



HM Government

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Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee

By email

24 February 2026

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 February 2026. The Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply.

You asked why the Permanent Secretary of HM Treasury was excluded from the Budget 2025 Leak investigation. The Permanent Secretary was the commissioning authority for the investigation. It is standard practice that the commissioning authority is not formally interviewed as part of an investigation they commission, and the Permanent Secretary was therefore not interviewed. While he was not formally interviewed, the team responsible discussed the investigation with him at the outset and briefed him on completion of the investigation.

You asked whether the Minister was satisfied with the outcome of the inquiry. The aim of any leak investigation is to find the source of the leak. However, although we share the frustration of Mr Bowler that we were unable to identify the responsible individual(s) in this case, I can confirm that the Cabinet Office is satisfied that the process that was followed for this leak investigation was correct and rigorous. While we cannot go into detail about investigative methods, the team would be happy to provide further briefing to you on these issues should you wish.

Yours ever
Antonia

Dame Antonia Romeo DCB
Cabinet Secretary