

Chi Onwurah MP
Chair
Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

03 March 2025

Dear Chi,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as part of your Committee's inquiry into the new digital centre of government in my department.

There is much work to do to deliver a modern digital government for Britain. The UK public sector has many digital services to be proud of. But across society, people's expectations are higher, and they continue to rise.

The State of Digital Government review, commissioned by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, found that too many of our services still fall short of people's basic expectations. We're still a long way from building a truly digital state - one where services work across institutional boundaries and provide a time-saving, personalised user experience.

The current paradigm of digital transformation is not working: we have a fragmented technology landscape where data is siloed, and a digital workforce that does not have enough skilled people to sustain and transform it.

That is why, when taking up office after the General Election, we made clear at the outset that setting up a new digital centre of government was vitally important to addressing these systemic challenges, building a modern digital government and driving delivery of the government's missions.

Alongside publishing the State of Digital Government review in January, the Secretary of State officially launched the digital centre by announcing a new, reformed Government Digital Service (GDS). At the same time, we published A Blueprint for Modern Digital Government. It sets out a bold, ambitious vision for the future of modern digital government in the UK and a six-point plan for how we begin to get there, from joining up public sector services to increasing transparency and accountability.

The majority of the attached evidence is drawn from both the State of Digital Government review and the Blueprint for Modern Digital Government. It is clear about the scale of the task ahead as well as the work we have put in train to get there.

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide this evidence on why we've chosen to launch the new digital centre and update you on our progress to date. I look forward to hearing the views of the Committee on our priorities and welcome the scrutiny you will provide on our plans for building a modern digital government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Feryal Clark', is centered on a white background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'F' and 'C'.

Feryal Clark MP

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