

## Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

### **Key Statistics**

- **total estate running cost** (annual, net) = £183.8 million (all partner organisations)
- **holdings** (offices) = 473
- **floor space** (office) = 330,224 sq.m; (science) = 571,651 sq.m; (other) = 321,822 sq.m
- **staff number** (headcount) = 40,000
- **locations** = 80 (including 40 partner organisations)

### **Our Business**

BEIS is responsible for business, industrial strategy, science, innovation, energy and climate change<sup>1</sup>. Priorities for 2017/18 include:

- Delivering an ambitious industrial strategy
- Maximising investment opportunities and bolster UK interests
- Promoting competitive markets and responsible business practices
- Ensuring the UK has a reliable, low cost and clean energy system
- Building a flexible, innovative and collaborative department

BEIS is a ministerial department, supported by 40 partner organisations, with staff working in every part of the United Kingdom (90% outside of London) on approximately 80 sites, ranging from administrative buildings through to world leading research facilities.

The department has a key role in delivering the government's objectives for EU Exit and therefore has seen an expansion in staff numbers throughout 2017 and into 2018. This has placed a significant strain upon our estate, which for the core department is entirely leasehold.

### **Our Estate**

The Estates Rationalisation Programme, undertaken by our predecessor department (BIS) between 2011 and 2015, was a significant efficiency scheme which steered key changes within the portfolio, reducing the estate of the department and its partner organisations from two hundred sites to ninety sites over a three year period. Eleven shared offices (hubs) were created. This programme produced a saving of £81 million.

Our science estate is highly specialised and is also distributed widely across the UK, historically managed by our individual Research Councils. This arrangement will continue with the creation of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the new national funding agency investing in science and research across the whole of the UK.

The departments' main property-related priorities are:

- Business Continuity - ensuring our estate enables us to deliver our objectives;
- Quality Workplaces - environments that attract and retain talent, enable effective working and maximise productivity

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<sup>1</sup> Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy-single-departmental-plan/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy-single-departmental-plan-may-2018>

- Alignment to Government Policies - Places for Growth, Hubs Policy and Whitehall Campus

We have experienced under-investment for many years because of uncertainty over leasehold agreements and the future of the government estate in London. Our estate therefore requires significant updating of basic infrastructure to meet business needs.

We will continue to look for value for money consolidation of our estate outside London, aligning with the Government Hubs Programme and One Public Estate. We will champion Places for Growth as the lead department for the Industrial Strategy, and look forward to the introduction of new centres of excellence.

## **Our Capability**

Our property asset and facilities management team were seconded into the Government Property Agency (GPA) in April 2017 to provide support to the Agency to develop its business case and prove its ability to deliver quality services. In making this transfer (and with the creation of the Customer Insight Function in BEIS) we have created a formal performance reporting methodology and formally established a relationship where the GPA is the service provider and the department is the customer.

The BEIS estates function will shortly reside in full within the GPA. The Agency's workforce are registered members of the Government Property Profession (GPP) and membership allows for involvement of the workforce in a variety of professional development opportunities, following the GPP's Continuing Professional Development policy. The requirements are based on recommendations from RICS, IRRV and BIFM. It is envisaged that the GPA will fund learning and development budgets. All GPA staff and the BEIS estate team have access to the Government Property Online portal. This allows everyone to find out about national and regional learning and development events, and access to a range of courses and training relevant to the Profession through Civil Service Learning.