



## Department of Health & Social Care

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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown  
Chair  
Public Accounts Committee

By email: [pubaccom@parliament.uk](mailto:pubaccom@parliament.uk)

12 August 2026

Dear Sir Geoffrey

### **Public Accounts Committee report on Favipiravir Liability, June 2026**

Thank you for your letter of 14 July 2026 concerning the delayed notification to the Public Accounts Committee of the contingent liability relating to Favipiravir.

I would like to offer my sincere apologies, both for the delay in providing the original notification and for the subsequent delay in responding to your letter. This falls short of both my personal standards of timeliness and transparency and those which Parliament is entitled to expect from the Department.

It had been our intention to provide the Committee with notification of the contingent liability before the corresponding Written Ministerial Statement was laid before Parliament. However, during the final stages of clearance, further amendments were made to the notification letter which regrettably delayed issuance of the letter beyond the intended timetable.

I fully acknowledge that this did not meet the usual process for parliamentary notification. The Department has reflected on the circumstances surrounding this delay and remains committed to ensuring that Parliament and its Committees are informed in a timely, accurate and transparent manner. We are reinforcing the importance of adhering to established parliamentary procedures and maintaining effective oversight of correspondence handling and clearances.

Yours sincerely,

**Samantha Jones OBE**  
**Permanent Secretary**  
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