

Baroness Stowell,
Chair of the Lords Communications and Digital
Committee

19th September 2023

Dear Baroness Stowell,

I am writing to you as chair of the Communications and Digital Committee in the House of Lords in response to the Committee's report of 29 June titled Digital exclusion and the cost of living. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Committee for conducting a considered inquiry on this important issue.

In its comprehensive report, the Committee made several recommendations for government action to tackle the digital divide. In my capacity as Minister with responsibility for digital inclusion across Whitehall, I enclose the Government's response to these recommendations.

Digital inclusion is a broad and cross-cutting policy that is an inherent element of many Government priorities across education, employment, health and Levelling Up. Departments across Government are working to tackle issues related to digital inclusion, from providing internet access and affordable connections, to essential skills through relevant courses, and helping those out of work get online and make the most of their opportunities. As such, I have actively engaged my counterparts in key departments to ensure that their departments actions and commitments are reflected in the attached response. I am also happy to report that I chaired a successful meeting of the cross- Whitehall ministerial group on digital inclusion on 6th September, to get a better understanding of how digital exclusion arises in different departments along with identifying opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration.

Thank you to the Committee for its scrutiny and advice in this important area.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Scully MP
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology**

