



Office of the Leader
of the House of Commons

70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Tel: 020 7276 1005
commonsleader@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

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Dear Liz

PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS (RESTORATION AND RENEWAL) BILL

We are writing to you regarding the Joint Committee's report on the draft Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Bill, which was published on 21 March. The Government will respond to the report imminently, and in advance of then we wanted to set out some of our views.

We welcome the Joint Committee's report and considered evidence-based approach which Members of the Committee undertook in scrutinising the draft Bill. We have given serious consideration to the helpful recommendations made in the report, accepting many in full.

In addition to the recommendations made in their report, the Joint Committee also drew several conclusions, which do not require legislation. We consider the Shadow Sponsor Board and R&R Programme Team are best placed to reflect on these conclusions as appropriate. We would urge the Shadow Sponsor Body to respond to these points in full and in as much detail as possible. The areas which we think the Shadow Sponsor Body and R&R Programme are best placed to respond include:

- How the Sponsor Body will engage with the wider public, parliamentarians, staff and unions (paragraphs 17, 35, 36, 37, 65 of the Joint Committee's report);
- Ensuring the programme is sufficiently flexible to accommodate any future procedural reforms in both Houses (paragraph 18 of the Joint Committee's report);
- That the outline business case prepared for Parliament makes clear what would constitute "significant changes" to the programme (paragraph 48 of the Joint Committee's report);
- The importance of having political figure heads for the Programme on the Sponsor Body (paragraph 103 of the Joint Committee's report)

- Having a clear timetable that outlines the stages of the project, particularly with regard to when both Houses will be returning to the Palace of Westminster (paragraph 169 of the Joint Committee's report).

We agree with the Joint Committee that these are matters of importance for the success of the Programme. We would encourage the Shadow Sponsor Board to respond on these points within six weeks, copying the Speakers of both Houses and the Chair of the Joint Committee. We would also suggest that you make your response available to members of both Houses. We recognise that some of the issues raised are subject to developments, and so request updates where you think it appropriate to keep the Government and the members of both Houses informed. We are confident that the Board will give these matters thoughtful consideration and look at how these important points can be reflected in the work you are now taking forward.

We are placing a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.



**RT HON ANDREA LEADSOM MP
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF
COMMONS**



**THE RT HON BARONESS EVANS OF
BOWES PARK
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS**

Elizabeth Peace

Chair of the Shadow Sponsor Board of the Restoration and Renewal of the Palace of Westminster