

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)

Key Statistics

- **total estate running cost** (annual, gross) = approx £38.2 million (excluding all ALBs)
- **total estate running cost** (annual, net) = approx £15.7 million (excluding all ALBs)
- **holdings** (number) = 18
- **floorspace** (office) = approx 15,600 sq.m
- **staff number** (headcount) = 1718 (excluding contingent labour)
- **locations** = headquarter are in London with 16 further locations across the English regions (two sites in Bristol could be counted as one location)

Our Business

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's (MHCLG) purpose is to create great places to live and work, and to give more power to local people to shape what happens in their area. This government wants to rebalance the economy, devolve power, strengthen communities and build more homes. MHCLG's plans will ensure more people have the opportunity to own a home of their own¹.

Our Estate

MHCLG now has an operational presence in 17 core buildings, covering an aggregate office floor area occupied of c15,600 sq.m. The vast majority of the estate is occupied through MOTOs, showing the extent to which the department shares space with other government departments.

From 2011-2015 the predecessor department DCLG achieved a government-best, 71% saving in its estates budget, against a Civil Service average of 28%. This was achieved through property disposal and minimising operational footprint, while providing space for other government departments.

The MHCLG Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) provides a strategic vision to complement the department's property plan and identifies opportunities to further align operational assets with current and future business need. MHCLG is committed to delivering core activity by working closely with partners across the government cluster to manage, maintain and support the day to day running of a highly complex and diverse estate.

We are developing plans to ensure that where properties are contractually obliged to be retained they are fully utilised, either through MHCLG's own occupation or through sub-letting surplus space to other government departments (OGDs). This will reduce the net liability to the department and improve performance metrics.

The Ministry will work closely with the Government Property Agency (GPA) and other departments in the Cluster to develop flexible office environments consistent with government space targets. As a key enabler, the Cluster continues to collaborate with the IT function to deliver radical transformation of technology across all MHCLG employees, enabling staff to work more remotely and freely. Our strategy focuses on creating a

¹ Further information is available at:

<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>

financially sustainable and affordable estate by further strengthening our estates data and retrieval systems to inform good decision making.

The Ministry is working in collaboration with partner organisations and GPA and is committed to supporting key programmes such as One Public Estate (OPE) and Government Hubs. In doing so, the MHCLG is committed to placing these wider government objectives at the core of their departmental strategy by developing four core estate priorities to deliver the strategic vision:

1. **Provide estate solutions to support business operations.** Transitioning to the new Estates Cluster Facilities Management (FM) contracting model, enhancing reliability of data for decision-making, and developing a strong account management function. The New FM Model went 'live' in April 2018.
2. **Continue to build and buy expert capability to deliver estate priorities.** Recruiting and retaining expert staff from diverse backgrounds. Engaging with staff to make the Cluster a better place to work. Promoting line management that encourages development opportunities. Holding more 'town hall' events for all staff. Supporting the creation of a diverse and inclusive workforce.
3. **Make the estate affordable by effectively prioritising investments.** Success will be measured by on-track performance of Greening Government Commitments (GGCs) and the reduction of property running costs whilst maintaining our estate and ensuring business operations continue to be supported.
4. **Modernise the estate to current and future standards.** Success will be measured based by monitoring estates efficiency metrics and delivery of projects to targets set out in the government's construction strategy.

These core priorities are designed to support the Government Estate Strategy and other departmental strategies within the Estates Cluster. To ensure they are met, MHCLG is working to improve data management, ways of working, and delivering greater value through our estate and facilities management supply chain contracts. This will ensure that MHCLG operates from an affordable, fit-for-purpose and efficient estate, capable of supporting local communities.

We are firmly committed to delivering the GGCs which require further reductions in carbon emissions, air travel, water consumption and waste.

Our Capability

From 1 April 2017, MHCLG became part of the Ministry of Justice Shared Service Estate Cluster. The Shared Service provides expert advice, strategic support and implements the operational plans for MHCLG in all areas of estates and facilities management. The Shared Service ensures that MHCLG's Intelligent Client Function (ICF) Team is provided with clear information and good advice to ensure that the department's property requirements are detailed adequately and met in full. The Shared Services focus is on ensuring MHCLG is provided with a service which is flexible, fit-for-purpose, satisfactorily delivered representing value for money.