



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

**Ministry of Justice (MoJ)**

# **Departmental Adaptation Plan Update**

**May 2011**

## Update on Adaptation Plan – May 2011

In March 2010 each Central Government Department published an adaptation plan explaining its proposed actions to meet the challenge of a changing climate. In order to assess progress on those actions, and to set out new priorities, a series of updates have been produced. This update is for the Ministry of Justice. All updates are available at: [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/government/departmental-adaptation-plans/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/government/departmental-adaptation-plans/)

### Why it is important for the Ministry of Justice to act on climate change

In March 2010 the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published an adaptation plan setting out proposed actions to meet the challenge of a changing climate, this report gives an update on key actions. The Ministry's work is wide-ranging, providing services to around nine million people a year through the many delivery partners that work with and for the Ministry. As a largely operational department the Ministry of Justice's prime focus for climate change adaptation is to ensure our estate remains fit for purpose and that we can continue to provide our services. Preparing for a changing climate will help us minimise adverse consequences on our services through having appropriate plans in place.

The main climate risks to MoJ's business centre around:

- the resilience of our estate
- extreme weather events potentially disrupting our ability to deliver frontline services, this includes transport disruption preventing our staff and service users from being able to get to and from our buildings; and
- archive and record storage and preservation.

### Ministry of Justice: Update from March 2010

#### Estate

- Building and refurbishment projects incorporate climate change considerations in design and construction to introduce adaptation measures appropriate to the estate.
- BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) criteria are being reviewed in conjunction with BRE (Building Research Establishment) to reflect current legislation and emerging best practice.
- Environment Agency flood risk analysis is considered as a standard part of the assessment of suitability of sites for acquisition or disposal.
- We have begun rationalising the MoJ Estate to achieve more efficient occupation. As a matter of good practice, decisions about our estate are informed by sustainability appraisals that ensure sustainable development considerations are integrated into plans to reduce the impact on the environment. This allows us to focus our resources on improving environmental performance across a smaller number of buildings to operate the retained estate more efficiently and make such adaptations as are necessary for a changing climate.

## Ministry of Justice: Update from March 2010 (continued)

### Operational Policy and Business Continuity

- We have improved and are extending our facilities for remote working, and we are exploring alternative ways of working which will enable us to deliver front line services in the face of extreme weather events.

### Archive and Record Storage

- The National Archives (TNA) is implementing recommendations from a Building Environment Simulation (BES) project, run in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Heritage, University College London, to provide sustainable environments for TNA collections to ensure the long term preservation of the records. The project tested a variety of operational and physical changes designed to improve environmental conditions and reduce energy consumption. The principles are being promulgated to the archives sector.
- TNA is now formally leading the development of up-dated environmental guidelines for archives, libraries and museums in conjunction with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. TNA has a leadership role in agreeing operational standards for environmental conditions for storage that deliver sustainable environments for archives and collections and will ensure their long term preservation in the face of climate change. Formal responsibility for the support and leadership for England's archive sector will transfer to TNA from April 2012 following the closure of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

## Future Adaptation Priorities for the Ministry of Justice

- Each of MoJ's agencies and public bodies has its own business continuity plan covering national, regional and local action required to cope with extreme weather events, these will be kept under regular review.
- MoJ's ICT Service Continuity Management Team is reviewing the impact of serious flooding on ICT operations in terms of: equipment and services hosted in potentially vulnerable locations; existing resilience measures; and, potential recovery measures.
- Work is underway to ensure the ICT requirements identified in Business Continuity Plans are met, to enable alternative working locations and increase future flexibility for those unable to travel longer distances.
- DEFRA's Adapting to Climate Change team is preparing supplementary guidance to the Greening Government Commitments to help Government Departments ensure that their estates are resilient to the likely impacts of climate change; when published, MoJ will consider the guidance to inform our future plans.

## Priority or Action from March 2010 Departmental Adaptation Plan

Priority or action in DAP	Progress	Deadline
<p><b>Address estate climate resilience issues in building design specifications and during major refurbishment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Court Standards Working Party met in September 2010 to consider future amendments to the Court Standards Design Guide. Following the inception of MoJ Estates Directorate and the bringing together of courts, tribunals, prisons and HQ buildings, standards will be reviewed on a MoJ wide basis and the Guide will be revisited to reflect this.</li> <li>• HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) requires that when condition surveys of buildings are commissioned, the consultant includes a section on any works necessary to future proof the building against the effects of climate change.</li> <li>• National Offender Management Service Constructors Forum alerted constructors to the need to take into account climate change in their solutions. The Strategic Design Advice project has taken into account climate change in respect of energy demands. Rainwater &amp; grey water harvesting are now standard elements in new projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Winter 2013</p> <p>The guidance is programmed to be revised to reflect prevailing best practice in September 2011</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Building Procurement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised text to be commissioned for inclusion in the Court Standards Design Guide to ensure where MoJ buildings form part of a larger complex, MoJ has control over the services, access and power / heating systems</li> </ul>	<p>September 2011</p>
<p><b>Operational Policy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prison videolinks for court appearances: technical work has been successfully completed to all video endpoints across the HMCTS and HM Prison Service (HMPS) estate to allow greater functionality and simultaneous links when the supporting equipment is refreshed. The process of refreshing / replacing the equipment has already started across the HMPS estate.</li> <li>• MoJ's consultation paper: <i>Solving disputes in the county court: creating a simpler, quicker and more proportionate system</i> was published on 29 March 2011. This paper asks whether small claims hearings could be conducted by telephone or determined on paper avoiding the need for attendance in person in court.</li> </ul>	<p>Refreshing the Magistrates Court equipment is due to start in May 2011.</p> <p>Consultation ends 30 June 2011. Responses will be analysed and further action considered as a result</p>

## Priority or Action from March 2010 Departmental Adaptation Plan

Priority or action in DAP	Progress	Deadline
<b>Business Continuity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat and hazard assessments, which include environmental and climate related hazards, are reviewed quarterly and circulated to business continuity practitioners.</li> <li>• The ability of staff to work from alternative locations has been reviewed: Courts and Tribunals already have cross site flexibility. A short term 'fall-back' strategy has been agreed for MOJ HQ but will be reviewed as the HQ estate contracts.</li> <li>• Nine sites have been identified as vulnerable to coastal or tidal flooding, based on recent history and planning for exercise Watermark in March 2011; current contingency strategies provide for maintenance of essential activities even if flooding were to occur, and are subject to annual review.</li> </ul>	<p>Quarterly</p> <p>HQ fall-back strategy being reviewed 2011.</p> <p>Reviewed annually but there is ongoing liaison with Estates to identify vulnerability of existing estate through condition surveys</p>
<b>Archive and record storage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy – <i>Archives for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</i> has been published and widely distributed: <a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/archives-for-the-21st-century.pdf">www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/archives-for-the-21st-century.pdf</a></li> <li>• The National Archives is formally leading the consultation to develop a British Standards Institute - Publicly Available Standard (PAS) 198 <i>Specification for environmental conditions for cultural collections</i> for cultural heritage collections for archives, libraries and museums. Public consultation commenced 1 May 2011.</li> </ul>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Publication date October 2011</p>

Further information on the Adapting to Climate Change programme can be found here:

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/adapting/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/adapting/)