



CABINET OFFICE
LONDON SW1A 2AS

Alex Chisholm
Civil Service Chief Operating Officer
and Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary

Dame Meg Hillier
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

29 September 2022

Dear Chair,

MANAGING CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

The rescheduled hearing by the Public Accounts Committee to the NAO report *Managing Central Government Property* will take place on 13 October 2022.

The NAO report considered the government property strategy published in 2018. Since the publication of the NAO report, the government has published the new **Government Property Strategy**, and I enclose a copy of this with a request that you share this with the members of the Committee in advance of the hearing.

The Strategy sets out how we will transform the public estate, delivering savings and achieving better value for money. The Strategy has three Missions:

- Transform places and services to support levelling up and regeneration
- A smaller, better and greener public estate
- Improve professional excellence and insight

The ambitions in the Strategy include the delivery of £500m operating costs savings by 2024/25; generate gross capital receipts of £500m per annum through a pipeline of property disposals and aim to reduce the Whitehall estate to 16 buildings. Targets for each property portfolio will be created before September 2023. Utilisation metrics for civil service office space per full time employee (FTE) will reduce from the current 8.9m2 per FTE to 6m2 FTE. Other planned reductions include a target to reduce over 20% of primary care void space and a 3% reduction in probation holdings.

Those giving evidence with me at the hearing will be:

- Mark Chivers, Director General for Government Estate (OGP) in Cabinet Office
- Janet Young, Government Head of Property Profession (OGP) in Cabinet Office
- Steven Boyd, Chief Executive of Government Property Agency (GPA), an Executive Agency of Cabinet Office

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alex Chisholm', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alex Chisholm

Civil Service Chief Operating Officer & Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary
Email PSAlexChisholm@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **Telephone** +44 (0) 20 7271 8822