

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)

Strategic Asset Management Plan - Executive Summary

Key Statistics

	2018/19
Total estate running cost (annual, gross)	Outturn £120 million
Holdings (number)	314
Floorspace (buildings, m²)	195,000 offices 216,000 other
Land area (ha)	352
Any planned land release for housing	0
Staff number (FTE)	23,136
Locations (summary, main locations)	Defra group has a presence in many locations across the UK. Our largest offices are in London, York, Leeds, Bristol, Newcastle & Warrington

Our Business

Defra is a ministerial department, supported by 33 agencies and public bodies.

We are here to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.

As our remit is large, we understand the benefits and needs of working with others, particularly as we work towards leaving the European Union. By engaging and having positive working relationships with others, we can deliver more and be more effective, ensuring a smooth and orderly transition.

Our Estate

- In 2010 Defra set out its plans to rationalise its estate, and has refined them as circumstances have changed.
- Delivery of these plans has reduced annual property running costs by more than 35%, leading to an estate that was 'right-sized', 'best-placed' and 'right-priced', the third most cost-efficient in government.
- Since 2017 the Defra group's workforce has grown rapidly – most significantly in preparing for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (EU Exit). We have invested

in, and adapted our workplaces and introduced new ways of working to accommodate more than 3,000 additional staff without the acquisition of any new property.

- Having reduced the cost of the estate, our priority is to now increase the value driven through our workplaces by investing to realise our Sustainability, Smarter Ways of Working, Wellbeing, and Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategies.

In consolidating the estate, Defra has established a strong sense of co-ownership across its workforce, and workplaces, supported by technology and Smarter Ways of Working strategies. Without this Defra group would not have achieved such success in meeting the EU Exit workplace demands.

Our Capability

In 2017 the Defra group's property function was brought together as a single team under single leadership providing property and related services to the whole of the Defra group.

The property function comprises around 350 property and workplace professionals, many of which are accredited with membership of professional bodies.

Our priority is the professional development of our people with a focus on:

- leadership and management;
- stakeholder engagement and user experience; and
- technical skills

Government Property Agency (GPA)

The Defra group has been an advocate and supporter of the principles upon which the GPA is founded from the outset, and is in principle committed to transfer its property and asset management services to the GPA. This commitment still stands and we are working with the GPA to address outstanding issues in readiness for transfer.

Government Hub Programme

The Government Hub Programme is integral to the realisation of the Defra group's ambition of sustainable workplaces that enhance wellbeing, engagement and productivity. Our SAMP sets out our intention to occupy 10 Government Hubs over the coming years, starting with the hub in Peterborough to which Defra is already fully committed.