Science, Innovation and Technology Committee

Tuesday, 27 May 2025

**Rt. Hon. Peter Kyle MP**
**Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology**
**By email only**

**Subject: Programme management skills for delivering digital transformation**

Dear Peter,

In a recent appearance at the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP outlined the importance of project management and said that programme managers should be treated as vital assets, without whom digital transformation efforts would fail.

While the blueprint for modern digital government identifies ways to narrow the existing digital skills gap, we await further details of the new Government Digital Service's role in the management of complex digital programmes across government. In order to inform our ongoing inquiry I would be grateful if you could confirm:

- what assessment you have made of the new GDS' programme management capability and how any gaps identified will be filled;
- how the new GDS intends to attract the programme management talent necessary to deliver the reforms set out in the blueprint, and retain and grow that talent;
- whether the 'centre of excellence' expertise that the new GDS will provide across government will include programme management;
- what engagement the new GDS has had with the Government Project Delivery function as it begins its work; and
- what programme management and digital transformation lessons the new GDS has learned from the rollout of Universal Credit.

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I would be grateful if you could respond by Tuesday 10 June. I intend to place a copy of this letter in the public domain.

I am copying the chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Thank you for your continued engagement with the committee's inquiry.

With best wishes,



Chi Onwurah MP
Chair, Science, Innovation and Technology Committee

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