

**Dame Meg Hillier**  
**Chair of the Public Accounts Committee**  
**House of Commons**

**22 December 2022**

Dear Dame Meg,

I look forward to attending the Committee's evidence session on 2 February 2023 and continue to welcome the Committee's interest in and scrutiny of the R&R Programme and the management of the wider Parliamentary estate.

Given the Committee's previous interest in and requests for information on incidents on the Parliamentary estate, I thought it would be useful for the Committee to receive an update ahead of the meeting in relation to:

- Asbestos related incidents
- Fire incidents
- Stone masonry falls

The list below only includes incidents which have occurred since 29 March 2022. All incidents between 1 January 2016 to 29 March 2022 were appended to my letter to the Committee on 29 March 2022 and which is in the public domain.<sup>1</sup> Information is given in the same format that we previously provided to the Committee.

Asbestos related incidents

There has been one asbestos related incident reported on the Parliamentary Estate since 29 March 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/9536/documents/161850/default/>

**Dr John Benger**  
**Clerk of the House of Commons**

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Date	Location	Incident	Action
October 2022	Norman Shaw North	Asbestos containing materials discovered during ground excavation works and moved without necessary precautions to prevent fibre release. Risk of exposure judged to be "very low" and incident does not meet the criteria for reporting under RIDDOR Regs Incident happened within the confines of the CDM <sup>2</sup> area, with no interface with any house staff or teams.	- Works stopped and Principal Contractor undertook immediate investigation - Area sealed while arrangements for removal made - Incident being treated as high potential near miss - Strategic Estates as the CDM Client have ensured a comprehensive investigation has been undertaken by all parties and that the Principal Contractor has actioned the relevant findings and updated their arrangements to ensure continued site safety

#### Fire incidents

Date	Location	Incident	Action
October 2022	Portcullis House	Overheating Aquavac	Dealt with by contractors
November 2022	Norman Shaw North	Steam cleaning machine caught fire on scaffolding	Dealt with by Contractors
December 2022	Palace of Westminster	Overheated fan belt	Investigated by in house mechanical engineers
December 2022	1 Parliament Street	Item of clothing left on portable heater	Removed by Fire Protection Team, left with In House electrical engineers

#### Stone masonry falls

There have been no reported incidences of stone masonry falls since 29 March 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Dr John Benger  
Clerk of the House of Commons

<sup>2</sup> CDM refers to the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

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