Public Accounts Committee

Emran Mian
Permanent Secretary
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

By email

27 April 2026

Treasury Minute response – Government Services: Identifying costs

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Thank you for your response to the Committee's December report on improving cost information in government services.

I was pleased that HM Treasury and the Government Finance Function are co-ordinating the production of practical guidance for departments and that you will share a list of legacy systems with the Committee by the end of March 2026.

However, there is one aspect of your response where the Committee would like greater assurance that the Department is addressing our concerns.

Recommendation 3b requested that DSIT should within six months indicate which legacy systems should be targeted as a priority for investigating how far their limitations result in additional people and process costs. Your response disagreed with the urgency and pointed to the wider work being undertaken to establish the extent of legacy in government. Nevertheless I would have thought that you already had sufficient information from previous work to have an indication of where this work could be usefully prioritised, and would be grateful if you could clarify why you think this is not the case, especially given the cyber security risks associated with legacy systems and the lack of capacity to support AI development and opportunities.

I would be grateful if you could write back on this point by **Wednesday 27 May**.

I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General and to the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours Sincerely



Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts

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