risk.

Currency risk

The Department has risks arising from foreign exchange only in relation to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme. Further details about the ERDF balances included in these accounts can be found in Annex B. The following table shows the balances held by the Department as at 31 March 2018 that are subject to exchange rate risk. (Exchange rate at 29 March 2018 £1 = €1.1410²⁶)

Currency Risks	Floating rate financial liabilities	
	£'000	€'000
Total assets at 31 March 2018	273,672	312,260
Total assets at 31 March 2017	256,738	300,229
Total liabilities at 31 March 2018	(176,890)	(201,831)
Total liabilities at 31 March 2017	(154,502)	(180,675)

The liabilities balance represents upfront payments from the EU for the 2014-20 ERDF Programme.

The asset balance represents ERDF grant payments made but yet to be claimed from the EU. These balances are fixed in Euros being the Euro equivalent of the Sterling expenditure at the time the expenditure was incurred using the 'Europa' rate.

To an extent, these balances act as a natural hedge whereby the loss that would arise on the liability balance from a weakening of Sterling would be offset by the gain on the asset balance and vice versa. This reduces but does not eliminate the risks.

The following table illustrates the impact of changes in the sterling to Euro exchange rate and assumes the level of balances remains constant.

Category	Balance at 31 Mar 2018 £'000	Euro Rate at 31 Mar 2018	Impact of rate change to			
			1:1.00	1:1.10	1:1.30	1:1.40
Assets	273,672	1.1410	£39m gain	£10m gain	£33m loss	£51m loss
Liabilities	(176,890)	1.1410	£25m loss	£7m loss	£22m gain	£33m gain
Net gain/loss			£14m gain	£3m gain	£11m loss	£18m loss

Market risk

The Department and Homes England (previously known as Homes & Communities Agency) have completed a risk assessment for all live financial instruments exposed to market risk. Performance and changes in risk profile are monitored on a regular basis.

Homes England's results and equity are dependent upon the prevailing conditions of the UK economy, especially UK house prices, which significantly affect the valuation of financial and non-financial assets.

²⁶ Source: Bank of England spot rate: <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/boeapps/iadb/Rates.asp?>

Homes England is also exposed to significant market price risk in its shared-equity mortgage portfolio and land portfolio. As these assets are classified as available for sale, any market price movements are reflected in net expenditure for the period when an impairment is reported, or otherwise as changes in equity.

Homes England has performed a sensitivity analysis that measures the change in fair value of the financial assets held for hypothetical changes in market prices. The sensitivity analysis is based on a proportional change to all prices applied to the relevant financial instrument balances existing at the year end:

Variable	Change	Impact on fair value of Homes England Financial Assets
UK House prices (Home Equity Portfolio)	+/- 10%	+£866m / -£1,102m
Development returns (Private sector developments, overage and infrastructure)	+/- 10%	+£27m / -£27m

The Department is also exposed to market risk via the financial guarantees it provides over borrowing for affordable housing and private rented sector homes. More detail on the magnitude of those schemes can be found on page 76. Changes in the housing market may cause rental arrears or void properties which may have an impact on the borrower's ability to repay the loans issued under the guarantees programme. The Governance Statement sets out how the Department manages the market and credit risk associated with its financial instruments.

Credit Risk

The financial guarantees also expose the Department to credit risk given that borrowers could default on loans drawn potentially triggering a call through the guarantee provided. The full exposure under these schemes is detailed on page 76. The Department has put in place measures to mitigate the risk of loss.

Affordable Housing guarantees are provided only to strongly rated and therefore low risk Private Registered Providers, a liquidity reserve is also held which is designed to cover a shortfall in income and protect bond coupon payments in the event of default.

Sensitivity analysis was conducted by changing the key assumptions in the model, the Probability of Default (PD) based on the creditworthiness of borrowers and the size of any Loss Given Default (LGD). The result, taking account of the liquidity reserve, is a valuation range from £4 million (5% LGD, Low PD) to £203 million (25% LGD, High PD).

Private Rented Sector guaranteed debt is generally only available once units are completed and generate a stable income. Borrowers are also subject to strict financial covenants; loan to value cannot exceed 80%, collateral is provided, a liquidity reserve must be held and a minimum projected net rent/interest cover requirement must be maintained throughout the life of the guarantee.

Homes England's (previously known as Homes & Communities Agency) maximum exposure to credit risk, without taking into account any security held, is the same as the carrying amount of financial assets recorded in their Annual Report and Accounts.

The nature of the credit risk arising from Homes England's most significant financial assets is summarised below:

- Available for sale financial assets relate mainly to amounts receivable individually from the private owners of housing units when their properties are sold, or amounts receivable from various private sector developers, resulting in a broad spread of credit risk for these assets. Amounts receivable from the owners of housing units are secured by a second charge over their property.
- Of the total £1,269m Homes England loans exposure, ten private sector developers account for 46% of the balance (2017: 46% of £833m).
- Receivables arise largely from disposals of land and property assets, generally to major developers and housebuilders in the private sector. These receivables are always secured by the Homes England's right to retake possession of the disposed property in the event of a default by the buyer, and in appropriate cases are backed by financial guarantees. Ten

counterparties account for 72% of the Agency's £204m receivables balances due from disposal of land and property assets (2017: 78% of £235m).

- The Agency's cash is generally held with the Government Banking Service, except where commercial reasons necessitate otherwise, for example when cash is held by solicitors around completion of property sales or purchases.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk in Homes England's other financial instruments.

For all financial assets excluding cash, the maximum exposure to a single counterparty at 31 March 2018 was £106.2m (2017: £90.3m), and the five largest counterparties accounted for 3.7% of the total balance (2017: 4.5%).

Interest rate risk

The Departmental group is exposed to a low level of interest rate risk on its financial assets classified as loans and receivables, where these pay interest to the Departmental group at a variable rate.

Fair values

The estimated fair values of the financial instruments held by the Department approximate to their book values at 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018. The table shows how fair value of the Department's financial assets and liabilities has been estimated.

For a reconciliation of the movements in the value of Level 1, 2 and 3 fair value financial instruments, as defined by IFRS 13, and detail on the sensitivities of the fair values, see Homes England (previously known as Homes & Communities Agency) Annual Report and Accounts.

Financial Instrument	Basis of fair value estimation
Current payables and receivables (Note 11 and Note 9) and Public Dividend Capital (Note 6)	Nominal value
Non-current payables and receivables (Note 11 and Note 9)	Discounted cost (where materially different from nominal value)
Investments in the Coalfields Enterprise Fund and the Coalfields Growth Fund (Note 6)	Fund manager revaluation
Available for sale financial assets relating to housing units (Note 7)	The fair values of available for sale financial assets relating to housing units are calculated with reference to movements in the ONS house price index (UK HPI) at a regional level, being the most relevant available observable market data. This is supplemented by adjustments for experience of actual disposals since the inception of the schemes, also at a regional level. The judgement exercised in the application of these adjustments is considered to be a key source of estimation uncertainty in the accounts. These fair values are therefore categorised as level 2 in the fair value hierarchy as defined by IFRS 13.
Available for sale financial assets relating to equity investments in private sector developments and infrastructure projects (Note 7)	The fair values of available for sale financial assets relating to equity investments in development and infrastructure projects are calculated using cashflow forecasts for the projects concerned, discounted at rates set by HM Treasury. These fair values are therefore categorised as level 3 in the fair value hierarchy as defined by IFRS 13.
Available for sale financial assets relating to managed funds (Note 7)	The fair value of managed funds are equal to the net assets of those funds at the reporting date, and are therefore categorised as level 3 in the fair value hierarchy as defined by IFRS 13.
Other financial instruments	Discounted future cash flows using discount rates set by HM Treasury or the rate intrinsic to the financial instrument if higher.
Affordable Housing financial guarantees liabilities	For initial recognition, fair value is based on probability weighted expected losses.
Private Rented Sector financial guarantees liabilities	For initial recognition, fair value is based on the fee charged for the guarantee.

Note 15. Commitments under Operating leases

Total future minimum lease payments under operating leases are given in the table below for each of the following periods.

	2017-18		2016-17	
	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
£'000				
Obligations under operating leases comprise:				
Buildings:				
Payment due within 1 year	24,912	27,360	26,694	29,988
Payment due after 1 year but not more than 5 years	77,442	81,686	96,283	102,670
Payment due thereafter	119,436	119,436	180,310	180,437
Total value of obligations	221,790	228,482	303,287	313,095
Other:				
Payment due within 1 year	-	697	-	511
Payment due after 1 year but not more than 5 years	-	1,232	-	482
Payment due thereafter	-	-	-	-
Total value of obligations	-	1,929	-	993

	2017-18		2016-17	
	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group	Core Department & Agency	Departmental Group
£'000				
Receipts under operating sub-leases comprise:				
Buildings:				
Receipts due within 1 year	15,836	23,095	18,974	23,741
Receipts due after 1 year but not more than 5 years	32,018	48,545	58,389	68,845
Receipts due thereafter	2,806	22,233	18,413	32,169
Total value of receivables	50,660	93,873	95,776	124,755

Note 16. Other Commitments

The total value of loans the Department has made as at 31 March 2018 can be found in Note 6. Additionally, the Department has committed to providing the following loan facilities as at 31 March 2018; these are not otherwise included in the financial statements:

- a loan facility to the Greater London Authority which can be drawn for the purposes of funding qualifying investments in the Housing Zones programme. A total of £200m is available in tranches through to 31 March 2020. As at 31 March 2018 £55m is still available for draw down.
- a loan facility to Manchester City Council which can be drawn for the purposes of funding qualifying investments in the Housing Investment Fund. A total of £300m has been made available in tranches through to 31 March 2019. As at 31 March 2018 £80m is still available for draw down. The availability for draw down of £185m previously repaid by Manchester City Council is currently being considered.

Homes England (previously known as the Homes and Communities Agency) has made financial commitments for loans and equity investments which had become unconditional at the reporting date, but which had yet to be drawn down by that date. The value of these commitments was £1,073m at 31 March 2018 (2016-17: £1,149m).

In addition to the above, Homes England has given outline approval to investments under the Help to Buy scheme which, while still conditional, are likely to result in the drawdown of investments in the coming year. The value of these outstanding approvals at 31 March 2018 was £1,056m (2016-17: £1,385m).

Note 17. Contingent liabilities disclosed under IAS 37

In accordance with Government policy, properties included in non-current assets in the Statement of Financial Position are not insured. Other contingent liabilities are set out below.

		£'000	
		2017-18	2016-17
a	The Government Legal Department (GLD) manages litigation cases on behalf of the Department. Adverse litigation costs may be incurred following unsuccessful attempts to resist some of those challenges. The timing and value of such awards are difficult to predict.	524	155
b	Claim for repair or repurchase of defective Right to Buy homes sold by local authorities between 1980 and 1985.	250 to 750	250 to 750
c	Potential liabilities to the EC arising from current European legislation.	Unquantifiable	Unquantifiable
d	Potential losses arising from inability to recover ineligible expenditure arising as a result of the closure of ERDF 2007-2013 programme.	Unquantifiable	Unquantifiable
e	Commitment to fund potential shortfalls of land sale receipts of a Housing Association.	Up to 4,000	Up to 4,000
f	Potential liability - details withheld for commercial reasons.	Up to 492	Up to 492
g	Potential dilapidation payments.	750	750
h	Potential liabilities arising following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower in June 2017. At this time, the nature and value of the liabilities arising cannot be determined with sufficient reliability and consequently, are considered to be unquantifiable.	Unquantifiable	-
i	HCA: The freeholds of several hundred properties on two estates in Washington were transferred to Sunderland City Council on 1 April 1997. The transfer was subject to a HCA indemnity valid for a period of 30 years against costs which may be incurred in remedying shale related defects. This indemnity was issued with the approval of the Department. The extent of the potential liability is unquantifiable at this time.	Unquantifiable	Unquantifiable
j	HCA: The HCA is potentially liable for miscellaneous claims by developers, contractors and individuals in respect of costs and claims not allowed for in development agreements, construction contracts, grants and claims such as compulsory purchase orders. Payment, if any, against these claims may depend on lengthy and complex litigation and potential final settlements cannot be determined with any certainty at this time. As claims reach a more advanced stage they are considered in detail and specific provisions are made in respect of those liabilities to the extent payment is considered probable.	Unquantifiable	Unquantifiable
k	Planning Inspectorate: Litigation costs may be incurred following unsuccessful attempts to resist a High Court challenge to an Inspector's decision. The timing and value of such awards are difficult to predict.	118	179
l	Planning Inspectorate: Ex-gratia payments which may possibly be made to appellants or other appeal parties who have incurred abortive appeal costs following an error made by a member of the Inspectorate's staff.	-	196

Note 18. Contingent assets disclosed under IAS 37

		£'000	
		2017-18	2016-17
a	HCA: The HCA has in certain instances disposed of land or made grant payments with certain conditions attached which if no longer fulfilled will result in a payment to the Agency. Examples include where there is a subsequent change in use of land sold which materially increases the return to the purchaser, or if the conditions of a grant payment are no longer met. The normal term during which this arrangement remains in force is 21 years. For affordable housing and other community related schemes the term is more usually 35 years. By its nature this income is variable and the timing of receipt is uncertain, therefore it is not possible to quantify the likely income which may ultimately be received by the Agency.	Unquantifiable	Unquantifiable

Note 19. Related party transactions

The Department is the parent of a number of sponsored bodies listed in Note 21. These bodies are regarded as related parties with which the Department has had various material transactions during the year. In addition, the Department has made a number of material transactions with other government Departments, central government bodies and local government organisations.

Non-Executive and Executive Board members must declare to the Permanent Secretary any personal or business interest which may, or may be perceived to, influence their judgement as a board member.

Departmental Ministers make specific disclosure of financial interests as required by the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Mary Ney is one of the Commissioners at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, tasked with improving the council's performance and helping rebuild trust of the local residents. During 2017-18, MHCLG paid various grants to Rotherham MBC as part of normal business, the most significant of which was Revenue Support Grant.

During the year no Board member, key manager or other related parties, other than those mentioned above, have undertaken any material transactions with the Department.

Note 20. Events after the reporting period

The Department's financial statements are laid before the Houses of Commons by HM Treasury. In accordance with the requirements of IAS 10 'Events After the Reporting Period', post Statement of Financial Position events are considered up to the date on which the Accounts are authorised for issue. This is interpreted as the same date as the date of the Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

As part of our Building Safety Programme, the Government has committed to fully funding the removal and replacement of unsafe cladding by councils and housing associations. The financial cost of this is estimated at £400 million.

Note 21. Entities within the Departmental Boundary

All bodies apart from the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and the Architects Registration Board are consolidated into the Departmental accounts.

Executive Agencies

Planning Inspectorate

Advisory Bodies

Building Regulations Advisory Committee

Tribunals

Valuation Tribunal for England

Executive Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs)

Homes England (previously known as Homes and Communities Agency)	The Leasehold Advisory Service	Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
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The Housing Ombudsman	Valuation Tribunal Service
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Other Bodies Not Classed as NDPBs

Commission for Local Administration in
England

Trading Funds

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Public Corporations

Architects Registration Board

Business Rates Retention and Non-Domestic Rates Trust Statement

Foreword

Introduction

A Trust Statement provides an account of the collection of revenues which by statute or convention are due to HM Treasury's Consolidated Fund where the entity undertaking the collection acts as agent rather than principal. Trust Statements are required to be prepared under section 2(3) of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921.

The Department acts as an agent responsible for collecting Business Rate income under the Business Rate Retention system from local authorities, central list businesses and the Ministry of Defence.

The Business Rates Retention and Non-Domestic Rates Trust Statement is prepared in accordance with the accounts direction issued by HM Treasury under section 7(2) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

Scope

The Department operates the system of Business Rates Retention which came into force on 1 April 2013 and replaced the previous collection and redistribution National Non-Domestic Rating system. Under the retention system, local authorities retain at least 50% of the rates collectable as their 'local share'. Central List and Visiting Forces income is accounted for alongside Business Rates Retention but these National Non Domestic Rates otherwise operate in the same way as before the introduction of Business Rate Retention.

The results presented in this Trust Statement are entirely separate from the results presented in the Department's Group Accounts although they flow through the Department's accounting system.

Auditors

The Trust Statement is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General under Section 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. The audit opinion is on page 108. The auditor's notional fee of £19,000 (2016-17: £19,000) for this is included in the Department's Group Accounts. There were no fees in respect of non-audit work.

Statement of the Accounting Officer's Responsibilities in respect of the Trust Statement

Under section 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000, HM Treasury has directed the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to prepare for each financial year a Trust Statement in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction.

On 1 March 2015, HM Treasury appointed Melanie Dawes, the Permanent Head of the Department, as the Accounting Officer for the Business Rates Retention and Non-Domestic Rates Trust Statement.

The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which an Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Department's assets, are set out in Managing Public Money published by the Treasury.

The Trust Statement is prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Business Rates collected by the Department, together with the net amounts surrendered to the Consolidated Fund.

In preparing the Trust Statement, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) prepared by the Treasury and, in particular, to:

- Observe the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- State whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the FReM have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the account; and
- Prepare the Trust Statement on a going concern basis.

So far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the external auditors are unaware. The Accounting Officer has taken all steps that she ought to have taken to make herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Department's auditors are aware of that information.

The annual report and accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and I take personal responsibility for the annual report and accounts and the judgements required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

Governance Statement in respect of the Trust Statement

The Department's Governance Statement, covering both the Group Accounts and the Trust Statement, starts on page 30.

Melanie Dawes CB
Accounting Officer
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

11 July 2018

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons – Trust Statement

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of Business Rates Retention and Non-Domestic Rates Trust Statement for the year ended 31 March 2018 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Revenue, Other Income and Expenditure, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

In my opinion:

- the Business Rates Retention and Non-Domestic Rates Trust Statement gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the income collectable under Business Rates Retention and Non-Domestic Rates by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on behalf of the Consolidated Fund as at 31 March 2018 and of the net revenue for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 and HM Treasury directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis of opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my certificate. Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard 2016. I am independent of MHCLG in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit and the financial statements in the UK. My staff and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the audit of the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of MHCLG's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the appropriateness of the Trust Statement to continue to be prepared on a going concern basis. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may mean that the going concern basis ceases to be appropriate.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Other Information

The Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises information included in the foreword, statement of accounting officer's responsibility, governance statement and the annual report of the MHCLG Resource Accounts, other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- the information given in the foreword for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Sir Amyas C E Morse
Comptroller and Auditor General

National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London
SW1W 9SP

16 July 2018

Statement of Revenue, Other Income and Expenditure

For the period ended 31 March 2018

		£'000	
	Note	2017-18	2016-17
Income			
Licence Fees and Taxes			
National Non Domestic Rates		1,612,670	1,377,868
Business Rates Retention		24,981,057	23,853,749
Local Share			
Deduction of Local Share		(14,587,527)	(11,588,387)
Total Revenue after deduction of Local Share	3	12,006,200	13,643,230
Net Revenue for the Consolidated Fund Account		12,006,200	13,643,230

There were no recognised gains or losses accounted for outside the above Statement of Revenue, Other Income and Expenditure.

The notes at pages 114 to 115 form part of this Statement.

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 March 2018

		£'000	
	Note	2017-18	2016-17
Current Assets			
Accrued Revenue Receivable		262,169	140,213
Cash and Cash Equivalents	CFS, 4	-	88
Total Current assets		262,169	140,301
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Revenue Payable		-	88
Total Current Liabilities		-	88
Total assets less current liabilities		262,169	140,213
Represented by:			
Balance on Consolidated Fund Account	2	262,169	140,213

Melanie Dawes CB
Accounting Officer
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

11 July 2018

The notes at pages 114 to 115 form part of this Statement.

Statement of Cash Flows

for the period ended 31 March 2018

£'000

	Note	2017-18	2016-17
Cash flows from operating activities		11,884,156	13,561,106
Cash paid to the Consolidated Fund		(11,884,244)	(13,561,018)
Increase/(decrease) in cash in this period		(88)	88
A: Reconciliation of Net Cash Flow to Movement in Net Funds			
Net Revenue for the Consolidated Fund	3	12,006,200	13,643,230
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables		(121,956)	(71,650)
Increase/(Decrease) in payables		(88)	(10,474)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		11,884,156	13,561,106
B: Analysis of Changes in Net Funds			
Increase/(decrease) in Cash in this Period		(88)	88
Net funds at 1 April		88	-
Net Funds as 31 March		-	88

The notes at pages 114 to 115 form part of this Statement.

Notes to the Trust Statement

Trust Statement Note 1 Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The Trust Statement is prepared in accordance with:

- the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury on 9 February 2015 under section 7(2) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000
- the 2017-18 Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by HM Treasury. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as interpreted for the public sector.

The Trust Statement has been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention.

This Trust Statement reports the income collectable under the Business Rates Retention system as also reported in the Main Non-Domestic Rating Account and the Levy Account.

Revenue recognition

Revenue is collected from local authorities, central list companies and the Ministry of Defence.

Revenue detailed in this Statement is collected on behalf of the Consolidated Fund in respect of Business Rates. Revenue is measured in accordance with IAS 18 and recognised when the underlying event giving rise to the liability to the Consolidated Fund has occurred, can be measured reliably and it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Exchequer.

Local authority adjustments to the amounts collected for the Consolidated Fund are not agreed, due or received until the year following the accounting period and are therefore not recognised until that point.

Local share

Under Business Rates Retention, local authorities retain a percentage of the Business Rates collectable as their local share. Following the Office of National Statistics classification of the entire system as a central government tax, the local share is included in this Trust Statement as income collectable in respect of the tax and is then deducted as an allowable expense to calculate the amount due to the Consolidated Fund.

From 2017-18 we have piloted 100% business rates retention. This has increased the local share and decreased central share payments to the Consolidated Fund.

The cost of collection borne by local authorities included within the local share is £84 million (£84 million in 2016-17).

Trust Statement Note 2 Balance on the Consolidated Fund

£'000

Consolidated Fund	2017-18	2016-17
Balance on Consolidated Fund Account as at 1 April	140,213	58,001
Net Revenue of the Consolidated Fund	12,006,200	13,643,230
Less amount paid to the Consolidated Fund	(11,884,244)	(13,561,018)
Balance on Consolidated Fund Account as at 31 March	262,169	140,213

Trust Statement Note 3 Revenue collected on behalf of the Consolidated Fund

£'000

Revenue	2017-18	2016-17
Central list and others: NNDR revenue collectable on behalf of the Consolidated Fund	1,612,670	1,377,868
Local authorities: BRR revenue collected on behalf of the Consolidated Fund	10,393,530	12,265,362
Balance on Consolidated Fund Account as at 31 March	12,006,200	13,643,230

Trust Statement Note 4 Cash at Bank

The cash and cash equivalents and net funds disclosed in the Statement of Cash Flows are held with the Government Banking Service.

Trust Statement Note 5 Events after the reporting period

The Department's financial statements which includes this Trust Statement are laid before the Houses of Commons by HM Treasury. In accordance with the requirements of IAS 10 'Events After the Reporting Period', post Statement of Financial Position events are considered up to the date on which the Accounts are authorised for issue. This is interpreted as the same date as the date of the Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General. There are no post Statement of Financial Position events between the balance sheet date and this date.

Accounts Direction Given by HM Treasury

This direction applies to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the reporting of the Business Rates Retention and Non-Domestic Rates.

The Department shall prepare a Trust Statement ("the Statement") for the financial year ended 31 March 2015 and subsequent financial years for the revenue and other income, as directed by HM Treasury, collected by the Department as an agent for others, in compliance with the accounting principles and disclosure requirements of the edition of the Government Financial Reporting Manual by HM Treasury ("FReM") which is in force for that financial year.

The Statement shall be prepared, as prescribed in appendix 1, so as to give a true and fair view of (a) the state of affairs relating to the collection and allocation of Business Rates; (b) the revenue and expenditure; and (c) the cash flows for the year then ended.

The Department shall report the total amount of Business Rates revenue, comprising the central and local share, including those elements that are recorded separately. These include levy income receivable from local authorities and other income following reconciliation adjustments. The Department shall show the local share as an allowable deduction from the total amount of Business Rates revenue recognised and correspondingly reduce revenues payable to the consolidated fund by the amounts retained by local government in the form of the local share.

The Statement shall also be prepared so as to provide disclosure of any material expenditure or income that has not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament or material transactions that have not conformed to the authorities which govern them.

When preparing the Statement, the Department shall comply with the guidance given in the FReM. The Department shall also agree with HM Treasury the format of the Principal Accounting Officer's Foreword to the Statement, and the supporting notes, and the accounting policies to be adopted, particularly in relation to revenue recognition. Regard shall also be given to all relevant accounting and disclosure requirements in Managing Public Money and other guidance issued by HM Treasury, and to the principles underlying International Financial Reporting Standards.

Compliance with the requirements of the FReM will, in all but exceptional circumstances, be necessary for the accounts to give a true and fair view. If, in these exceptional circumstances, compliance with the requirements of the FReM is inconsistent with the requirement to give a true and fair view, the requirements of the FReM should be departed from only to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view. In such cases, informed and unbiased judgement should be used to devise an appropriate alternative treatment which should be consistent with both the economic characteristics of the circumstances concerned and the spirit of the FReM. Any material departure from the FReM should be discussed in the first instance with HM Treasury.

The Statement shall be transmitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General for the purpose of his examination and report by a date agreed with the Comptroller and Auditor General and HM Treasury to enable compliance with the administrative deadline for laying the audited accounts before Parliament before the Summer Recess.

The Trust Statement, together with this direction (but with the exception of the related appendices) and the Report produced by the Comptroller and Auditor General under section 7(2) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 shall be laid before Parliament at the same time as the Department's Resource Accounts for the year unless HM Treasury have agreed that the Trust Statement may be laid at a later date.

This Accounts Direction supersedes any previously issued Accounts Directions in respect of Business Rates Retention.

Ross Campbell
Deputy Director, Government Financial Reporting
Her Majesty's Treasury
9 February 2015

Annex A: Section 70 Grant Payments to Charities

Institution	Payments £'000	Purpose
Build integrated communities		
Anne Frank Trust Integration & Extremism - Tolerance	218	To use Anne Frank's life and diary to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice & discrimination.
Apasenth The e3 pilot Project - English through Social, Economic and Community Action	496	To deliver Community-Based English Language training to adults with the lowest levels of English, in order to increase integration.
Big Ideas Community Interest Company Remembering Together	399	To commemorate the sacrifice of the men of the various Labours Corps in the First World War and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Passchendaele.
B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Expanding Bridges not boycotts	50	To promote responsible dialogue on university and college campuses regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
Church Urban Fund Near Neighbours programme	2,150	To bring people together in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse, so that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of trust and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in.
Clapton Common Boys Club Charedi Testimony	50	Holocaust Testimony Project.
Faith Action Creative English	735	To deliver Community-Based English Language training to adults with the lowest levels of English, in order to increase integration.
Faith Matters Integration & Extremism - Tolerance	829	To encourage people to report instances of anti-Muslim hatred and to carry out community engagement to educate people about anti-Muslim hatred.
Faiths Forum for London 70 Years On	70	To build community cohesion by commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Indian partition.
Fayre Share Foundation Strengthening Faith Institutions	487	To strengthen and support places of worship of all faiths in order to improve governance, increase their capacity to engage with women and young people, challenge intolerance and develop resilience to extremism.
Gate Herts Herts Gate - Report racism - Gypsy, Roma and Traveller	28	To increase hate crime reporting for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.
Golden Tours Foundation Inspiring Young Minds	48	Remembering Indian Soldiers during the First World War.
Good Things Foundation Community-Based English language Programme	2,050	To deliver Community-Based English Language training to adults with the lowest levels of English, in order to increase integration.
Groundwork UK Neighbourhood Planning	2,915	Drawdown of funding by grant administrator to disburse to recipients of support under the Community Rights and Neighbourhood Planning support programmes.
Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Holocaust Memorial Day	1,150	Holocaust Memorial Day Trust delivers Holocaust Memorial Day on behalf of Government and supports local Holocaust Memorial Day activities.
Inter Faith Network for the UK Strategic Grant	382	To promote understanding and cooperation between organisations and people of different faiths across the country.
Irish Traveller Movement in Britain Operation Report Hate - The Traveller Movement	35	Encouraging the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to report hate crime and supporting the work to educate the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities about homophobia and misogyny within the community.

Institution	Payments £'000	Purpose
Learning From the Righteous Irena Sendler Exhibition and Workshops	20	To inspire children to make a positive impact on the world, Learning from the Righteous aims to honour Irena Sendler's memory and to inspire others with her humanity.
Locality Community Enabler Fund	135	To support community groups to constitute themselves in order that they can take community action.
Maccabi GB Maccabi GB Streetwise	50	To educate young people on the dangers of anti-Muslim hatred and anti-Semitism.
National Holocaust Centre and Museum The Journey	442	Supporting the digitisation of 'The Journey': an immersive first-person experience following the story of a child who came to England on the Kindertransport.
Nisa-Nashim Challenging Conversations	30	Supporting Jewish and Muslim women across the country to have conversations about difficult topics in safe places.
One Voice Europe Solutions not Sides Education Programme	100	To ensure that young people are more aware of the nuances behind the conflict in Israel and Palestine and to help build understanding between communities.
One20 Community-Based English language Programme	322	To deliver Community-Based English Language training to adults with the lowest levels of English, in order to increase integration.
Operation Black Vote Parliamentary Shadowing Schemes	53	To provide opportunities for young people from BAME backgrounds to shadow members of the House of Commons and House of Lords.
Services for Education Limited Lest We Forget	47	To commemorate the end of the First World War with a concert of mass children's choirs in Birmingham.
Show Racism the Red Card Show Hate Crime the Red Card	85	To organise and deliver high-profile hate crime awareness and education events in partnership with football clubs.
St Philips Centre Ltd Tough options	79	To provide methods for communities to understand the conflict in Israel and Palestine and to re-engage young people in civic society.
Stop Hate UK Challenging Online Hate	65	To address online hate by engaging in activity aimed at challenging and reporting hate crime/ hate speech online, as well as supporting and signposting targeted individuals.
The Linking Network Schools Linking	368	To develop and facilitate effective links between schools of different demographic backgrounds, creating sustained social mixing and supporting them to develop a positive, cohesive ethos.
The Sophie Lancaster Foundation Sophie	35	An initiative which works in schools to educate young people around the issue of hate crime. The project works to change attitudes and is based on the experiences of Sophie Lancaster who was murdered for being a member of an alternative culture.
UK Toremet From the Depths	38	Documenting unmarked graves.
Ummah Help Remember Srebrenica Genocide Project	400	To commemorate what happened in the town of Srebrenica during the Yugoslavian civil war whilst raising awareness aimed at countering discrimination and building stronger community relations here in the UK.
Youth United Foundation Youth United Foundation	400	Map and develop youth group provision.
Grow local economies		
Power to Change Trust Bright Ideas	120	To accelerate from "ideas and pre-venture" to "start-up" enterprises and businesses.
Power to Change Trust Bright Ideas	30	To raise awareness amongst local authorities across England of the Assets of Community Value online directory platform.

Institution	Payments £'000	Purpose
Power to Change Trust Bright Ideas	80	A research project to assess the success / failure of community asset transfer and to inform future policy making.
Pub is the Hub Community Rights and Pubs	70	To support the Community Services Fund.
Ensure an effective response to the Grenfell Tower fire		
London Community Foundation Grenfell Recovery	46	Funding to support administration of the relief effort by local charities.
London Funders Grenfell Recovery	84	Funding to support administration of the relief effort by local charities.
Tudor Trust Grenfell Tower Victim Support Fund	1,798	To manage the funding that will support Anchor and Infrastructure local organisations in Grenfell and North Kensington that have supported volunteers and smaller groups, to facilitate the development of community voices and to advocate on behalf of the community.
Fix the broken housing market		
Construction Industry Council Built Environment Professional Education project	30	To support institutions with their accreditation criteria for education programmes (Architecture and Engineering) and to promote implementation of the Teaching and Learning Guide.
Design Council Embed inclusive design into professional education	67	To support institutions with their accreditation criteria for education programmes (Architecture and Engineering) and to promote implementation of the Teaching and Learning Guide.
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Planning Delivery Fund	9	To accelerate the planning and delivery of high quality new homes by embedding and mainstreaming building with nature within the Cotswolds, West Oxfordshire and the Forest of Dean.
Royal Town Planning Institution Planning Delivery Fund	115	To establish a joint initiative with higher education establishments to pay planning bursaries to students in order to bring new trained planners into the planning profession.
Urban Design London Planning Delivery Fund	72	To support local participants involved in planning and housing to deliver good design through training and networking.
Support effective Local Government		
National Association of Local Councils Data Transparency Parishes	1,517	To assist smaller authorities affected by the new transparency regulation by providing them with the equipment and skills required to meet these regulations.
Smaller Authorities' Audit Smaller Authorities Sector-Led Body	250	To establish a not-for-profit, private limited company to act as a sector-led body for smaller authorities, plus exempted authorities, to procure audit services in line with legal requirements.
Total	19,049	

Annex B: European Regional Development Fund

The information in the following paragraphs gives additional information about entries included in the financial statements and notes regarding the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The ERDF was set up in 1975 to stimulate economic development in the least prosperous regions of the European Union (EU). The Department acts as Managing Authority (the organisation responsible for the efficient management and implementation of the programme) for the 2000-2006, 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 Programmes. In London, the ERDF continues to be delivered by an intermediary body, the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Where project expenditure is not in accordance with ERDF regulations it becomes ineligible for ERDF grant funding. The Department seeks to recover such ineligible expenditure from grant recipients in the first instance. Where recovery is not possible or feasible, the liability ultimately falls to the Department to manage and, where appropriate, write off.

ERDF income is recognised once the relevant claim has been certified by the Department's ERDF Certifying Authority team. Payments to projects that were made by the Department have been treated as current asset inventories on the Statement of Financial Position (31 Mar 18: £147 million, 31 Mar 17: £58 million) and only transferred to expenditure on certification. In the event that the payments fail certification, the amounts are reclaimed from projects.

All programmes have an associated intervention rate. This is the percentage of project expenditure which can be funded by the ERDF. Projects can be offered an ERDF grant at differing intervention rates but claims made to the European Commission (EC) are based on the programme level intervention rate. Differences therefore arise between the amounts claimed from the EC and that paid out to projects. The differences between these amounts are posted to the Statement of Financial Position either as current asset inventories (31 Mar 18: £0, 31 Mar 17: £0) or as deferred income within current payables (31 Mar 18: £224 million, 31 Mar 17: £186 million).

European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020

The Department agreed the 2014-20 ERDF Programme in 2015-16 and the first payments were made in June 2016. The Department has been provided with an initial advance which is held as a payable until utilised (31 Mar 18: £95 million, 31 Mar 17: £89 million). In the 2014-20 Programme, there is an advance for the whole programme plus annual advances paid each year, for use on an annual basis. Any annual advance not used by the Department has to be paid back to the EC once the annual accounts have been agreed. The 2014-20 programme differs from the 2007-13 as the EC hold back 10% of each requested amount from each payment application made. Once the annual accounts have been agreed this amount is released and is taken from the annual advance, along with any adjusted amounts that have been made to previous payment applications through the annual accounts. Any unused amount of the annual advance will be paid back to the EC. The EC will pay any additional monies that are owed to the Department at this stage (31 Mar 2018: £73 million, 31 Mar 2017: £57 million).

The Audit Authority (the designated body that audits the ERDF) tested the validity of 36 claims, equating to €79.4 million out of total declared expenditure of €225.8 million. Testing of the audit sample revealed instances of ineligible expenditure on a number of ERDF projects (15 of the 36 claims examined contained ineligible expenditure). However, the Audit Authority calculated the total error rate for the EC's 2016-17 accounting period as being 0.070%, which is far below the 2% materiality threshold.

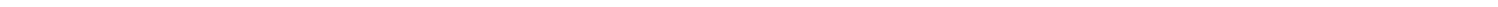
In October 2016, HM Treasury confirmed that the Government will guarantee EU funding for structural and investment fund projects signed before the UK's departure from the EU, even when these projects continue after we have left the EU²⁷. The England ERDF 2014-20 programme falls under this guarantee. See page 76 for more detail.

²⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-certainty-on-eu-funding-for-hundreds-of-british-projects>

European Regional Development Fund 2007-13 programme

The 2007-2013 Programme closed on 31 December 2015. The Department submitted formal closure documents for all ten programmes to the EC by 31 March 2017. Although the Commission have approved the Final Implementation Reports (FIRs), we are now waiting for them to conclude their reviews of the closure packs, to sign off the Audit Authority's Final Control Report (FCR) and Closure Declaration, and to then issue pre-closure letters with closure offers for all ten programmes. We expect the Programmes to be closed down within the next 12 months.

At the start of the programme 7.5% of the value of the programme was paid by the EC to the Department as an advance payment. This payment was to provide working capital and any interest gained on the cash balances could be used as match funding within the programme and where not utilised, returned to the EC. The interest is now in the Departmental bank account and will be used for matched funding of technical assistance (technical assistance provides funding for MHCLG, as the managing authority, to administer the ERDF programme) once the programmes for 2007-13 have been formally closed by the EC. Two programmes have some unused advance which is expected to be returned to the EC. 5% of each programme value is held on retention by the EC and will be returned to the Department, if eligible, as part of the final closure settlement.





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