HM Treasury

Treasury Minutes

Government Response to the Committee of Public Accounts on the Twenty-seventh to the Thirty-first reports from Session 2022-23

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by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
by Command of His Majesty

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Government response to the Committee of Public Accounts Session 2022-23

Twenty-seventh Report of Session 2022-23

The Department for Education

Evaluating innovation projects in children's social care

Introduction from the Committee

Local authorities in England spend around £9 billion per year on children's social care. The Department for Education (the Department) has overall policy responsibility for children's services, and in 2014 it reported on the challenges achieving innovation in the sector, and variations in the pace of improvement of outcomes for children in the care system. It subsequently launched its Children's Social Care Innovation Programme (the Innovation Programme), aiming to stimulate innovation, replicate successful approaches, improve life chances for children and support value for money. Between 2014–15 and 2019–20 the Department committed £212.8 million to 94 projects.

The Department made it a condition of Innovation Programme funding that projects would be subject to external evaluation. By September 2020 the Department had published over 100 evaluation reports covering projects funded by the scheme. The Department built on the learning from these schemes, providing a further £120.2 million across successor schemes intended to test the wider adoption of six promising Innovation Programme projects across a wider range of local authorities. The Department has committed to evaluate the effectiveness of these successor schemes using more sophisticated techniques with higher standards of evidence. The Department is due to receive evaluations from the first of these schemes in Autumn 2022, though the largest evaluations are not due until 2026 and 2027.

Based on a report by the National Audit Office, the Committee took evidence on 8 September 2022 from the Department for Education. The Committee published its report on 23 November 2022. This is the government's response to the Committee's report.

Relevant reports

- NAO report: Evaluating innovation in children's social care – Session 2022-23 (HC 70)
- PAC report: Evaluating innovation projects in children's social care – Session 2022-23 (HC 38)

Government response to the Committee

1. PAC conclusion: The Department has further to go to embed a culture of evaluation in children's social care.

1. PAC recommendation: The Department should set out how it intends to further its aim to develop a culture of evaluation as its dedicated funding for innovation schemes comes to an end.

1.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation**.**

Target implementation date: December 2023

1.2 The Department for Education (the department) agrees that it should continue to promote and nurture a culture of evaluation. It will do so through two main mechanisms: firstly, a commitment to evaluate new proposals in the Care Review implementation strategy; and secondly, funding and support for a children's services What Works Centre.

1.3 The department published [Children's social care: Stable Homes, Built on Love] on 2 February 2023 which is an implementation strategy responding to the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care. It includes new initiatives looking at areas such as Family Help services, and children looked after placements. The department will assess the development and delivery of these proposals through a programme of rigorous evaluation where appropriate. Departmental analysts are working with their policy counterparts, the Evaluation Task Force, HM Treasury and local authority (LA) practice leaders to ensure evaluation and the associated insight and learning is at the heart of the reforms.

1.4 The Early Intervention Foundation and What Works for Children's Social Care recently merged. The new merged organisation is operating initially under the working name of What Works for Early Intervention and Children’s Social Care (WWEICSC). The department is continuing to fund the newly merged WWEICSC. The new centre will use its expertise and knowledge to promote both the generation and use of evidence to deliver more effective universal, targeted and specialist services for families. To date:

- WWEICSC maintains an evidence store with at-a-glance ratings for overall programme effectiveness: it receives more than 3,000 unique downloads a month; and
- WWEICSC has had 80% of local authorities involved in evaluations to date and its interventions have reached over 1,100 schools.

1.5 Work is also ongoing to nurture and support the culture of evaluation within the department following the publication of the department’s evaluation strategy in June 2022.

2. PAC conclusion: We are not yet convinced the Department’s dissemination of learning from the programme is delivering widespread improvement.

2a. PAC recommendation: The Department must set out a coherent set of outcomes it expects from the sector in its response to the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care, and further report on the impact of the innovation programme and successor schemes in supporting these outcomes.

2.1 The government agrees with the Committee’s recommendation.

Target implementation date: Autumn 2023

2.2 The department published [Children's social care: Stable Homes, Built on Love] on 2 February 2023 which is an implementation strategy responding to the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care. Alongside the strategy, the department published a draft Children’s Social Care National Framework and Dashboard for consultation.

2.3 The National Framework sets out, in one place, the purpose and principles of practice, along with the outcomes that should be achieved with children and families. The dashboard will bring together a suite of indicators, underpinned by data collection, which help to understand trends and progress towards the outcomes of the National Framework. This will support learning in the system.

2.4 The National Framework has been produced with the support of the department’s National Practice Group, made up of experts in practice, evidence, lived experience and multi-agency working. Findings from the department’s investment in children’s social care, including in the Innovation Programme, along with outcomes suggested by the Care Review, informed the outcomes and expectations for practice described in the National Framework. The National Framework will embed the use of evidence and learning across local authorities, helping to raise the quality of practice and deliver better help, protection and care to children and families. Following consultation, the department plans, in time, that the National Framework is issued as statutory guidance.

2b. PAC recommendation: The Department should set out how it will secure a better understanding of the take-up of learning by local authorities across the country.

2.5 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: Autumn 2023

2.6 The department published Children's social care: Stable Homes, Built on Love on 2 February 2023 responding to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. Across the strategy, the department is promoting take up of well evidenced models – for example, expanding the evidence-based Mockingbird model to support foster carers, or using learning from the Strengthening Families Protecting Children programme in its Family Help and Child Protection reforms. Practice Guides will support leaders and practitioners with the best available evidence on practice issues identified in the framework.

2.7 The department will have oversight of the reform programme through its reform governance and through the data dashboard. The department will also establish learning events to bring together leaders and practitioners, which will provide an opportunity to disseminate the latest good practice and for areas to learn from each other about progress implementing reform and embedding best practice. It will also help the department to understand how learning is being taken up across the country.

2.8 The department's Regional Improvement and Support Leads will also continue to hold regular informal conversations with areas to understand how reforms are being implemented and where there are barriers to best practice.

3. PAC conclusion: The Department does not yet have the data it needs to understand the impact of the innovation programme.

3. PAC recommendation: The Department should set out the standards it expects for local data collection, and make clear the benefits for local authorities of collecting good quality data. The Department should also use its new outcomes framework to shape its own data collection strategy.

3.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation**.**

Target implementation date: December 2023

3.2 Children's social care: Stable Homes, Built on Love published on 2 February 2023 includes the commitment to publish a Children's Social care (CSC) data strategy. This will be developed with local authorities and sector experts for publication by the end of 2023. The vision for this strategy is that timely, meaningful, proportionate CSC data are efficiently collected and used to develop effective policies and deliver high quality services to achieve good outcomes for children and families.

3.3 Reducing data burdens on local authorities remains a priority. To do this, the department needs to understand the current data burden as well as setting out the key information the department needs to collect. To deliver this, the strategy will outline what data are collected, how and why. It will explain the aims of supporting sector learning through increased data transparency and data understanding; reducing data burden; and transforming use of data to deliver better outcomes for children and families.

3.4 By improving the quality, and transparency of the data collected, the department will have a stronger evidence base to improve policy design and evaluation, giving a better understanding of the impact of policies, and the short and longer-term outcomes for children and families. More timely data will also enable quicker identification and resolution of sector wide or local authority specific issues. By sharing local authority data more widely, the department hopes to embed a culture of learning and evaluation, to help everyone improve their practice.

4. PAC conclusion: Potential innovation risks being hampered by inflexibility in the wider system of children's social care.

4. PAC recommendation: The Department should work with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and HM Treasury to develop plans for addressing the local funding boundaries and barriers that stop children getting the help they require.

4.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Recommendation implemented

4. 2 The department already works closely with both the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and HM Treasury (HMT) at working and ministerial levels. All departments have an interest in children's social care policy given the considerable impact on local government funding and council budgets. In 2021-22, local authorities spending on children's and young people's services was £11.9 billion. This has increased by 32% (£2.9 billion) since 2015.

4.3 The department has worked in close collaboration with DLUHC and HMT on the publication of Children's social care: Stable Homes, Built on Love which seeks to put children's services on a long-term sustainable footing by pivoting majority service use to early family help and support and, where appropriate, increased (and more easily accessible) use of fostering and kinship arrangements. The government is therefore satisfied that the publication of its implementation strategy addresses this recommendation.

4.4 The government wants local authorities to use funding flexibly where there are financial barriers to implementing family-led alternatives to care, through family network support packages. The department will test how to optimise implementation of Family Network Support Packages in local areas, alongside reforms to Family Help and child protection, through an end-to-end Families First for Children Pathfinder.

4.5 Further, the department will be delivering an initial fostering recruitment and retention programme in the North-East Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance. This will introduce a regional support hub and targeted communications and will aim to improve retention using the evidence-based model Mockingbird. The aim is to create end-to-end improvements in fostering recruitment and retention. This initial programme will allow the department to test and develop a best practice regional model that can then be delivered more widely.

5. PAC conclusion: A challenging funding environment requires that government maintains its commitment to evaluation, and applies its learning to secure better outcomes.

5. PAC recommendation: The Department should set out how it will demonstrate the benefits of its spending on innovation and evaluation for local authorities and other Departments to secure the full benefits of this spending.

5.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: December 2023

5.2 The department is committed to supporting local authorities and other departments to recognise and realise the benefits of spending on innovation and evaluation. The department published Children's social care: Stable Homes, Built on Love on 2 February 2023 responding to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. This describes several ways in which improvements will be achieved, including the new National Framework, data strategy and dashboard, and plans to evaluate new proposals.

5.3 The department has published the accompanying National Framework and Dashboard for consultation, which embeds the use of evidence and learning across local authorities, helping to raise the quality of practice and deliver better help, protection and care to children and families. The new dashboard will increase transparency and support local, regional and national learning. By sharing timely data more widely, the department aims to embed a culture of learning and evaluation, to help everyone improve their practice.

5.4 The department's continued support and funding for the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care is also critical to delivering this recommendation. WWCSC interventions have reached over 1,100 schools and 129 local authorities. The Early Intervention Foundation guidebook, which gives details of initiatives evaluated, receives 3.000 unique downloads a month. It has also influenced schools across the country, in particular with its evidence review of adolescent mental health and school-based interventions.

5.5 The Early Intervention Foundation and What Works for Children's Social Care recently merged. The new merged organisation, operating initially under the working name of What Works for Early Intervention and Children's Social Care (WWEICSC), will make use of its collective expertise. The department expects it to use this opportunity to improve further the reach of its valuable work.

Twenty-eighth Report of Session 2022-23

HM Treasury, Cabinet Office, Infrastructure and Projects Authority

Improving the Accounting Officer Assessment process

Introduction from the Committee

Central government bodies must exercise effective stewardship over their use of public money. A body's accounting officer, normally the permanent secretary as the most senior civil servant, is personally responsible and accountable to Parliament for managing the use of public money. In September 2017, in response to the Committee of Public Account's report of 2016, HM Treasury introduced guidance requiring accounting officers to assess Government Major Project Portfolio (GMPP) programmes—through accounting officer assessments (AO assessments)—against the four standards of regularity, propriety, feasibility and value for money set out in Managing Public Money and conclude on whether these had been met. It also agreed that a summary of the AO assessment for GMPP programmes should be made publicly available. AO assessments serve two purposes: supporting accounting officers in making decisions that align with Parliament's expectations for spending public money; and supporting the transparency and effective scrutiny of spending and decision-making on behalf of taxpayers. HM Treasury's guidance requires AO assessments to be completed when programmes join the GMPP or complete an outline business case, should this be later, and when they change significantly. Accounting officers are also required to publish a summary of these assessments unless there are overriding public interest reasons for not doing so.

Based on a report by the National Audit Office, the Committee took evidence on 18 July 2022 from HM Treasury, the Cabinet Office and the Infrastructure and Projects Authority. The Committee published its report on 30 November 2022. This is the government's response to the Committee's report.

Relevant reports

- NAO report: Accounting officer assessments: improving decision making and transparency over government's – Session 2022-23 (HC 65)
- PAC report: Improving the Accounting Officer Assessment process – Session 2021-22 (HC 43)

Government response to the Committee

1. PAC conclusion: Over the last six years, HM Treasury has not done enough to ensure accounting officers comply with its requirement to complete and publish AO assessments.

1. PAC recommendation: In its Treasury Minute response, HM Treasury should inform the Committee if all accounting officers met its October deadline to publish all outstanding AO assessments and whether there will now be a central list on GOV. UK of all published AO assessments, so they are easy to access. In addition to this, HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office should outline what lessons they have leant from this exercise, and if this will change the approach they take in the future when departments do not follow their guidance.

Separate to this, the Committee will write to the Treasury Officer of Accounts with suggestions on how the process of notifying Parliament of AO assessments could be streamlined and align more with the current process for contingent liabilities.

1.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: March 2023

1.2 HM Treasury has created a collections page on Gov.uk of all published Accounting Officer assessments. Each department has populated its page with the published Accounting Officer assessment summaries.

1.3 Guidance on publication of accounting officer assessments has been issued through DAO 04/22. In response to the commission to review and publish outstanding summaries of assessments, departments have informed HM Treasury that they have published 35 of 39 of the outstanding summary accounting officer assessments that they assess as appropriate to publish in line with this guidance. HM Treasury is working with departments to ensure the publication of the remainder as soon as possible.

1.4 The government agrees that the process of notification of AO assessments should be streamlined. The next edition of Managing Public Money, due before the end of March 2023, will include a new annex to consolidate the various Parliamentary notification requirements set out across that document. This will ensure a consistent approach to Parliamentary notifications, regardless of whether the issue relates to contingent liabilities, ministerial directions or accounting officer assessment summaries. A draft of the new annex will be shared with the Committee and the National Audit Office ahead of publication. The Treasury Officer of Accounts has written to the Committee to provide a full response to the points of detail set out in their letter of 30 November 2022 alongside the submission of this minute.

2. PAC conclusion: The quality of published AO assessments varies, with some providing insufficient information to understand a programme's purpose or how it has been assessed.

2. PAC recommendation: HM Treasury should share with departments good practice, to help facilitate learning from others and draw in expertise, to support them in addressing difficult factors as part of AO assessments.

21 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Recommendation implemented

2.2 Accounting Officer Assessment guidance published in December 2021 required all draft Accounting Officer Assessment to be signed off by a senior member of the Finance Function within the department. This was designed to drive improvements to AO assessments via the Finance Function, as well as provide additional assurance.

2.3 Treasury spending teams and Treasury Officer of Accounts continue to engage with departments on specific projects and proposals to provide support and expertise in the preparation of AO assessment, both informally and via the Treasury Approval point process.

2.4 More broadly, Treasury Officer of Accounts has worked with the Government Finance Academy to deliver training to teams across government on AO assessments. This training will be updated and repeated on an ongoing basis, while recordings of the training are available on the One Finance platform on demand. This draws on the recommendations made in the NAO report.

2.5 In addition, HM Treasury continues to engage with Finance Directors via the Finance Leadership Group as well as providing training to Accounting Officers via the regular Accounting Officer Responsibilities Round table for all new Accounting Officers.

3. PAC conclusion: While accounting officers recognise the value of AO assessments, they are not being used consistently across government.

3. PAC recommendation: Cabinet Office and HM Treasury should embed AO assessments into training for senior civil servants and set up specific forums for AOs to share how they use AO assessments to draw judgements against each of the four AO standards.

3.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: July 2023

3.2 All SCS are required to have a finance/efficiency objective to ensure public money and other resources are used properly and efficiently, in accordance with the Managing Public Money guidance. This includes supporting the Accounting Officer and the finance director in preparation of AO assessments when appropriate.

3.3 As part of the SCS Civil Service Orientation delivered by the Leadership College for Government, the importance of AO assessments is raised as part of the Government Finance Process module. HM Treasury will be working with the leadership college over the next six months to develop more in-depth training regarding the use of AO assessments and Managing Public Money. This is in addition to the training delivered through One Finance and the Accounting Officer roundtable set out above.

3.4 Treasury Officer of Accounts also convenes an occasional forum of Finance Directors, to share best practice in the advice they provide to their AOs. Treasury Officer of Accounts will continue to work with Finance Directors to discuss ways this support can be further enhanced.

4. PAC conclusion: HM Treasury and the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) do not always use AO assessments to build their understanding of programmes and systemic issues across government.

4. PAC recommendation: HM Treasury, IPA and CO should set out how they consider AO assessments as part of their monitoring and decision-making of major programmes. The HMT and IPA should also set out how they will use AO assessments to understand programmes specific risks and wider issues.

4.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: April 2023

4.2 AO assessments can help make better policy and give a framework for testing policy implementation for this reason AO assessments are used to support decision making at Major Projects Review Group (MPRG) and Treasury Approval Panels (TAP).

4.3 Since January 2021, updated AO assessments have been requested by the MPRG panel for a number of projects, including HS2 Phase 2b, Probation Reform, Armoured Main Battle Tank 2025 and DWP's Functional Assessment Service. This supports the MPRG co-Chairs to make evidenced decisions, in addition to the independent assurance undertaken by the IPA. To bring further rigour to decision making, AO assessments have been required to be submitted to HM Treasury when projects seek approval at Outline Business Case (OBC) stage or later, this requirement was enshrined in the updated HMT Approvals Guidance in March 2022.

4.4 As a long-term solution to further embedding the use of AO assessments in decision making, a requirement to test their existence will be factored into the IPA Assurance

Workbooks. These workbooks offer a framework with which to test project maturity and to ensure that projects have met all requirements and expectations necessary to pass through stage gates and drive successful delivery. All Review Teams will be trained on the appropriate consideration that should be given to them across the range of IPA Assurance Reviews. From 2023, AO assessments will be a core element of a trial ‘Assurance Bulletin’, which will be introduced as a means of prioritising key delivery issues across the Government Major Projects Portfolio. This will further support decision making within the HM Treasury approvals process, which Cabinet Office supports by providing the secretariat function for MPRG and scrutinising the commercial elements of business cases, with AO assessments being required at OBC and beyond as a condition of business case approval.

4.5 In addition to this, HM Treasury spending teams continue to request sight of Accounting Officer assessments as part of spending approval process. Issues raised in relation to multiple projects or programmes can then be escalated through internal HM Treasury, IPA and functional processes.

5. PAC conclusion: Government major programmes are experiencing significant challenges, such as skills gaps and inflation, which will impact on their feasibility and value for money.

5. PAC recommendation: HM Treasury and IPA should outline the extent to which current challenges may significantly change major programmes to help accounting officers determine when an AO assessment is required. They should then use these assessments to understand the impact of these challenges on programmes being delivered in line with the standards set out in Managing Public Money.

5.1 The government agrees with the Committee’s recommendation.

Recommendation implemented

5.2 It is important to consider that the AO assessment process is owned by the AO and the departments, and it is for the AO and SRO to decide what they consider important and must defend that decision to Parliament

5.3 The government considers that challenges posed by high inflation, materials shortages, labour market disruption, high interest rates or other events likely to have significant impact on delivery can signal extended periods of volatility and uncertainty. It is unlikely that the supply chain and pricing disruption will quickly settle back into the stable, low interest rate, low inflation environment that has been seen for the past decade and a half and as such AOs must consider this in light of their ongoing duties to consider feasibility and value for money.

5.4 Meeting these challenges will require departments to plan and deliver projects in ways that can address this turbulence and maintain delivery outcomes. IPA continuously monitors its assurance and support activities in light of the impact that market conditions can have on project and programme performance.

5.5 The government agrees with common AO practice that having defined thresholds such as advice from an investment committee or IPA assurance ratings are sensible to have as a trigger to update AOAs. As part of the IPA’s ‘Response to Red’ process, updated AO assessments should be produced following a case conference when a project receives a red stage gate assessment. This updated AO assessment should be provided to HM Treasury to support TAP or MPRG decision making as part of the escalation process.

Twenty-ninth Report of Session 2022-23

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The Affordable Homes Programme since 2015

Introduction from the Committee

One of the ways the Department tries to increase the supply of new homes in England is through the Affordable Homes Programme. The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities recently reiterated the government's commitment to building 300,000 new homes overall every year by the mid-2020s. The Department does not have targets for how many of these should be affordable. For the Affordable Homes Programme, the Department secures funding from HM Treasury and then gives this to Homes England (outside London) and to the Greater London Authority (GLA) in London to achieve set targets. Housing providers (usually housing associations) bid for funding to build these. Bidding occurs through strategic bidding (housing providers bid for funding to deliver on multiple sites across a region) and continuous bidding (housing providers bid on a site-by-site basis). The Department forecasts it will spend £20.7 billion (2021–22 prices) between 2015 and 2032, to deliver 363,000 grant-funded homes.

The Programme has distinct iterations based on funding periods or policy changes. Under the 2016 programme, the Department forecasts that housing providers will build 241,000 new homes, against a target of 250,000 (of these 160,500 are grant funded). However, under the 2021 programme, the Department forecasts considerable shortfalls against its targets. The Department's central forecast is that housing providers will build 157,00 new homes, against a target of up to 180,000.

Based on a report by the National Audit Office, the Committee took evidence on 22 September 2022 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (the department) and Homes England. The Committee published its report on 7 December 2022. This is the government's response to the Committee's report.

Relevant reports

- NAO report: The Affordable Homes Programme since 2015 – Session 2021-22 (HC 652)
- PAC report: The Affordable Homes Programme since 2015 – Session 2021-22 (HC 684)

Government response to the Committee

1. PAC conclusion: The Department will miss its target under the 2021 programme for 180,000 new homes by March 2029.

1. PAC recommendation: The Department should share with Parliament a revised delivery plan for the 2021 programme.

1.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: Summer 2023

1.2 The government has asked Homes England and the Greater London Authority (the Affordable Homes Programme delivery agencies) to work with their providers during Spring 2023 to confirm their programme commitments in light of new economic challenges to delivery. Following the outcome of this review, the government will report to the Committee with updated targets for programme delivery.

2. PAC conclusion: Housing providers do not always build in areas of higher demand.

2. PAC recommendation: The Department should consider how it can work with local authorities to take greater account in the Programme of local need for affordable homes.

2.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: Summer 2023

2.2 The government believes that the programme already has several mechanisms in place to match delivery with local need and engage Local Authorities (LAs). Nevertheless, the government agrees to consider additional ways to work with LAs. For example, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (the department), is currently exploring how to give greater control over the 2021 programme to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the West Midlands Combined Authority.

2.3 It is the responsibility of LAs to set out their plans to address local housing need, including the need for affordable housing. Social housing providers delivering new affordable housing work strategically with LAs to address specific housing problems in the areas that they operate. LAs can also direct new housing investment to places they believe it is needed through the planning system.

2.4 The government believes that affordable homes are needed across the country. Whilst there are areas with potential indicators of relatively higher need than others, such as homelessness, temporary accommodation, social housing waiting lists or local rent levels, the homes that the programme delivers in lower cost areas are still very much needed there.

2.5 There are already natural incentives on Affordable Homes Programme providers to deliver homes where they are needed. Rental tenures need to be built in areas that are best suited for their future tenants, with access to jobs, local amenities, and public transport. Homes for ownership need to be in desirable locations where they will be able to sell.

2.6 The government is proud that the 2021 programme goes further than its predecessor in targeting investment by focusing on benefit cost ratio, which boosts the value for money that the programme delivers. The government agrees that these assessments of benefit cost ratio can be applied in a more granular way. The government will seek to improve this for successor programmes.

3. PAC conclusion: We are concerned that the number of homes being built for social rent is not enough to meet demand.

3. PAC recommendation: The Department should assess how much demand there is for social rent and set out how it will use the Programme to better meet this.

3.1 The government disagrees with the Committee's recommendation to make an assessment of demand. However, the government will continue to maximise delivery of social rent through a mixed tenure programme.

3.2 The government acknowledges the need for Social Rent homes to support functioning communities, with the right homes in the right places. That was the reason for bringing social rent homes into the scope of the programme in 2018. As the NAO's report notes, the government already directs the delivery of homes for social rent to unaffordable areas[1]. The programme's design incentivises the delivery of social rent homes in areas where they are needed the most through its value for money assessment of bids The government's recent consultation on national planning policy invites views on how policy can be strengthened to enable local authorities to give greater importance in planning to social rent[2].

3.3 The government recognises that there is a demand for homes for social rent across England. However, it is for LAs to assess affordable housing need in their area. In practice, housing developers and LAs often prefer housing developments to include a balance of ownership and rental tenures to promote a mixed tenure community. For this reason, the government believes that the Affordable Homes Programme must continue to support a range of different tenures.

3.4 The government will work with the delivery agencies to confirm the 2021 programme's capacity to deliver homes for Social Rent as a part of the review cited above in response to recommendation 1. The government will confirm the programme's ability to deliver an increased proportion of homes for social rent to Parliament at the same time as confirming the programme's overall delivery targets.

4. PAC conclusion: The Department does not quantify potential savings in some areas, such as temporary accommodation, into the Programme.

4. PAC recommendation: Before the next iteration of the Programme, the Department should quantify the wider savings it could make to areas such as adult social care and temporary accommodation.

4.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: Spring 2024

4.2 The government understands that there are wider outcomes and positive impacts that flow from increasing the supply of affordable housing. The evaluation for the 2021 programme will collect evidence through resident surveys to help the department understand many of these, including impacts for adult social care and temporary accommodation. The government's published scoping study details a proposed methodology for how it intends to undertake the evaluation. It is anticipated that the first round of resident surveys will take place in 2024 and these surveys will repeat until 2029.

5. PAC conclusion: New homes built under the Programme may need expensive retrofitting to meet net-zero standards in the future.

5. PAC recommendation: The Department should clearly set out the impact of including net-zero requirements in the next iteration of the Programme.

5.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: Spring 2024

5.2 The government agrees to exploring the cost and deliverability of additional net zero requirements at the point that ministers consider options for a successor programme.

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1. The Affordable Homes Programme since 2015, National Audit Office 2022, p12, para 21
2. Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy, December 2022, see the relevant section on 'A planning system for communities' found here.

5.3 However, the government notes that it has already taken steps to ensure that house building under the 2021 programme supports net zero objectives. The 2021 programme incorporated the National Model Design Code standard, The code sets out design considerations which local planning authorities will be expected to take into account, including recommendations on sustainability and energy efficiency. This has incentivised providers to build homes to increasingly higher environmental standards that actively respond to the changing climate. All Strategic Partners for the 2021 programme were awarded funding on the basis of their commitment to the code.

5.4 Homes delivered through the 2021 programme will also have to meet existing and future building regulations; this includes the Future Homes Standard when it comes into force.

6. PAC conclusion: The Department does not publish satisfactory data on the type, tenure, size, quality, or location of homes built under the Programme.

6. PAC recommendation: The Department should report annually to Parliament on the performance of the Programme with detail on types, tenure, size, and quality of homes built by local authority area.

6.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation**.**

Target implementation date: Summer 2023

6.2 The government will provide an annual report to Parliament on programme delivery each year, once it has received final delivery figures for the financial year, and at the same point each year thereafter. As the report by the National Audit Office noted, the government does not currently hold all of the data that the Committee has asked for. The government does not have a measure for quality that applies to homes build through the programme. The government will confirm the information it will be able to share in its first report.

Thirtieth Report of Session 2021-22

Department for Education

Developing workforce skills for a strong economy

Introduction from the Committee

In early 2022, the UK workforce comprised around 32.6 million people. Technical workforce skills—practical or vocational skills that allow people to complete specific job-related tasks—are particularly important in the workplace because they help workers operate more efficiently and effectively. The system for developing workforce skills involves a range of organisations, including government, employers, colleges, commercial training providers and local bodies, as well as individuals. Within government, DfE leads on skills policy in England, supported by other departments including the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS), the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP).

Government skills policy has evolved over recent years, particularly in response to events such as the UK's exit from the European Union and the COVID-19 pandemic. DfE published the *Skills for Jobs* White Paper in January 2021, explaining how government would carry out reforms to support people to develop the skills that the economy needs. The subsequent Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 made provisions to facilitate stronger engagement by employers and training providers in local skills systems and introduced measures to support lifelong learning.

Government does not have an estimate for its total spending on activities designed to develop workforce skills. DfE's data indicate that spending on adult education, apprenticeships and other skills programmes totalled £3.9 billion in 2021–22. This amount does not include any element of the £6.2 billion spent on learning for 16-19-year-olds, which covers both academic learning and skills training, because DfE does not disaggregate the figures.

Based on a report by the National Audit Office, the Committee took evidence on 17 October 2022 from the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Committee published its report on 14 December 2022. This is the government's response to the Committee's report.

Relevant reports

- NAO report: Developing workforce skills for a strong economy – Session 2022-23 (HC 570)
- PAC report: Developing workforce skills for a strong economy -Session 2022-23 (HC 685)

Government response to the Committee

1: PAC conclusion: We are extremely concerned at the dramatic fall in participation in further education and skills training amongst disadvantaged groups.

1: PAC recommendation: Within six months, DfE should develop an evidence-based plan setting out how it will support disadvantaged groups specifically to participate in FE and skills training.

1.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Recommendation implemented

1.2 The government is committed to using skills to provide a ladder of opportunity that enables young people and adults get good jobs and progress their careers.

1.3 The government is delivering on its plan to support disadvantaged groups and has set out several commitments to support learners.

1.4 The Levelling Up White Paper, published on 2 February 2022, set out the commitment to end geographical inequality. This is supported by the government's investment of £3.8 billion in skills across this Parliament; a Lifetime Skills Guarantee in England enabling 11 million adults to gain an A Level/equivalent qualification for free; Multiply - a new UK-wide adult numeracy programme; the Level 2 Entitlement – enabling adults without GCSE 4+/equivalent to take GCSE or Functional Skills Qualifications. These reforms ensure skills programmes are accessible for those wanting to progress through further education (FE).

1.5 The Department for Education (the department), has outlined plans to support the transition of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) into FE, skills, and training through the March 2022 SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper. The government will publish its response to the green paper early in 2023 in the form of a SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.

1.6 The department has launched a new careers programme for primary schools. It will support over 600,00 pupils in over 2,200 primary schools, located across all of the government's Education Investment Areas (EIAs), delivering targeted, age-appropriate careers support.

2: PAC conclusion: DfE has not made clear what level of performance would constitute success for its skills programmes.

2: PAC recommendation: DfE should set out, as part of its Treasury Minute response, what level of improvement in the FE Skills Index it is aiming to achieve and by when, so Parliament has metrics with which to monitor its performance.

2.1 The government disagrees with the Committee's recommendation.

2.2 The department advises against using the FE Skills Index as a sole indicator to measure performance. The department publishes the FE Skills Index annually – estimating how the economic value added by the 19+ FE and Skills system changes over time.

2.3 This is influenced by a range of factors including the number of achievements at different levels and in different subjects, and their associated earnings returns. It is not intended to be a timely measure for evaluating specific policy changes. The department believes that stipulating an arbitrary target level of improvement for this index would not be a valuable measure of performance and could create issues about achievability.

2.4 Instead, the department continues to develop a comprehensive framework of performance metrics, including system-level measures, such as participation in FE and skills training by adults aged 19 and over, and measures for individual programmes, such as the number of apprenticeship starts. The most recent set of metrics for 2022-23 defines what performance level would constitute success for individual programmes. The department also uses FE Outcome Based Success Measures (OBSM) to measure performance, using Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) data to show the percentage of FE learners progressing to other learning or employment in the academic year after achieving their learning aim.

2.5 Progress against this framework is tracked and published as part of the department's

Outcome Delivery Plan. Together, an increase in these metrics will help to show the impact of skills programmes.

3: PAC conclusion: The multiplicity of government skills programmes make it hard for employers and individuals to navigate to the training that best meets their needs.

3: PAC recommendation: DfE, working with other departments as necessary, should take action to review the number of skills programmes and eliminate overlap between them.

3.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Recommendation implemented

3.2 In July 2022 the government consulted on proposals for how it will deliver a simpler, streamlined further education funding system. On 30 January 2023 it announced a new flexibility for funding innovative provision in devolved areas for 2023-24, and a new simpler set of funding rates for the Education and Skills Funding Agency skills fund from 2024-25.

3.3 To simplify its skills offer the government will integrate the Traineeship programme into existing provision from 1 August 2023. This means Traineeships will no longer be funded through a standalone national programme.

3.4 Additionally, the department is simplifying the post-16-year-old qualifications landscape at Level 3 and below, ensuring that all publicly-funded qualifications are high quality and lead to good progression outcomes.

3.5 The department is also simplifying the careers guidance system by improving alignment between the National Careers Service and The Careers & Enterprise Company.

3.6 The department is delivering joined-up campaigns under a single, cross-government brand (Skills for Life) to promote the different education, training and skills routes available to young people, adults and employers.

3.7 The department also works closely with other government departments through the Labour Market Steering Group and with Sector Delivery Leads to identify how skills programmes can address workforce issues most efficiently. For example, Employment and Skills Pathfinders are a joint DWP/DfE initiative exploring how closer alignment at local level can support delivery of effective employment and skills interventions, improving claimants' employment and progression outcomes.

4: PAC conclusion: Employers are spending less than they used to on workforce training which risks leaving the economy without the skills it needs.

4: PAC recommendation: DfE, working with other government departments as necessary, should review how it incentivises employers to invest in skills development, including through the apprenticeship levy, and, in the light of its findings, take action to improve the effectiveness of the incentives. DfE should write to us within six months with an update on what it has done.

4.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: June 2023

4.2 Employer investment in training has been declining for over a decade. The government is clear that employers play a key part in the skills system, and it is important for the country's productivity and skills gaps that this decline is reversed. The department is already working to consider the evidence base around declining employer investment in training and potential options to support increased investment.

4.3 In particular, the government recognises the levels of participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the skills system needs to increase in order to realise the potential of government skills reforms.

4.4 The department is committed to ensuring that Apprenticeships and Skills Bootcamps play a key part of the skills landscape, providing employers with the skilled workforce they need for the future.

4.5 The department is making apprenticeships more flexible with new flexi-job apprenticeships, front-loaded training and accelerated apprenticeships so they are accessible to employers in all sectors and more individuals can access them. The department will work to continue developing the programme and its effectiveness for employers.

5: PAC conclusion: We are concerned that continuing financial pressures and workforce challenges are hampering colleges' abilities to play a full part in the skills system.

5: PAC recommendation: Within six months, DfE should provide us with an update on how it is helping colleges deal with the challenges relating to workforce shortages and funding arrangements.

5.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation

Recommendation implemented

5.2 The government has made available an extra £1.6 billion for 16-19-year-olds education in 2024-25 financial year, compared with 2021-22. The department is using part of this increase to uplift 16-19-year-olds funding rates for 2023-24 academic year. As well as a base rate increase of 2.2%, the department is increasing the cost weighting for engineering, construction and digital subjects to help providers with the additional costs of recruiting and retaining teachers in these subject areas – where providers are facing some of the greatest workforce challenges.

5.3 To help colleges manage their cashflow, the department is addressing the historical issue of uneven monthly payments from central government, which leave colleges out of pocket by March every year. The department will invest £300 million before the end of the 2022-23 financial year in bringing forward payments. This will smooth out the funding for a new even profile for colleges from 2023 to 2024 for both the 16-19-year-old and adult education budgets.

5.4 The department is also investing in a package of direct support for the FE sector in 2022-23 to assist with the recruitment, retention and development of teachers. This includes bursaries worth up to £26,000, a recruitment campaign, initial teacher education reforms, and the Taking Teaching Further (TTF) programme to support industry professionals to become FE teachers.

6: PAC conclusion: DfE has high expectations for its new Unit for Future Skills, but the Unit does not yet have all the skilled staff it needs to meet these expectations.

6: PAC recommendation: DfE should write to us, alongside its Treasury Minute response, with an update on:

- ***the staffing position of the Unit for Future Skills, and how any shortfall in resourcing is affecting the delivery of its programme of work; and***
- ***how it plans to assess and monitor the impact of the Unit's work.***

6.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Recommendation implemented

6.2 The Unit for Future Skills (UFS) has grown rapidly over its first year from zero to 20 staff (January 2023). Planned headcount is 30 - four new starters are joining by February 2023 and remaining vacancies are expected to be filled by April 2023.

6.3 The UFS has risen to the challenge of delivering at pace, creating analytical products while recruiting and developing its strategy and approach. As the team grows and matures, more can be achieved. The department is confident that current resourcing will ensure the unit can deliver on the workplan for 2023.

6.4 Success for the UFS will be when skills system decision makers have access to robust and easy-to-use jobs and skills information, supporting them to invest in the right training and skills development, wherever they are based in the country. In the shorter term, we will forge a pathway of improvements including more robust and timely data; better access to well-structured information; and producing useful insights. The UFS will also drive coordination and linking of relevant analysis, both across and outside of government, to maximise its utility.

6.5 UFS success will be assessed by the UFS Board and Chair, Sir Ian Diamond. They hold the unit to account for delivering outputs against the workplan and examine evidence on the reach, impact and feedback of data products and activity.

6.6 The department wrote to the Committee on 13 February 2023 with further details, as requested.

Thirty-first Report of Session 2022-23

Cabinet Office

Managing central government property

Introduction from the Committee

Central government's property holdings are managed day-to-day by government departments and other public bodies that own and use those properties. The Cabinet Office has overall responsibility for government property as a whole. It has categorised its property assets (which include offices, hospitals, academy schools, jobcentres, courts, prisons and museums) into twelve portfolios. The total value of these property holdings was approximately £158 billion in March 2021, and they cost around £22 billion a year to maintain. The Office of Government Property (OGP), which is part of the Cabinet Office, sets the government's overall property strategy, gathers data from all departments, sets cross-governmental standards and provides training for government property professionals. The Cabinet Office also sponsors the Government Property Agency (GPA), an executive agency that was set up to oversee the government's offices and warehouses. Through the OGP and the GPA, the Cabinet Office plays a major role in overseeing the property estate, guaranteeing that it is fit for purpose, and ensuring that property decisions support major government policies, such as levelling up and achieving net zero.

Based on a report by the National Audit Office, the Committee took evidence on Thursday 13 October 2022 from the Cabinet Office and the Government Property Agency. The Committee published its report on 21 December 2022. This is the government's response to the Committee's report.

Relevant reports

- NAO report: Managing central government property – Session 2022-23 (HC 571)
- PAC report: Managing central government property – Session 2022-23 (HC 48)

Government response to the Committee

1. PAC conclusion: The Cabinet Office does not have the data or IT system necessary to oversee and manage the government estate.

1. PAC recommendation: The Cabinet Office should get its new property database up and running as soon as possible. It should:

- ***ensure that it uses the right expertise to advise on the procurement;***
- ***explore off-the-shelf digital options; and***
- ***set clear deadlines.***

In its Treasury Minute response to this report, the Cabinet Office should also confirm the new target launch date for inSite.

1.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: Spring 2024

1.2 The Cabinet Office (the department) continues to ensure the legacy system that InSite replaces (e-PIMS) remains fully operational. Data continues to be collected through departments providing the necessary information in e-PIMS. Other workstreams as part of the data transformation journey are continuing to be delivered. The department has now published on GOV.UK a bespoke property data standard, to enable better data collection for all of the government estate. Alongside this, the department is taking forward the procurement of the new property database, which is due to take place throughout the course of 2023 with the expectation that the new system will be in place no later than Spring 2024. The current system will remain live and operational throughout this time.

2. PAC conclusion: The Cabinet Office's efforts to update its property database have been subject to a series of unnecessary delays and setbacks.

2. PAC recommendation: The Cabinet Office should analyse why the inSite programme has failed to meet its goals and set out what it has done since to ensure that these mistakes are not repeated in future procurement exercises.

2.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Recommendation implemented

2.2 An analysis has been conducted and actions have been taken forward to the current procurement. As a result, the delivery will be supported with in-house technology expertise and will be in a phased manner.

2.3 The technology expertise for this will come from Cabinet Office Digital. The programme board composition has also been revised to be a focussed decision-making authority with enhanced technical capability.

3. PAC conclusion: The land and science property portfolios do not have clear leads, which frustrates decision making and creates a lack of accountability for their management.

3. PAC recommendation: In its Treasury Minute response to this report, the Cabinet Office should name lead departments for the science and land portfolios. If it is not able to at that point, then we expect to receive separate correspondence alongside the Treasury Minute providing the reasons for this delay, including a timeline for when a decision will be made.

3.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Recommendation implemented

3.2 The land and science property portfolios are currently led within multiple departments with accountability for their management resting with separate accounting officers and with decision-making undertaken on an individual department basis. The Cabinet Office agrees there would be benefit from greater oversight and coordination of these portfolios by naming a lead department. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has agreed to be the portfolio lead for the land portfolio; this has also been agreed with the other departments in scope of the portfolio. On the science portfolio, the lead is likely to be the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). This will be finalised following the conclusion of the machinery of government changes that are necessary for the creation of the new department. A further update will be provided to the committee before summer recess.

4a. PAC conclusion: We are sceptical that the Government Hubs programme still represents good value for money in the current climate.

4a. PAC recommendation: In its Treasury Minute response to this report, the Cabinet Office should set out in detail the benefits and costs, including valuation drops compared to previous prices to date of the Government Hubs programme and how it will be adapted in-light of the new estimates for post pandemic office usage.

4.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: Summer 2023

4.2 The Government Hubs Programme is designed to deliver value for money through a smaller, better-utilised, better-condition office estate, with common technology, security, and improved sustainability. This will enable departments to share space, disposal of surplus estate, reduce maintenance costs, and improve productivity. The programme also enables the relocation of 22,000 roles to the regions by 2030 as part of the Places for Growth initiative.

4.3 The programme has been faced with changes in ways of working due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a planned reduction in the size of the Civil Service (around 10% reduction) and recently significant construction inflation (10%) and a big increase in the cost of borrowing (by 50%). The Committee is therefore right to raise concerns about value for money.

4.4 If the programme continued with its plan prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, it would still deliver value for money albeit this would be reduced due to changes in working patterns and market conditions. However, the Programme is not standing still and is making changes made possible by these changes to deliver even better value for money than originally planned.

4.5 In response, the Programme has: planned for the further reduction of the Central London estate (17 buildings not 20, 16% less space) and examined ways to accelerate this; assumption on attendance rate (25% reduction agreed with a further reduction under consideration) enabling over 4,000 staff to be accommodated in existing estate and additional property to be released; and is considering alternative routes to market for acquisition.

4b. PAC conclusion: In addition to this, the Cabinet Office should update us yearly on the rollout of the hubs programme.

4.6 The government notes the Committee's conclusion.

4.7 A progress report is provided to Ministers, on the Hubs Programme, biannually with the next due in the Summer 2023. We will draw on this information to provide an annual update to the committee.

5. PAC conclusion: It is unclear how the government will meet its target for property disposals, given the past struggles of such programmes and current market uncertainty.

5. PAC recommendation: The Cabinet Office should write to us by April 2023, setting out how it intends to reach its property disposal target, including:

- ***KPIs;***
- ***milestones;***
- ***disposals targets for each portfolio;***
- ***how it is monitoring compliance from all departments;***
- ***and how it is ensuring value for money during market fluctuations.***

5.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target implementation date: end March 2023

5.2 The Cabinet Office will write to the Committee with this information by April 2023. The Cabinet Office has commissioned departments to produce a forward look (pipeline) of their planned disposal activity to 2030, and these pipelines will be refreshed periodically. This will enable the Cabinet Office to analyse, report on and monitor disposal plans, setting relevant programme performance indicators and measures to do so. Disposal plans will form part of the wider property efficiency conversation that departments will have with HM Treasury during the Efficiency and Savings Review, and the merit of setting targets will be determined during that exercise.

5.3 An updated version of The Disposal of Government Property (Real Estate) guidance will be published in 2023 to align with current government priorities. The guidance provides disposal best practice advice and the technical processes to be followed to ensure Best Value is obtained in any disposal. This includes documenting the objectives driving the disposal, and from those to determine, with professional valuation advice, the most appropriate disposal strategy and method of sale. Departments should consider the implications on the disposal strategy of a weaker or uncertain market, including whether setting provisions to benefit from increases in value after disposal through overage or clawback, or the potential for partnership or profit sharing arrangements are appropriate.

6. PAC conclusion: Government's plan to reduce the operating costs of the government estate is not sufficiently ambitious.

6.1 The government notes the Committee's conclusion.

6.2 The NAO confirmed the overall success of the 2018 Government Estate Strategy in unlocking savings and efficiencies. These included the overall reduction in size of estate since 2010 by 30%, with annual running cost savings of £1.6 billion. The recently published Government Property Strategy 2022-2030 sets out how we will continue to deliver savings and achieve better value for money while transforming the public estate and improving capability, standards and insights across the estate.

7. PAC conclusion: None of the witnesses were able to tell us at the hearing how many of the 12 HMRC hubs were let on 25-year unbreakable leases.

7. PAC recommendation: The Cabinet Office should write to us within six months splitting out operating costs of the government estate by expenditure type (including lease obligations) and also set out the current £500 million planned savings for each area and what scope there is for additional savings.

7.1 The government agrees with the Committee's recommendation.

Target Implementation Date: end March 2023

7.2 The government already collects and reports aggregated running costs from departments that are published annually in the State of the Estate Report.

7.3 The Government Property Strategy 2022 sets a target of £500 million operating cost savings per annum by the end of the Spending Review period. It is expected that this target will be achieved primarily from reducing the size of the government leasehold estate, including through the government Hubs programme, greater sharing of space across the public sector and exploiting the benefits of smarter working. The 2023 State of the Estate Report will set out what savings have been made in the first six months of the Strategy (from September 2022 to March 2023).

Treasury Minutes Archive[3]

Treasury Minutes are the government's response to reports from the Committee of Public Accounts. Treasury Minutes are Command Papers laid in Parliament.

Session 2022-23

Committee Recommendations:	204	
Recommendations agreed:	184	(90%)
Recommendations disagreed:	20	

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
July 2022	Government response to PAC reports 1, 3 & 10	CP 722
August 2022	Government response to PAC reports 2, 4-8	CP 708
September 2022	Government response to PAC reports 9, 13-16	CP 745
November 2022	Government response to PAC reports 11, 12, 17	CP 755
December 2022	Government response to PAC reports 18-22	CP 774
January 2023	Government response to PAC reports 23-26	CP 781
February 2023	Government response to PAC reports 27-31	CP 802

Session 2021-22

Committee Recommendations:	362	
Recommendations agreed:	333	(92%)
Recommendations disagreed:	29	

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
August 2021	Government response to PAC reports 1-6	CP 510
September 2021	Government response to PAC reports 8-11	CP 520
November 2021	Government response to PAC reports 7,13-16 (and TM2 BBC)	CP 550
December 2021	Government response to PAC reports 12, 17-21	CP 583
January 2022	Government response to PAC reports 22-26	CP 603
February 2022	Government response to PAC reports 27-31	CP 631
April 2022	Government response to PAC reports 32-35	CP 649
April 2022	Government response to PAC reports 36-42	CP 667
July 2022	Government response to PAC reports 49-52	CP 722

Session 2019-21

Committee Recommendations:	233	
Recommendations agreed:	208	(89%)
Recommendations disagreed:	25	

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
July 2020	Government responses to PAC reports 1-6	CP 270
September 2020	Government responses to PAC reports 7-13	CP 291
November 2020	Government responses to PAC reports 14-17 and 19	CP 316
January 2021	Government responses to PAC reports 18, 20-24	CP 363
February 2021	Government responses to PAC reports 25-29	CP 376
February 2021	Government responses to PAC reports 30-34	CP 389

[3] List of Treasury Minutes responses for Sessions 2010-15 are annexed in the government's response to PAC Report 52

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
March 2021	Government responses to PAC reports 35-39	CP 409
April 2021	Government responses to PAC reports 40- 44	CP 420
May 2021	Government responses to PAC reports 45-51	CP 434
June 2021	Government responses to PAC reports 52-56	CP 456

Session 2019

Committee Recommendations: 11
Recommendations agreed: 11 (100%)
Recommendations disagreed: 0

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
January 2020	Government response to PAC report [112-119] 1 and 2	CP 210

Session 2017-19

Committee Recommendations: 747
Recommendations agreed: 675 (90%)
Recommendations disagreed: 72 (10%)

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
December 2017	Government response to PAC report 1	Cm 9549
January 2018	Government responses to PAC reports 2 and 3	Cm 9565
March 2018	Government responses to PAC reports 4-11	Cm 9575
March 2018	Government responses to PAC reports 12-19	Cm 9596
May 2018	Government responses to PAC reports 20-30	Cm 9618
June 2018	Government responses to PAC reports 31-37	Cm 9643
July 2018	Government responses to PAC reports 38-42	Cm 9667
October 2018	Government responses to PAC reports 43-58	Cm 9702
December 2018	Government responses to PAC reports 59-63	Cm 9740
January 2019	Government responses to PAC reports 64-68	CP 18
March 2019	Government responses to PAC reports 69-71	CP 56
April 2019	Government responses to PAC reports 72-77	CP 79
May 2019	Government responses to PAC reports 78-81 and 83-85	CP 97
June 2019	Government responses to PAC reports 82, 86-92	CP 113
July 2019	Government responses to PAC reports 93-94 and 96-98	CP 151
October 2019	Government responses to PAC reports 95, 99-111	CP 176
January 2020	Government response to PAC reports 112-119 [1 and 2]	CP 210

Session 2016-17

Committee Recommendations: 393
Recommendations agreed: 356 (91%)
Recommendations disagreed: 37 (9%)

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
November 2016	Government responses to PAC reports 1-13	Cm 9351
December 2016	Government responses to PAC reports 14-21	Cm 9389
February 2017	Government responses to PAC reports 22-25 and 28	Cm 9413
March 2017	Government responses to PAC reports 26-27 and 29-34	Cm 9429
March 2017	Government responses to PAC reports 35-41	Cm 9433
October 2017	Government responses to PAC reports 42-44 and 46-64	Cm 9505

Session 2015-16

Committee Recommendations: 262
Recommendations agreed: 225 (86%)
Recommendations disagreed: 37 (14%)

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
December 2015	Government responses to PAC reports 1 to 3	Cm 9170
January 2016	Government responses to PAC reports 4 to 8	Cm 9190
March 2016	Government responses to PAC reports 9 to 14	Cm 9220
March 2016	Government responses to PAC reports 15-20	Cm 9237
April 2016	Government responses to PAC reports 21-26	Cm 9260
May 2016	Government responses to PAC reports 27-33	Cm 9270
July 2016	Government responses to PAC reports 34-36; 38; and 40-42	Cm 9323
November 2016	Government responses to PAC reports 37 and 39 (part 1)	Cm 9351
December 2016	Government response to PAC report 39 (part 2)	Cm 9389

Treasury Minutes Progress Reports Archive

Treasury Minutes Progress Reports provide updates on the implementation of recommendations from the Committee of Public Accounts. These reports are Command Papers laid in Parliament.

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
December 2022	Session 2013-14: updates on 1 PAC report Session 2017-19: updates on 16 PAC reports Session 2019-21: updates on 14 PAC reports Session 2021-22: updates on 38 PAC reports Session 2022-23: updates on 8 PAC reports	CP 765
June 2022	Session 2013-14: updates on 1 PAC report Session 2017-19: updates on 27 PAC reports Session 2019-21: updates on 34 PAC reports Session 2021-22: updates on 30 PAC reports	CP 691
November 2021	Session 2013-14: updates on 1 PAC report Session 2016-17: updates on 3 PAC reports Session 2017-19: updates on 33 PAC reports Session 2019: updates on 2 PAC reports Session 2019-21: updates on 47 PAC reports Session 2021-22: updates on 5 PAC reports	CP 549
May 2021	Session 2010-12: updates on 1 PAC report Session 2013-14: updates on 1 PAC report Session 2015-16: updates on 0 PAC reports Session 2016-17: updates on 4 PAC reports Session 2017-19: updates on 47 PAC reports Session 2019: updates on 2 PAC reports Session 2019-21: updates on 28 PAC reports	CP 424
November 2020	Session 2010-12: updates on 1 PAC report Session 2013-14: updates on 1 PAC report Session 2015-16: updates on 0 PAC reports Session 2016-17: updates on 7 PAC reports Session 2017-19: updates on 73 PAC reports Session 2019: updates on 2 reports	CP 313
February 2020	Session 2010-12: updates on 2 PAC reports Session 2013-14: updates on 1 PAC report Session 2015-16: updates on 3 PAC reports Session 2016-17: updates on 14 PAC reports Session 2017-19: updates on 71 PAC reports	CP 221
March 2019	Session 2010-12: updates on 2 PAC reports Session 2013-14: updates on 4 PAC reports Session 2014-15: updates on 2 PAC reports Session 2015-16: updates on 7 PAC reports Session 2016-17: updates on 22 PAC reports Session 2017-19: updates on 46 PAC reports	CP 70
July 2018	Session 2010-12: updates on 2 PAC reports Session 2013-14: updates on 4 PAC reports Session 2014-15: updates on 2 PAC reports Session 2015-16: updates on 9 PAC reports Session 2016-17: updates on 38 PAC reports Session 2017-19: updates on 17 PAC reports	Cm 9668

Publication Date	PAC Reports	Ref Number
January 2018	Session 2010-12: updates on 2 PAC reports Session 2013-14: updates on 5 PAC reports Session 2014-15: updates on 4 PAC reports Session 2015-16: updates on 14 PAC reports Session 2016-17: updates on 52 PAC reports	Cm 9566
October 2017	Session 2010-12: updates on 3 PAC reports Session 2013-14: updates on 7 PAC reports Session 2014-15: updates on 12 PAC reports Session 2015-16: updates on 26 PAC reports Session 2016-17: updates on 39 PAC reports	Cm 9506
January 2017	Session 2010-12: updates on 1 PAC report Session 2013-14: updates on 5 PAC reports Session 2014-15: updates on 7 PAC reports Session 2015-16: updates on 18 PAC reports	Cm 9407
July 2016	Session 2010-12: updates on 6 PAC reports Session 2012-13: updates on 2 PAC reports Session 2013-14: updates on 15 PAC reports Session 2014-15: updates on 22 PAC reports Session 2015-16: updates on 6 PAC reports	Cm 9320
February 2016	Session 2010-12: updates on 8 PAC reports Session 2012-13: updates on 7 PAC reports Session 2013-14: updates on 22 PAC reports Session 2014-15: updates on 27 PAC reports	Cm 9202
March 2015	Session 2010-12: updates on 26 PAC reports Session 2012-13: updates on 17 PAC reports Session 2013-14: updates on 43 PAC reports	Cm 9034
July 2014	Session 2010-12: updates on 60 PAC reports Session 2012-13: updates on 37 PAC reports	Cm 8899
February 2013	Session 2010-12: updates on 31 PAC reports	Cm 8539

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