



Department
of Health &
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Rt Hon Meg Hillier MP
Chair of Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 9NA

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Dear Chair,

**Eighty-Fifth Report of Session 2017-19: Auditing Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government / Department of
Health and Social Care**

I'm writing to update you on the progress we have made against recommendation five in the report mentioned above.

The publication of the revised Accounting Officer System Statement (AOSS), due to be published in April 2020, was delayed as a result of re-prioritisation of resources to assist with the Department's response to COVID 19. Work has now recommenced with a view to having this published in the autumn to a similar timeframe to the Annual Report and Accounts. The updated AOSS will expand on both the use of assurance provided by local auditors and how assurance is obtained in areas not covered by local audit as requested.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID WILLIAMS CB
Second Permanent Secretary