

First Flagship UK Government hub in Scotland completed

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's unwavering commitment to strengthen and sustain the United Kingdom took a crucial step forward today with the completion of Queen Elizabeth House, the new UK Government flagship hub in Edinburgh.

The hub will house nearly 3,000 civil servants from 11 departments, to deliver a bigger, better and more coordinated service to people and businesses.

The seven-storey, 190,000 square feet, ultra-modern office space, located near Waverley Station in the heart of Edinburgh, is now officially complete and ready for occupation.

This follows on from the official key handover ceremony on 13th June 2019 when the building contractor, Artisan, completed the physical building works, prior to the internal fitting out work commencing.

HMRC has delivered the project and construction was completed last year, the internal fitting out has now been finished.

The completion was marked by a visit from the Scottish Secretary, Alister Jack. He was joined on a tour of the facility, which includes Scotland's first dedicated UK Government Cabinet meeting room, by UK Government Ministers for Scotland David Duguid and Iain Stewart as well the Advocate General for Scotland, Lord Keen.

Mr Jack said:

Less than three weeks ago the Prime Minister came to Scotland to reaffirm his unwavering commitment to strengthening the United Kingdom and the completion of Queen Elizabeth House is a further visible and tangible sign of the UK Government delivering on this.

As we look forward to ensuring our economy can bounce back after coronavirus, and making the most of new global opportunities outside the EU, the case for the Union has never been stronger. It was exciting to tour the completed building and I very much look forward to seeing the UK Government's expanded and more co-ordinated presence in Scotland deliver even better services for people and businesses.

The Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland (OSSS) and the Office of the Advocate General, will be joined in the hub by other UK Government departments and bodies including HMRC, HM Treasury, Cabinet Office, the Office for Statistics Regulation, the Information Commissioner's Office, and

the Government Actuary's Department. Additional UK government departments are expected to confirm occupancy in the coming months.

The OSSS continues to work with partners to ensure the building is fully occupied as quickly as possible once COVID-19 conditions allow.

Work is also underway on a Glasgow Hub. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Hubs are a key part of the UK Government's commitment to delivering excellent public services for people in Scotland, building a strong civil service outside London and leading the way in regional regeneration.