



**Public Administration
and Constitutional Affairs
Committee**

From the Chair
William Wragg MP

Sir Alex Chisholm
Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet Office
Via email only

26th March 2024

Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23

At your appearance before the Committee on 27 February, I said that I would be writing with some further questions arising from the most recent Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts.

Government Property Agency spending control non-compliance:

- The Government Property Agency let a contract without the required clearance of the Cabinet Office. How was an executive agency of the Cabinet Office able to breach spending controls set by its own parent department?
- Do you think your Department is adequately ensuring compliance with these spending controls across Government if it failed to do so for its own executive agency and what steps are being taken to prevent further non-compliance?
- How much expenditure has the GPA now incurred under this contract and do you expect the Cabinet Office's group accounts for 2023-24 to be qualified for irregular expenditure because of it?

Transactions with the Official Receiver:

- Has the UK Cloud liquidation concluded yet, has the Cabinet Office recovered any of its £20m contribution, and have there been any claims to date on the indemnity?
- What progress has there been with the liquidation of Carillion? Has the Cabinet Office made any further recoveries, and have there been any claims to date on the indemnity?

Vetting Transformation Programme:

- What is your current assessment of the deliverability of this transformation Vetting Transformation Programme? How much has been invested to date in developing software assets, and how much is at risk of being written-off?

Internal Fraud:

- Can you provide further details on the nature of fraud identified in the Annual Report and what action you have taken to improve the Department's anti-fraud controls? Has the money been recovered yet?

Losses – abandoned software development

- The Office of Government Property had an IT project that was abandoned. Can you explain why it was abandoned rather than being completed or repurposed?

With very best wishes for your future,
Yours,
William

William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee