



Public Accounts Committee

John-Paul Marks CB
Chief Executive and First Permanent Secretary
HM Revenue and Customs
Queen Elizabeth House
1 Sibbald Walk
Edinburgh EH8 8FT

15 October 2026

Northern Ireland Delivery Programme Accounting Officer Assessment

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Thank you for your letter of 24 September 2026 regarding concerns I raised in relation to the publication of your updated Accounting Officer Assessment (AOA) summary for the Northern Ireland delivery programme. I appreciate your detailed response to my queries and your commitment to ensure that my Committee is notified when AOA summaries are published in the future.

The additional information you provided is helpful context as to why you did not undertake an earlier AOA, how you considered value for money in your assessment, and why the costs of the project have significantly increased.

In future AOA summaries, I would be grateful if you could ensure that you include sufficient detail, similar to the additional information you have now shared in this case, to enable scrutiny without the need for me to enquire further.

Yours sincerely

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