



Cabinet Office

Departmental Minute

Sale of Cabinet Office stake in Axelos Limited

Presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and
Minister for the Cabinet Office by Command of Her Majesty

June 2021

© Crown copyright 2021
Produced by Cabinet Office

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/> or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Alternative format versions of this report are available on request from publiccorrespondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

Cabinet Office: Departmental Minute

Sale of Cabinet Office stake in Axelos Limited

It is normal practice, when a government department proposes to undertake a contingent liability which could exceed £300,000 for which there is no specific statutory authority, for the Minister concerned to present a departmental Minute to Parliament giving particulars of the liability created and explaining the circumstances; and to refrain from incurring the liability until fourteen parliamentary sitting days after the issue of the Minute, except in cases of special urgency.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has today made a Written Ministerial Statement in the House of Commons] setting out the details of a contingent liability Cabinet Office has entered into. Lord Agnew has repeated this statement in the House of Lords.

For commercial and ultimately value for money reasons, it was not appropriate to give Parliament the advance notice normally expected. As the written statement explains, the contingent liability takes the form of an indemnity entered into in connection with the sale of Cabinet Office's 49% stake in AXELOS Limited, a joint venture with the Capita Group.

Any liability under the indemnity is not expected to exceed £300,000. If any liability arises it would be settled during this financial year.

HM Treasury approved Cabinet Office's assumption of the contingent liability ahead of final negotiations with the buyer.