

Terms of Reference: Catherine Howard

1. Role

Catherine Howard is appointed as the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Infrastructure and Planning Adviser.

2. Context and ambition

As set out in the Plan for Change, the government's priority mission is to deliver strong, secure and sustainable economic growth to boost living standards in every part of the UK.

Infrastructure is central to the UK's growth mission, and an effective and responsive planning system is essential for unlocking investment, delivering new homes, and enabling the infrastructure needed for a modern economy.

The government has an ambitious agenda for infrastructure. We have published the 10 Year Infrastructure Strategy, set up the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA), and undertaken significant planning reforms through the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, and to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The postholder will be responsible for providing expert and strategic advice to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other HM Treasury Ministers, in collaboration with senior officials and special advisers, on how to ensure that the government's infrastructure agenda supports the government's growth mission, by addressing key barriers faced by public and private infrastructure and housing schemes in the UK.

The postholder should also work with Ministers, special advisers and civil servants to support stakeholder relationships and engage with other relevant government departments to ensure cross-government coherence.

3. Governance and ways of working

The appointment will begin on Monday 15 September and will work until the Autumn Budget. The postholder will work closely with officials on a confidential basis, as well as conduct structured stakeholder engagement via targeted roundtables and bilateral sessions with industry bodies, businesses, and governmental and non-governmental organisations.

4. Conflicts of interest

A full declaration of interest process has been conducted in the usual way for direct ministerial appointments and mitigations have been agreed to minimise any potential, actual or perceived conflicts. The postholder will comply with the measures and mitigations set out by HM Treasury's Permanent Secretary, with support from the Propriety and Ethics Team if required.