

Committee of Public Accounts

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Jim Harra
Permanent Secretary
HM Revenue and Customs
100 Parliament St
London
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22 October 2020

Dear Permanent Secretary,

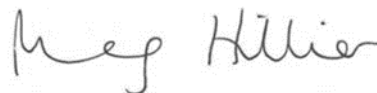
Public Accounts Committee report on Tackling the Tax Gap

Thank you for your letter of 15 October setting out your instant response to the Committee's report on the tax gap.

Your substantial concern relates to the report's use of the word 'misleading'. That word is used in relating to HMRC reporting the tax gap as single figure rather than presenting the level of uncertainty associated with the tax gap estimate alongside the headline figure. The Committee's view is substantiated by evidence cited in the main body of the report, principally drawing on the National Audit Office's report, the text of which was agreed by HMRC.

I look forward to HMRC's full response to our report through the Treasury Minute.

Yours sincerely,



MEG HILLIER MP
CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS