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21 January 2025

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown  
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee  
House of Commons  
SW1A 0AA

CC: Treasury Officer of Accounts

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

I am delighted to write to you in your new role as the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

I am writing to share two papers my department will be publishing this week: the State of Digital Government review and the Blueprint for Modern Digital Government.

These are the result of work that I have led since the General Election to develop ambitious new plans needed to overhaul the British public's experience of interacting with the government, so it becomes personalised, convenient, and timesaving.

Senior officials from my department and from the Cabinet Office are appearing in front of your Committee on 30th January to discuss the use of AI in government. Please accept this letter as a written submission to support that hearing.

I am also writing to provide you with a closure report on the previous Government's 2022-25 Roadmap for Digital and Data, on which the Central Digital and Data Office had previously been reporting to the Committee.

### **The State of Digital Government review**

The UK public sector spends over £26 billion annually on digital technology, employs a workforce of nearly 100,000 digital and data professionals, and delivers millions of online transactions every day.

When these resources are deployed effectively, they can deliver outstanding results. Yet these successes are too often achieved despite the system: they rely on the dedication of experts doing their best with limited resources, navigating processes which were not designed for a digital age, and implementing policies which were not designed to be digital first. As we move into a new era of opportunities created by Artificial Intelligence we must take a realistic view of how much more we have to do to create a modern digital government and reform public services.

The *State of Digital Government* report provides this view. As well as finding that our current paradigm of digital transformation is not working, it reveals a fragmented technology landscape which is dependent on ageing legacy systems, which is exposed to cyber attacks and technology failure, where data is siloed, and which does not have enough skilled people to sustain and transform it.

It shows why we need a new blueprint for a modern digital government.



## **A Blueprint for Modern Digital Government**

In July, I announced the creation of a new digital centre of government in my department. This new team has now been established, bringing together the work of the previous Government Digital Service, Central Digital and Data Office and Incubator for AI from the Cabinet Office, as well as the Geospatial Commission and part of the Responsible Technology Adoption Unit from other parts of my department. This new integrated function will be referred to as the Government Digital Service.

We have worked with digital leaders across departments to set out a vision for the future of modern digital government in the UK and our six-point plan for how we begin to get there.

We will join up public sector digital services: acting as one public sector to enable next-generation services that are easier to use for citizens, and better support businesses to grow.

We will harness the power of AI for the public good: strengthening our capabilities to innovate, deploy and scale AI in our public services, growing AI capacity and capability across government, and building trust, responsibility and accountability into all we do.

We will strengthen and extend our digital and data public infrastructure: expanding GOV.UK One Login and other common components, enabling access to data through the National Data Library, strengthening cyber and technical resilience and building more responsibly.

To make this happen we need to elevate digital leadership to the top table of public sector decision-making, invest in the digital and data profession to compete for talent and raise the digital skills baseline for all public servants.

And there are some hard changes to make to how we deliver in government. We need to reform government's approach to funding digital and technology and maximise the value and potential of public procurement.

As we do this, we will be open with parliament and the public: publishing and acting on performance data, and doing more of the work of government 'in the open' so that people can help shape changes that affect them.

This blueprint is just the starting point; a foundation we'll build upon as we collaborate with digital teams across the public sector, as well as business and civil society groups, to develop a new, comprehensive and detailed Government Digital & AI Roadmap to be published in Summer 2025.

### **Closing down the previous government's 2022-25 roadmap for digital and data**

This new roadmap will supersede the previous government's 2022-25 roadmap for digital and data, for which the last progress [report](#) to PAC was published in February 2024. I enclose a closure report describing the progress achieved, challenges and how we are taking the lessons learned into our new plans for the future.

### **Next steps**

I am focused on addressing the challenges outlined in the State of Digital Government report and delivering the vision set out in the Blueprint for Modern Digital Government. I am confident that the detailed work done since the General Election will put us on a path for success. To bolster this, together with my colleagues the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, I have created a new Inter-Ministerial Group to set and drive the digital agenda for government. This includes ensuring that the UK reaps the benefits of AI, by paying close attention to the implementation of the AI Opportunities Action Plan produced by Matt Clifford.

As we take these next steps forward, I am acutely mindful of the importance of transparency. I look forward to working closely with you and the Committee over the rest of this Parliament as we develop a new Digital & AI Roadmap and monitor progress against it as we leverage digital and data to transform public services and deliver the government's five missions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kyle', with a large initial 'P' and a stylized 'K'.

Rt Hon Peter Kyle  
**Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology**