



Department of Health & Social Care

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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
Chair of Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
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Sent via email to: pubaccom@parliament.uk

01/04/2025

Dear Chair,

Re: Public Accounts Committee: Thirty-first report of Session 2023-24, Department of Health and Social Care 2022–23 Annual Report and Accounts (Recommendation 5a)

PAC recommendation: The Department must, within six months, set out the lessons learnt from its COVID-19 procurement processes, including reporting: the overall losses arising from procuring, storing, and disposing of overpriced, unusable, and excess inventories.

I am writing to update you on recommendation 5a from the above report. This recommendation concerns the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 procurement processes.

The government agrees with the committee's recommendation and considers the recommendation implemented as of February 2025.

The department submitted its formal evidence to the Covid-19 Inquiry for Module 5 on Procurement in December 2024. This includes a section on lessons learned. This is currently on a confidential basis and it is for the Inquiry to determine when and under what circumstances such information can become publicly available, at which point the Department will inform the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

SIR CHRIS WHITTY
INTERIM PERMANENT SECRETARY