



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Greening Government Commitments Annual Report - April 2020 to March 2021

April 2023

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We're responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition 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.



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Introduction to the Greening Government Commitments

The Greening Government Commitments (GGCs) set out the actions United Kingdom (UK) government departments and their agencies will take to reduce their environmental impact. They demonstrate how the UK government is working to improve the environmental performance of its own estate and operations. This is in line with our [25 Year Environment Plan commitments](#) to improve the environment within a generation.

The [2016 to 2020 GGCs Framework](#) sets out targets for the UK government departments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, domestic flights, waste, paper consumption and water use by the 2019 to 2020 financial year (FY), compared to the FY 2009 to 2010 baseline. In addition, each year departments must demonstrate how they ensure goods and services bought are as sustainable as possible. They must also report transparently on their actions on climate change adaptation, biodiversity, sustainable food and catering, sustainable construction, and any other significant aspects of their work which could have a negative effect on the environment.

The Autumn Budget 2017 introduced the Government Fleet Commitment for 25% of the fleet to be Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle by 2022 and 100% by 2030. Departments have been working to adjust their fleet since, and progress against this commitment is reported in this GGC annual report, as it was for the first time in the FY 2019 to 2020 GGCs annual report.

The targets recognise that departments carry out a wide variety of functions and activities and as such the size and constitution of their office and non-office estate varies significantly. For instance, due to its functions, Ministry of Justice's estate includes prisons. To allow flexibility for departments to make appropriate improvements to their own estate and operations, targets are proportional rather than absolute and set at government-wide level, except for the greenhouse gas emissions target.

This report summarises the progress made during the FY 2020 to 2021. To allow for comparison over time without data becoming unwieldy, tables in this report include comparative data for the FY 2019 to 2020 and are broken down at a departmental level. Data for previous years can be found in the [series of previous annual reports](#).

Future reporting will be conducted under the [2021 to 2025 GGCs Framework](#).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Greening Government Commitments

This report summarises the progress made during financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021, against the 2016 to 2020 GGCs Framework.

Throughout this financial year, office use and ways of working were impacted as government responded to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic by imposing restrictions and easing them when possible. As a result, data for the majority of the GGC targets reflects the impact of these restrictions as well as the work that has been undertaken by departments to reduce emissions, waste, flights, water use and paper consumption.

The 2016 to 2020 GGC framework was due to expire in April 2020. Due to the unprecedented demand placed on facilities teams during this period, including the need to re-organise and re-purpose office space, there was ministerial agreement for the commitments to be rolled over for an additional year. Non-GGCs sustainability reporting was also relaxed, such as in the sustainability reporting guidance for annual reports and accounts.

For accuracy and transparency, this report will present data for the 2020 to 2021 FY but without detailed commentary. The [2019 to 2020 GGC annual report](#) contains the last full account of data prior to major disruption because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In October 2021, the UK government introduced the latest [GGCs framework covering 2021 to 2025](#). The targets in this framework are set against a baseline of FY 2017 to 2018, allowing departments to measure their reductions against recent pre-COVID levels. The forthcoming 2021 to 2022 GGCs annual report will be the first report against this framework.

Executive summary

Collectively the government continued to achieve all quantitative targets (emissions, water, paper) in the financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021 except for the target to increase the proportion of waste that was recycled. This follows the trend of the government's consistent achievement of all quantitative targets, except domestic flights and 2 aspects of the waste target since FY 2017 to 2018.

The commitment to reduce the number of domestic business flights by 30% compared to the FY 2009 to 2010 baseline was achieved in FY 2019 to 2020 with a reduction in flights of 38%. This surpasses the targeted reduction by 8 percentage points. The decreasing trend in the data over previous financial years suggests that even without the impact of COVID-19 public health restrictions, this target would have continued to be met in FY 2020 to 2021.

The commitment to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill to less than 10% was met in this financial year and in the previous 2 financial years. Within the waste commitment there are a further 2 targets. The government reduced overall waste generated by 51% in FY 2020 to 2021, an additional 12 percentage point reduction compared to FY 2019 to 2020.

However, only 54% of overall government waste was recycled in FY 2020 to 2021 which represents a decrease from the 64% recycled in FY 2019 to 2020. In the previous two financial years the proportion of waste generated, and the proportion recycled had remained relatively stable.

In general, the FY 2020 to 2021 GGCs data is not wholly representative of government performance due to the significant impacts of COVID-19 and the public health restrictions put in place to manage some of those impacts. It has therefore not been used to draw conclusions on government performance.

The actions UK government departments and their agencies have taken to reduce their environmental impact in line with the GGCs alongside the impact of COVID-19 and associated public health restrictions collectively saved an estimated £193 million in the 2020 to 2021 FY.

Chapter 1: Greenhouse gas emissions

The Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions commitment includes all scope 1 and scope 2 (direct and indirect) emissions, and some scope 3 (value chain) emissions (transmission, distribution losses and business travel).

2020 Target

Reduce GHG emissions by at least 43% from a 2009 to 2010 financial year baseline (in line with individual departmental targets).

Performance against the GHG emissions target

In financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021, government reduced its GHG emissions by 57% from the baseline year, exceeding the 43% target. This follows the achievement of a 50% reduction from the baseline year in FY 2019 to 2020.

It is unclear whether the additional 7 percentage point reduction in emissions achieved in the last financial year is wholly attributable to action UK government departments have taken to reduce their emissions. It is possible that COVID-19 public health restrictions also reduced building energy use.

The original target of a 32% reduction in emissions from a FY 2009 to 2010 baseline was met three years earlier than planned in 2017. As a result, the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) set a new more stretching target of a 43% reduction in emissions.

The proportion of total emissions generated by each department stayed relatively similar to previous financial years with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Ministry of Justice (MOJ) accounting for 74.5% greenhouse gas emissions collectively in FY 2020 to 2021 (compared to 72% in FY 2019 to 2020). Both departments achieved their emissions reductions targets in this financial year.

The reduction in energy use across the government estate collectively saved departments an estimated £182 million in this financial year, compared to the expected cost had they continued to use the same amount of energy as they had in FY 2009 to 2010.

Data for the GHG emissions target

Table 1: Departmental performance against greenhouse gas emissions target

Some cells in this table refer to notes, which can be found in the notes section after the table.

Department	Baseline 2009/10 (read note 1) (CO2e in Tonnes)	Performance 2020/21 (CO2e in Tonnes)	2019/20 reduction against baseline	2020/21 reduction against baseline	2020 target reduction (revised July 2018)	Proportion of total government emissions
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)	63,539	12,287	72%	81%	66%	0.9%
Cabinet Office (CO) (Read note 1)	11,628	1,653	83%	86%	60%	0.1%
Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS)	1,352	494	38%	63%	63%	0%
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	119,398	49,237	49%	59%	44%	3.7%
Department for Education (DfE)	26,534	5,965	62%	78%	56%	0.5%
Department for International Development (DfID)	4,309	775	60%	82%	50%	0.1%

Department	Baseline 2009/10 (read note 1) (CO2e in Tonnes)	Performance 2020/21 (CO2e in Tonnes)	2019/20 reduction against baseline	2020/21 reduction against baseline	2020 target reduction (revised July 2018)	Proportion of total government emissions
Department for Transport (DfT)	190,277	77,137	52%	59%	44%	5.8%
Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC)	56,774	15,975	64%	72%	46%	1.2%
Department for International Trade (DIT)	1,072	736	-8% (Read note 3)	31%	N/A	0.1%
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)	217,904	69,345	62%	68%	51%	5.2%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	19,234	5,336	62%	72%	49%	0.4%
Food Standards Agency (FSA)	2,052	426	45%	79%	71%	0%
His Majesties (HM) Treasury	4,216	771	76%	82%	69%	0.1%
His Majesties Revenue and Customs (HMRC)	190,857	50,479	69%	74%	54%	3.8%
Home Office	81,432	28,247	55% (Read note 2)	65%	41%	2.1%
Law Office's Department (LOD)	16,063	3,663	70%	77%	60%	0.3%

Department	Baseline 2009/10 (read note 1) (CO2e in Tonnes)	Performance 2020/21 (CO2e in Tonnes)	2019/20 reduction against baseline	2020/21 reduction against baseline	2020 target reduction (revised July 2018)	Proportion of total government emissions
Department for Levelling Up Communities and Local Government (DLUHC)	23,482	4,386	72%	81%	68%	0.3%
Ministry of Defence (MoD)	1,432,006	709,043	45%	50%	40%	53.7%
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	561,576	274,476	44%	51%	38%	20.8%
National Crime Agency (NCA)	18,884	9,584	40%	49%	25%	0.7%
Office for National Statistics (ONS)	9,952	1,250	59%	87%	50%	0.1%
Total	3,052,541 (Read note 3)	1,321,265	50%	57%	43%	100%

Note 1: A re-baselining exercise carried out in 2019 used historical figures for the carbon-intensity of the CO's baseline GHG emissions throughout 2018 to 2020. This has been amended for the 2021 to 2022 GGCs annual report.

Note 2: Home Office restated their GHG emissions figure for FY 2019 to 2020 after the cut-off for data collection for the 2019 to 2020 report. The correct percentage reduction is stated here.

Note 3: DIT restated their GHG emissions figure for FY 2019 to 2020 after the cut-off for data collection for the 2019 to 2020 report. The correct percentage reduction is stated here.

Note 4: The baseline has changed since the 2019 to 2020 GGCs annual report, due to the Department for Exiting the European Union no longer existing

Chapter 2: Domestic flights

2020 Target

Reduce the number of domestic business flights by at least 30% from the 2009 to 2010 financial year baseline.

Performance against the domestic flights target

The number of domestic business flights in financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021 fell by 96% compared to the FY 2009 to 2010 baseline year. This exceeded the target of a 30% reduction.

The scale of the decrease in flights in FY 2020 to 2021 suggests that a proportion of the reduction is likely to be a result of public health restrictions due to COVID-19.

The proportion of total UK government domestic flights accounted for by each department also differed in the latest reporting period in comparison to the previous year. The biggest shift was from the National Crime Agency (NCA) which in the previous financial year accounted for 4% of flights while in this financial year they accounted for 26%. Thereby contributing the highest proportion of domestic flights despite an overall reduction in their flights of 50% compared to the baseline. These figures demonstrate the different impact of COVID-19 public health restrictions on ways of working across departments. In particular, the NCA's greater need for essential in-person working compared to other departments who were able to almost completely stop using domestic flights.

Looking back at the previous reporting period of FY 2019 to 2020, while the framework target was met collectively with a 38% reduction against the baseline year, the performance of individual departments varied. Nine departments had achieved the 30% reduction target and 12 had not. Six departments saw flight rates increase relative to the baseline.

Data for domestic flights target

Table 2: Departmental performance against domestic flights target

Some cells in this table refer to notes, which can be found in the notes section after the table.

Department	Number of flights 2009/10 (Baseline)	Number of flights 2020/2021	2019/20 reduction against baseline	2020/21 reduction against baseline	Proportion of government flights
BEIS	5,885	91	30%	98%	1.27%
CO	2,306	90	95%	96%	1.26%
DLUHC	542	8	-6%	99%	0.11%
DCMS	169	6	-144% (Read note 1)	96%	0.08%
Defra	3,351	66	32%	98%	0.92%
DfE	1,794	11	29%	99%	0.15%
DfID	3,610	119	-14%	97%	1.67%
DfT	9,169	492	45%	95%	6.89%
DHSC	7,893	84	73%	99%	1.18%
DIT	1,167	8	21%	98%	0.11%
DWP	21,931	294	68%	99%	4.12%
FCO	735	223	-8%	70%	3.12%
FSA	1,718	18	45%	99%	0.25%
HM Treasury	411	8	65%	98%	0.11%
HMRC	54,741	782	49%	99%	10.95%
Home Office	15,241	1,303	13%	91%	18.25%
LOD	568	110	41%	81%	1.54%
MOD	30,422	1,432	17%	95%	20.05%
MOJ	4,602	134	27%	97%	1.88%
NCA	3,692	1,833	-36%	50%	25.67%
ONS	1,517	29	-35%	98%	0.41%
Total	171,464	7,141	37%	96%	100%

Note 1: The department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) restated their domestic flight figure for FY 2019 to 2020 after the cut-off for data collection for the 2019 to 2020 GGCs annual report, the correct figure is stated here.

Chapter 3: UK government fleet commitment

Target

Government fleet to be 25% ultra-low emissions vehicles (ULEVs) by 2022 and 100% by 2030.

Performance against the UK government fleet target

Twelve of the 13 departments that are in scope of the fleet target reported against the commitment in financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021. For these departments 12.5% of their fleet was made up of ULEVs, this represents progress towards the 22% target for 2022 from 7.6% in the previous financial year. However, with the data available we are unable to make predictions about whether the UK government will collectively meet the target.

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Home Office have already achieved the 22% target. DHSC achieved the highest proportion of ULEVs in its fleet with 60.7%. Whilst Department for Transport (DfT) achieved the biggest increase in the proportion of ULEVs in its fleet from 4.5% in the last financial year to 21.3% in this financial year.

Data for the UK government fleet target

Table 3: Departmental performance against the government fleet target

We use some abbreviations in this table: (NR) means not reported and (OS) means out of scope.

Department	ULEVs in fleet 2020/21	Total vehicles in fleet 2020/21	ULEVs hired 2020/21	Total vehicles hired 2020/21	Percentage ULEVs in Fleet and Hire 2019/20	Percentage ULEVs in Fleet and Hire 2020/21
BEIS	4	241	0	34	2%	1.5%
DfT	438	1,949	0	110	4.5%	21.3%
DWP	1	1,161	0	214	0.1%	0.1%
FCO	0	26	0	3	0%	0%
HMRC	61	1,098	0	8	0.4%	5.5%
MOD	553	7,591	0	2,595	0.2%	5.4%
MOJ	90	524	0	0	5.4%	17.2%
NCA	0	925	0	0	0.1%	0%
Defra	678	4,491	0	0	11.1%	15.1%
DHSC	844	1,390	0	0	51%	60.7%
FSA	0	37	0	0	0%	0%
Home Office	257	968	0	0	17.4%	26.5%
DLUHC	NR	NR	NR	NR	49%	NR
CO	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS
DCMS	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS
DfE	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS
DfID	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS
HM Treasury	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS
LOD	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS
ONS	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS	OS
Total	2,926	20,401	0	2,964	7.6%	12.5%

Chapter 4: Waste

2020 Targets

Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill to less than 10% and continue to improve our waste management by reducing the overall amount of waste generated and increasing the proportion which is recycled.

Performance against waste target

In financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021, UK government departments collectively sent 8% of waste to landfill, achieving the target of sending less than 10%.

The broader commitment to reduce the overall amount of waste generated each year was also collectively achieved, with a 50% reduction compared to the FY 2009 to 2010 baseline. This builds on the 39% reduction against the baseline seen in FY 2019 to 2020.

The commitment to increase the proportion of waste that is recycled each year was not met in FY 2020 to 2021. The proportion of waste recycled decreased from 64% to 59% between the previous financial year and this one. Linked to this, while there was a reduction in total waste produced compared to the last financial year (of 41,088 tonnes), the proportion that went to landfill increased by 2 percentage points, from 6% to 8%.

Progress to increase recycling will continue to be monitored and encouraged through the [2021 to 2025 GGCs framework](#) target to increase the proportion of waste recycled to 70% of total waste.

Nineteen out of the 21 departments that reported against this commitment met the target of sending less than 10% of waste to landfill. Of these, 7 sent no waste to landfill, which was the same as in FY 2019 to 2020. The 3 departments that did not reach the target of less than 10% of waste going to landfill, were MOJ, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and DfT. The latter 2 departments also did not meet the target in FY 2019 to 2020.

DfT reduced the amount of waste it sent to landfill by 8.7%, however as the overall volume of waste reduced by 29.9% a greater proportion of this was made up of waste sent to landfill.

95% of Defra's waste going to landfill comes from Lake District National Park and Forestry England. Much of this waste is treated timber from old fencing etc which is typically landfilled as alternative treatments have not been found.

MOJ missed the target as a result of the closure of prison industry waste recycling facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The type of waste and the way in which it was processed was also affected.

In the [2019 to 2020 GGCs annual report](#) there was a commitment to report on progress towards the elimination of Consumer Single Use Plastic Elimination (CSUP). However, as the commitment is related to the [2021 to 2025 GGCs framework](#), this will be reported from the 2021 to 2022 GGCs annual report.

Data for waste targets

Table 4: Departmental performance against waste targets

Some cells in this table refer to notes which can be found in the notes section after the table.

Department	Total waste 2009/10 (in tonnes) (Baseline)	Performance - total waste 2020/21 (in tonnes)	2019/20 reduction against baseline	2020/21 reduction against baseline	Proportion of waste to landfill 2020/21	Proportion of waste recycled 2020/21	Proportion of total government waste 2020/21
BEIS	7,541	870	74%	88%	5%	67%	0.5%
CO	1,226	163	80%	87%	0%	32%	0.1%
DCMS	88	9	15%	90%	0%	52%	0%
Defra	8,116	4,689	7%	42%	16%	23%	2.9%
DfE	3,431	334	72%	90%	1%	80%	0.2%
DfID	317	45	47%	86%	3%	39%	0.0%
DfT	5,647	2,111	54%	63%	18%	65%	1.3%
DHSC	3,512	1,315	41%	63%	1%	62%	0.8%
DIT	97	34	-134%	65%	4%	87%	0%
DWP	17,133	4,981	51%	71%	4%	59%	3%
FCO	1,216	268	49%	78%	0%	57%	0.2%

Department	Total waste 2009/10 (in tonnes) (Baseline)	Performance - total waste 2020/21 (in tonnes)	2019/20 reduction against baseline	2020/21 reduction against baseline	Proportion of waste to landfill 2020/21	Proportion of waste recycled 2020/21	Proportion of total government waste 2020/21
FSA	35	9	-12%	73%	0%	100%	0%
HM Treasury	485	15	75%	97%	0%	60%	0%
HMRC	18,193	4,980	51%	73%	1%	85%	1.9%
Home Office	5,685	2,713	49%	52%	2%	89%	1.7%
LOD	2,801	889	53%	68%	0%	91%	0.5%
DLUHC (Read note 1)	2,103	235	58%	89%	5%	83%	0.6%
MOD	185,437	96,790	38%	48%	8%	51%	59.1%
MOJ	70,876	45,093	26%	36%	11%	74%	27.5%
NCA	358	208	6%	42%	0%	43%	0.1%
ONS	657	101	51%	85%	2%	69%	0.1%
Total	334,953	163,902	39%	50%	8%	59%	100%

Note 1: In the 2019 to 2020 GGCs Annual Report, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's (MHCLG - now DLUHC) paper usage figures were erroneously duplicated as waste data. Their reported total waste (in tonnes) should have been recorded as 877 against a 2,103 baseline. This means the total reduction against baseline for FY 2019 to 2020 was 58% not the 40% previously referenced.

Chapter 5: Paper

2020 Target

Reduce UK government's paper use by at least 50% from a 2009 to 2010 financial year baseline.

Performance against paper target

Nineteen departments reported on their paper usage in financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021, collectively they reduced their paper use by 80% from the FY 2009 to 2010 baseline, exceeding the target of 50%. All 19 of the departments that reported, exceeded the 50% target, in comparison only 15 exceeded it in FY 2019 to 2020. Seventeen departments achieved reductions of over 70%. Two departments, His Majesty's Treasury (HMT) and DCMS did not report their paper use.

The paper reduction target has been met consistently throughout the course of the framework with greater reductions each year. In FY 2019 to 2020, the UK government collectively achieved a 63% reduction compared to the FY 2009 to 2010 baseline.

Some of the improvement in the last financial year may be a result of the shift to online working in response to COVID-19 and the public health restrictions put in place because of it. Nevertheless, there has been progress in achieving and surpassing this target over the course of the framework.

Data for the paper target

Table 5: Departmental performance against the paper target

Department	Total purchased reams, A4 equivalent (2009/10) (Baseline)	2020/21 performance (purchased reams A4 equivalent)	2019/20 reduction against baseline	2020/21 reduction against baseline 2020/21	Proportion of total reported government paper
BEIS	433,941	22,104	87%	95%	1.3%
CO	56,396	5,456	42%	90%	0.3%
DCMS	5,102	Not reported	17%	Not reported	Not reported
Defra	151,529	4,836	67%	97%	0.3%
DfE	169,806	12,369	87%	93%	0.8%
DfID	16,003	35	67%	100%	0%
DfT	159,090	33,984	57%	79%	2.1%
DHSC	150,215	36,596	64%	76%	2.2%
DIT	4,000	2,437	-9%	39%	0.1%
DWP	2,078,897	160,438	78%	92%	9.7%
FCO	38,930	1,538	71%	96%	0.1%
FSA	3,755	113	64%	97%	0%
HM Treasury	27,030	Not reported	64%	Not reported	Not reported
HMRC	852,831	23,039	83%	97%	1.4%
Home Office	398,001	53,876	62%	86%	3.3%
LOD	680,081	44,872	93%	93%	2.7%
DLUHC	87,486	2,866	81%	97%	0.2%
MOD	1,242,363	480,325	40%	61%	29.1%
MOJ	1,552,263	737,119	30%	53%	44.7%
NCA	19,572	4,693	85%	76%	0.3%
ONS	57,109	22,425	50%	61%	1.4%
Total	8,182,639	1,649,120	63%	80%	100%

Chapter 6: Water

Target

Continue to further reduce water consumption. Each department will continue to improve on the reductions they had made by financial year 2014 to 2015.

Departments will set internal targets and continue to report on office water use (m³ per Full Time Equivalent (FTE)).

Performance against the water target

Collectively government has met its commitment to reduce water consumption in financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021, reducing it by 14% from the FY 2014 to 2015 baseline. This continues the trend from previous years, including the 12% reduction in FY 2019 to 2020 compared to the baseline.

Twenty out of 21 departments that reported met the target of a continual reduction in water consumption in FY 2020 to 2021. The MOJ was the only department that experienced an increase in water consumption (of 2 percentage points) from the previous financial year. This year-on-year increase is attributable to the prison water infrastructure occasionally failing, which results in water leakage and increased usage. The MOJ has a process in place to monitor water usage so action can be taken if an unexplained increase occurs.

The MOD and MOJ together account for 93.7% of government water consumption, with the MOD alone accounting for 66%. The MOD's water use is a result of their complex operational requirements. Nevertheless, they achieved further reductions in water use between FY 2019 to 2020 and FY 2020 to 2021. From 11% to 12.4% compared to the baseline.

In FY 2019 to 2020, the Department for International Development (DfID), DfT, NCA and the Department for International Trade (DIT) all consumed more water than their FY 2014 to 2015 baseline. However, in FY 2020 to 2021, these departments all reduced water use compared to that baseline. Over the course of the [2021 to 2025 GGCs framework](#), it will become possible to identify to what extent these reductions were a result of the impact of COVID-19 public health restrictions reducing office use and therefore water consumption.

Through reduction in water use government has saved an estimated £10.4 Million compared to if departments had continued to use the same amount of water as they had in FY 2009 to 2010.

Data for water target

Table 6: Departmental performance against water target

Department	2014/15 baseline (M ³)	2020/21 Performance (M ³)	2019/20 reduction against baseline	2020/21 reduction against baseline	Proportion of total government water use
BEIS	283,495	42,545	58%	85%	0.1%
CO	52,388	10,656	68%	79.7%	0%
DCMS	7,328	3,249	25%	55.7%	0%
Defra	651,542	583,463	9%	10.4%	1.8%
DfE	117,600	57,324	37%	51.3%	0.2%
DfID	8,459	3,027	-30%	64.2%	0%
DfT	201,196	147,176	-4%	26.8%	0.4%
DHSC	283,469	145,642	39%	48.6%	0.4%
DIT	14,158	4,882	-24%	66%	0%
DWP	883,617	494,402	33%	44%	1.5%
FCO	66,366	30,503	26%	54%	0.1%
FSA	8,275	318	72%	96.2%	0%
HM Treasury	14,810	4,682	17%	68.4%	0%
HMRC	961,843	283,474	46%	70.5%	0.9%
Home Office	310,338	145,801	43%	53%	0.4%
LOD	69,068	19,276	68%	72.1%	0.1%
DLUHC	99,358	47,773	28%	51.9%	0.1%
MOD	24,973,623	21,871,190	11%	12.4%	66.2%
MOJ	9,277,165	9,095,796	4%	2%	22.5%
NCA	38,943	32,086	-42%	17.6%	0.1%
ONS	18,526	9,022	5%	51.3%	0%
Total	38,338,199	33,032,287	12%	14%	100%

Chapter 7: Procurement

Commitment

Continue to buy more sustainable and efficient products and services with the aim of achieving the best long-term, overall value for money for society.

Departments will report on the systems they have in place and the action taken to buy sustainably, including to:

- embed compliance with the Government Buying Standards (GBS) in departmental and centralised procurement contracts, within the context of government's overarching priorities of value for money and streamlining procurement processes
- understand and reduce supply chain impacts and risks

This reporting should set out achievements and cover departments' use of the Prioritisation Tool to help them identify and address their most important areas and the Flexible Framework tool which enables them to measure and monitor their progress on sustainable procurement over time (or other equivalent tools).

Performance against procurement commitment

Ten departments reported against the procurement commitment in financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021, these were the Crown Prosecution Service, DfT, DIT, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, His Majesty's Revenue and Customs, MOD, MOJ and Office for National Statistics. This was a significant reduction compared to the 21 that reported in the previous financial year, which was due to reprioritisation of staff resource during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Six of the 10 departments reported having a written sustainable procurement policy in place with a further 3 having a policy in draft form or under development. These policies had all been developed, or had started to be developed, in advance of FY 2020 to 2021. Previous financial years show an increase in the number of departments developing policies aligned with this commitment.

The significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic means that this year should not be considered as a representative measure of overall government performance against this commitment. In line with this assessment and the low response rate, the full responses will not be published in this report. A commitment to sustainable procurement continues in the [2021 to 2025 GGC framework](#) and progress towards it will continue to be encouraged and reported.

Chapter 8: Transparency

Commitment

Departments will be open and transparent by reporting publicly on the steps they are taking to address the following areas:

- climate change adaptation
- biodiversity and the natural environment
- procurement of food and catering services
- sustainable construction
- any other issues that departments consider to be most significant to reducing the environmental impact of their activities

Performance against transparency commitment

In financial year (FY) 2020 to 2021, 11 out of 22 departments reported against the transparency commitment. Seven of these reported against all 4 transparency commitment areas, this is a decrease from 12 the previous year. This is likely to be a result of reprioritisation of staff resource to deal with the impacts of COVID-19 public health restrictions on office working.

Since the FY 2016 to 2017, departments have been required to report against the four GGC transparency areas within departmental Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) under HM Treasury Annual Reporting guidelines. This has led to a trend of increased transparency reporting in departments' annual reports. Ten departments that reported said transparency requirements were included in their ARA and 9 reported having a dedicated web page or sustainability report.

In FY 2020 to 2021, the [requirement to report in ARA's was relaxed](#) in response to the challenges of COVID-19. The reduced reporting measures that were introduced in response to COVID-19 were withdrawn for the 2021 to 2022 FY and central government bodies will be expected to comply with the full disclosure requirements set out in the Sustainability Reporting Guidance (SRG) for 2021 to 2022 annual reports and accounts (ARAs).

Few departments report on wider sustainability issues beyond the 4 specified in the commitment. However, BEIS highlighted that they report on consideration of greenhouse gas emissions, water and waste. DHSC report that they have a staff led Green Network and Sustainable Development forum that brings together sustainability leads from across their arms-length bodies (ALBs).

The significant impact of COVID-19 on reporting against this commitment means that this year should not be considered as a representative measurement of overall government performance.

A table showing compliance with transparency reporting is included as Annex 2.

Annex 1 – Analytical Methodology Note

Defra and our data contractor collect departmental performance data at 4 quarterly points throughout the financial year (FY) in line with the [2016 to 2020 GGCs Reporting Requirements](#). The role of the data contractor is to update and issue the template used by departments for quarterly reporting. Review and quality assure the data as it is returned and collate the quarterly returns into an annual summary spreadsheet that is used by Defra to inform this annual report.

It is not possible to quantify exactly how much performance in FY 2020 to 2021 was a result of government action versus the impact of COVID-19 public health restrictions. We therefore advise that this report and the data it contains should be viewed in the context of this unprecedented event. UK government performance in this year should also be viewed within the context of government performance in previous years. The forthcoming 2021 to 2022 GGCs annual report will help provide further analysis of ongoing departmental performance.

A small number of commitments, such as Procurement and Transparency had low reporting rates in FY 2020 to 2021. This was a result of departmental priorities shifting to tackling COVID-19 or dealing with the impacts of the public health restrictions on the government estate. We did not assume that responses would be the same as last year and referred to these gaps as 'not reported' or N/A.

Transparency and procurement policies must be renewed after a certain amount of time meaning a judgement on whether a policy exists could not be made regarding the present existence of a policy without a departmental report.

The estimated savings are calculated using average utility prices for water, electricity and gas. The energy usage in kWh in the reporting year is compared against the baseline year, and the equivalent cost in the current year for this reduction in usage is calculated. The same process is followed for water usage. The unit prices are updated each year to ensure the calculations remain accurate

Annex 2 – Transparency table

Department	Dedicated sustainability web page or report?	Transparency requirements included in their annual reports and accounts (ARA)?	Climate change adaptation included in ARA?	Biodiversity included in ARA?	Sustainable construction included in ARA?	Food procurement and catering included in ARA?	Other sustainability issues included in ARA?	Links to department's relevant documents
BEIS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	GHG emissions, Water and Waste	Annual report and accounts 2020/2021
CPS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Annual report and accounts 2020/2021 Annual report and accounts 2018/2019
DfT		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Catering not specifically referred to in our ARA but is part of our sustainable procurement actions which		Annual report and accounts 2020/2021

Department	Dedicated sustainability web page or report?	Transparency requirements included in their annual reports and accounts (ARA)?	Climate change adaptation included in ARA?	Biodiversity included in ARA?	Sustainable construction included in ARA?	Food procurement and catering included in ARA?	Other sustainability issues included in ARA?	Links to department's relevant documents
						are reported, and specific detail is included in the GGC Sustainable Procurement return to Defra.		
DHSC	Articles published on the DH intranet are archived, documents appear on GOV.UK. We do not have DH webpages any more in common with most	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not specific to food, but there is a detailed Sustainable Procurement section in the DH ARA.	We have a well-established staff led Green Network group and SD (Sustainable Development) Forum involving all ALBs	Annual report and accounts 2020/2021 Annual report and accounts 2019/2020

Department	Dedicated sustainability web page or report?	Transparency requirements included in their annual reports and accounts (ARA)?	Climate change adaptation included in ARA?	Biodiversity included in ARA?	Sustainable construction included in ARA?	Food procurement and catering included in ARA?	Other sustainability issues included in ARA?	Links to department's relevant documents
	government departments							
DIT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Annual Report and Accounts
DfE	Not known	Not included in 2019 to 2020 ARA as per Public Expenditure Service (PES) (2020) 03	Not included in 2019 to 2020 ARA as per PES (2020) 03	Not included in 2019-20 ARA as per PES (2020) 03	Not included in 2019 to 2020 ARA as per PES (2020) 03	Not included in 2019 to 2020 ARA as per PES (2020) 03	Not included in 2019 2020 ARA as per PES (2020) 03	Annual reports and accounts
HMRC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Annual report and accounts Sustainability Report
HM Treasury	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				Energy use

Department	Dedicated sustainability web page or report?	Transparency requirements included in their annual reports and accounts (ARA)?	Climate change adaptation included in ARA?	Biodiversity included in ARA?	Sustainable construction included in ARA?	Food procurement and catering included in ARA?	Other sustainability issues included in ARA?	Links to department's relevant documents
								Annual report and accounts
Home Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Annual report and accounts 2019/2020 Annual report and accounts: 2020/2021
MOD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Food Procurement and Catering response included as part of GGC Sustainable Procurement Template		Annual report and accounts Sustainability reporting Sustainability magazine (Sanctuary)

Department	Dedicated sustainability web page or report?	Transparency requirements included in their annual reports and accounts (ARA)?	Climate change adaptation included in ARA?	Biodiversity included in ARA?	Sustainable construction included in ARA?	Food procurement and catering included in ARA?	Other sustainability issues included in ARA?	Links to department's relevant documents
ONS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Transparency and governance

