



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley
Chair of the Procedure Committee
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
SW1A 0AA

13 May 2024

Dear Dame Karen,

QUALITY OF RESPONSES TO WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Thank you for your letter of 18 April to the Chancellor on written parliamentary questions (WPs), bringing Sir Christopher Chope MP's letter of 14 April to our attention. I am responding as the minister responsible for the Treasury's departmental performance.

I welcome the opportunity to assure you and Sir Christopher of Treasury Ministers' commitment to giving Members quality and timely answers to their questions. We are proud to have answered over 95 per cent of WPs within deadline during this and preceding sessions.

In answering Sir Christopher's WPs referenced, we referred him to the authoritative sources for the information he sought concerning exit payments in the public sector - the Whole of Government Accounts (WGs) and, for more recent years for which the WGs are not yet available, departments' Annual Reports and Accounts (ARs).

The WGs and ARs are substantial publications that are prepared at great effort to provide the most complete sources of information on public sector exit payments (the subject of Sir Christopher's long-standing and welcome interest) and much more besides.

I hope this provides some useful clarification on the specific matters Sir Christopher has highlighted; we of course stand ready to provide answers to further questions for Sir Christopher should he have them on that topic.

More broadly, we of course appreciate the need to ensure good quality answers to all Members. Treasury officials regularly conduct training across the department to help continually improve. The points Sir Christopher makes in his letter will be helpful in developing that training.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House of Commons and Sir Christopher Chope MP.

Yours,
Charlotte .

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON