

## **COVER NOTE**

This report provides clear evidence that contract management in Government requires improvement. There were examples of good practice and skilled work by officials across Whitehall. But in the majority of contracts reviewed across Government there are weaknesses in the way contracts are managed, some of which are significant.

The new recommendations from this review build on our on-going work through the Efficiency and Reform Group, including to establish a Crown Commercial Service and professionalise procurement under the leadership of the newly-created Chief Procurement Officer in the Cabinet Office. The review underscores the urgent need to address these longstanding weaknesses and we will redouble our efforts to do so.

I am grateful to Bill Crothers for preparing this report, and to the experienced Oversight Group who have assisted him in doing so. I accept the report and its recommendations in full and I have placed a copy of the report in the Library of the House.

**Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office**