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

May 2023

**From Tamara Finkelstein**  
Permanent Secretary

Dear Chair,

**Forty-fifth Report of Session 2019-21: 'Managing Flood Risk'**

In May 2021, the Government published a Treasury Minute in response to the Public Accounts Committee's report on 'Managing Flood Risk'. This letter provides an update on the Government's response to the Committee's recommendation regarding indicators (recommendation 5).

**5: PAC recommendation: The Department's new set of national flood risk indicators should incorporate all types of flood risk to ensure they provide a full picture of what is happening to flood risk including for homes, non-residential property, agricultural land, and infrastructure across England and should facilitate the comparison of flood risk across previous years so progress can be clearly assessed.**

**Previous target implementation date: Spring 2023**

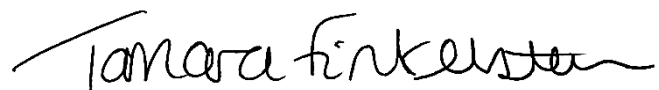
The department has committed to develop an overall national set of indicators to monitor long-term trends over time in tackling flood and coastal erosion in England. These will enable a better understanding of the impacts of government's policies and will inform future action.

A research project to inform the development of long-term indicators was published in November 2022. The Environment Agency has commissioned further work, which commenced in November 2022, to explore the potential to trial data collection to further baseline and develop the practical application of potential indicators through the government's £200 million flood and coastal resilience innovation programme. We are therefore amending the target date to enable us to account for the interim outputs of the research. The department will provide an update on progress to develop a national set of indicators by the end of 2023 and we are amending the target date accordingly.



I hope you find this information and update helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara Finkelstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**TAMARA FINKELSTEIN**