

OFFICIAL



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15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dame Meg Hillier MP  
Chair of Public Accounts Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Dame Meg Hillier MP

**Re: Public Accounts Committee, Eight Report of Session 2019-21, NHS Capital Expenditure and Financial Management (Recommendation 5)**

I wrote to you in June this year about the above recommendation. Since writing the department has continued to engage with the NHS and health and social care sector to develop a comprehensive strategy for capital investment this decade. At the time of writing in June, I noted that it was the Government's intention to publish the capital strategy in the autumn of 2022. Unfortunately, this publication date will need to be delayed slightly so that the strategy can undergo both departmental and wider cross-government review following the recent ministerial changes across government. Publication is now intended early in 2023.

Health infrastructure remains one of this Government's top priorities and once published the strategy will provide clear guidance to the health and care system, including expectations for supporting the NHS Long Term Plan, managing backlog maintenance, digital investment and building new hospitals.

Yours sincerely

**Shona Dunn**  
**Second Permanent Secretary**  
Department of Health and Social Care