

30 January 2023

Dear Dame Meg Hillier

R&R Programme update

We are writing to update your committee about the progress in implementing the governance recommendations of the Joint Report of the House of Commons and House of Lords Commissions, *Restoration and Renewal of the Palace of Westminster - a new mandate*ⁱ, agreed to by both Houses in July 2022ⁱⁱ.

Implementation of the Joint report recommendations

The Commissions' joint report recommended the establishment of a two-tier governance structure for R&R, with the two Commissions acting jointly as the R&R Client Board to provide oversight, and delegating day-to-day management of the programme to a new R&R Programme Board.

We wrote to you last autumn when the R&R Client Board was established (with further information available on the Client Board websiteⁱⁱⁱ). The Client Board has continued to meet regularly to ensure continued momentum on the Programme.

Since the autumn, the Houses have approved the Statutory Instrument to transfer the Sponsor Body's responsibilities to the Clerk of the House and the Clerk of the Parliaments to exercise jointly. The Sponsor Body was abolished with effect from 1 January 2023, with Sponsor Body staff transferring to a new joint department of both Houses – the R&R Client Team.

R&R Programme Board

We write to you now to notify you of the proposed membership of the new R&R Programme Board (<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33670/documents/184011/default/>). The planned membership is set out in full in the second joint report from the two Commissions and the parliamentary nominees are set out below for ease of reference:

- Rt Hon Nigel Evans MP, Deputy Speaker (Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means)
- Wera Hobhouse MP
- Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Leader of the House of Commons (or their respective delegated members)
- Thangam Debbonaire MP, Shadow Leader of the House of Commons (or their respective delegated members)
- Lord Collins of Highbury
- Lord Morse
- Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury

Appointment motions will be put to each House to approve shortly.

Following the appointment of its members, it is hoped that the R&R Programme Board will have its first meeting before the end of February so that it can start to focus on shortlisting the options that have been developed in response to the new mandate.

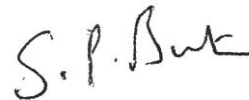
The R&R Client Board is expected to present a recommendation to the Houses by the end of this year, for Members to decide on the way forward. This will allow the independent R&R Delivery Authority to develop detailed costing proposals required under the Act for the Houses to approve thereafter.

Forthcoming engagement with Members and the wider parliamentary community

Members' and staff members' views on the different levels of ambition for the restoration works, and how those works should be delivered, will be sought to inform shortlisting by the R&R Programme Board. The R&R team will be present in Portcullis House atrium and Royal Gallery on selected dates following the February recess. In addition, the domestic committees in both Houses have been invited to hear from the R&R Team at one of their meetings during this phase of engagement and to provide views from a committee standpoint.

More information on R&R is available on the online "R&R hub"^{iv}. This hub is available to all parliamentary network users and is updated regularly.

Yours sincerely,



Sir John Benger, Simon Burton, Patsy Richards and David Goldstone

ⁱ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/22639/documents/166441/default/>

ⁱⁱ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-12/debates/D19C7685-E411-45ED-8A23-EECEE3D85E38/RestorationAndRenewalOfThePalaceOfWestminster> and <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-13/debates/43AF51DC-9CFC-4B7B-BDFB-8E842A4ABB1E/RestorationAndRenewal>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/616/restoration-and-renewal-client-board/>

^{iv} <https://intranet.parliament.uk/access-buildings/building-works/palace-restoration-and-renewal/restoration-and-renewal-hub/>