

Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

Strategic Asset Management Plan - Executive Summary

Key Statistics

	Outturn for FY 18/19
Total estate running cost (annual, gross)	£1.583 billion ¹
Holdings (number)	1,467 ²
Floorspace (all property) sq.m (mandated estate) sq.m	5,585,722 (1,313,602)
Land area (ha)	2997.51
Staff number (headcount/ FTE)	69,290 ³
Locations	All regions in England and Wales, and a small presence in Scotland

Our Business

The Ministry of Justice and its agencies deliver: prison, probation and youth custody services; administer criminal, civil and family courts and tribunals; and support victims, children, families and vulnerable adults.

Working in partnership with our independent judiciary and 27 Arm's-Length Bodies (ALB), and supported by our excellent corporate functions, we deliver these services, protect the justice system and uphold the rule of law.

Our objectives

1. Ensure access to justice in a way that best meets people's needs.
2. Support a flourishing legal services sector.
3. Provide a transparent and efficient court system.
4. Ensure that prisons are decent, safe and productive places to live and work.
5. Protect the public from harm caused by offenders.
6. Reduce rates of reoffending and improve life chances for offenders.
7. Provide excellent functional services.
8. Support delivery of EU Exit.

¹ For 2017/18; 2018/19 not yet available

² as at 31 March 2019

³ as of 31 December 2018

Our Estate

We manage the second largest central government property portfolio comprising over 1,450 holdings, covering a collective floor area of over 5.5 million sq.m. Our diverse estate includes prisons, courts, probation and administrative offices. Effective asset management is essential to ensuring that the Ministry's land and buildings supports its current and future business requirements. We provide functional support to delivery. We will manage our estate to keep it compliant, functional, efficient and environmentally sensitive; provide solutions aligned to business objectives, responsive to user need and support new ways of working.

The Government Estate Strategy⁴ recognises that significant parts of the government estate are in poor condition with high backlog maintenance costs. Our estate requires significant repairs or rebuilding to remain operational even in the short term. Our departmental strategic asset management plan will improve visibility and accuracy of future investment needs, strengthening the department's ability to bid for and prioritise funding effectively.

We will provide decent, secure accommodation for offenders, and reduce levels of violence and self-harm. We will build two new prisons (at former sites HMP Wellingborough and HMP Glen Parva) and have recently opened a new houseblock at HMP Stocken. The combination of building new prisons, maintaining existing prisons and reconfiguring the estate will address basic issues such as safety and decency, reduce crowding, and drive improvements in rehabilitation.

We are developing a long-term, credible, prison estate strategy that ensures we: meet our public protection obligations; put the estate on a sustainable footing; and deliver the places we need at an acceptable standard of decency, with lower levels of violence and a real focus on supporting rehabilitation.

We will build confidence and trust in an effective probation system which provides offenders with access to services that support their rehabilitation. One of our priorities is a probation estate which provides a modern working environment and supports professional delivery. We are developing a probation estates strategy which will ensure we have an estate that is the right size, in the right places and offers the right facilities to support the vision for the future of the probation service. We will support the NPS' commitment to provide an additional 200 Approved Premises beds. Having already delivered nine new places in 2018/19, we have developed plans for the phased delivery of these additional beds, starting this year.

In our courts and tribunals, the Reform Programme will provide new and better ways to access justice. We will achieve this by investing over £1bn to transform the system which will include introducing 21st Century technology, online services and digital working while making sure justice remains accessible (by 2023). More funding is required however to keep pace with the deterioration of the estate and the results of an independent building condition survey programme indicate a significant spending requirement to bring the estate back into a

⁴ Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/738217/Government_Strategy_Final_AW_v2.pdf

sufficient state of repair. HMCTS will explore all additional funding options to make greater inroads into the backlog of maintenance and to improve the estate.

We will procure new facilities management contracts for the court estate and the prison estate and seek to implement a sustainable approach to maintenance.

We will continue to use Modern Methods of Construction to construct buildings and infrastructure that result in increased efficiency and improved productivity.

Our functional objectives include improving environmental sustainability by embedding its consideration in policy making, operations, estates, commercial activity and within MoJ's governance arrangements; and supporting the Government Estate Strategy by providing accommodation in locations that enable smarter working, meet business need and contribute to key initiatives including transfer of assets to GPA, Places for Growth and Beyond Whitehall. The department is committed to relocating civil service and ALB roles out of London into the regions and nations of the UK as part of the Places for Growth Programme. The department will continue to work with the Cabinet Office to bring forward proposals ahead of the next Spending Review.

We will continue to dispose of surplus land and property expeditiously to cut running costs, raise capital receipts, and release land for housing⁵.

Our Capability

During 2019-20 we will continue to invest in our people. We will strengthen our capability by sharing best practice and development of skills through active participation in cross-MoJ/government work and affiliation to the Government Property Profession. We will also increase the number of apprenticeships available, both to current staff and new entrants. We will strive for a greater diversity in our workforce, ensuring we are inclusive in our methods and processes for recruitment and professional development.

⁵ Land released for housing: 1,912 units scored as at 31 March 2019