

Independent review of financial management in the House of Commons

Commons Executive Board management response

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Summary

We have today published a report by Lord Morse into financial management in the House of Commons. The report was commissioned by Marianne Cwynarski, Director General (Operations), to assess whether the House of Commons delivers good value for public money.

The report makes 43 recommendations for improvements. The House of Commons is strongly committed to strengthening value for money and accepts all of Lord Morse's recommendations.

In considering the recommendations the Commons Executive Board notes that the process of completing the review has taken several months, and during this period work has been done that addresses or partially addresses several of the recommendations. However, the Commons Executive Board has responded to the recommendations as they are presented in the review for clarity and ease of implementation.

Response to recommendations by theme

- The review makes 12 recommendations under the theme of '**Strategy**'. The Commons Executive Board accepts these recommendations. The Commons Executive Board recognises the objective of embedding efficiency as normal practice and is committed to early action on piloting zero based budgeting and enabling efficiency targets through a better understanding of cost drivers.
- The review makes 12 recommendations under the theme of '**Controlling spend and volatility**'. The Commons Executive Board accepts these recommendations.
- The review makes 3 recommendations under the theme of '**Accountability and Performance**'. The Commons Executive Board accepts these recommendations.
- The review makes 5 recommendations under the theme of '**Organisational Coherence**'. The Commons Executive Board accepts these recommendations. The Commons Executive Board recognises the objective of recommendation 32 [joint working] and accepts the value of effort on joint working, but notes that implementation of this objective is not solely within its power.
- The review makes 10 recommendations under the theme of '**Commercial**'. The Commons Executive Board accepts these recommendations. The Commons Executive Board notes that the Parliamentary Procurement and Commercial Service (PPCS) is in the House of Lords administration but fully commits to implementing the recommendations in conjunction with colleagues in the Lords.
- The review makes 1 recommendation under the theme of '**Management Information**'. The Commons Executive Board accepts this recommendation.

Priority areas

- Progress against the commercial recommendations is deemed a priority area that can be delivered discretely and will have a significant impact.
- The Commons Executive Board have agreed that having good quality information is a priority, this relates to management, financial and performance information.
- Work on the overall governance system is deemed a key priority area, enabling progress against the wider set of recommendations.

Implementation approach

The Director General (Operations), Marianne Cwynarski, has overall responsibility for actions arising from the Independent Review of Financial Management. She will be supported by:

- a. Vicky Rock, Managing Director Finance, Portfolio and Performance. Vicky will be responsible for overall coordination and for recommendations relating to controlling spend and volatility, organisational coherence, and management information. Vicky will work with the House of Lords on commercial recommendations.
- b. Mandy Eddolls, Managing Director, People and Culture. Mandy will be responsible for recommendations related to individual accountability and specialist pay.
- c. Gosia McBride, Head of the Governance Office. Gosia will be responsible for recommendations related to performance metrics and governance.

An Executive Sponsor, Tom Goldsmith, Principal Clerk Table Office will provide independent challenge and assurance that the actions are aligned to the House's overall strategy.