



Public Accounts Committee

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By email

27 October 2026

Treasury Minute response – Regulating for growth

Dear Amanda

Thank you for your response to the Committee's report, published in June 2026, on *Regulating for Growth*.

I was pleased to see your commitments to take action in some areas, including supporting departments to provide strategic policy steers which clarify the government's approach to risk and expectations around growth, and establishing a clearer time horizon and set of indicators for assessing the impact of the action plan.

However, there are other aspects of your response where the Committee would like greater assurance that the Department is addressing our concerns. My specific concerns are:

- Recommendation 5a: The Committee recommended that the joint unit introduce milestones and regular reporting on progress against the 25% administrative burden reduction target, and that these cost savings should be independently validated. The response indicates that this has been implemented and provides evidence of the progress updates on the action plan. However, the response provides relatively little detail on the options that are being considered for independent validation. Given the importance of independent validation for these administrative savings to be credible, it is difficult to see how this recommendation can be considered implemented.
- Recommendation 5b: The Committee recommended that the joint unit should monitor and publish the expected increases arising from new legislation, and consider introducing departmental administrative burden reduction targets should progress on achieving the



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£5.6bn target be off track. Your response rejects the recommendation, on the grounds that departmental targets are not needed because it is a cross-government target. The Committee remains concerned that the joint unit does not have the tools and levers to consistently identify the administrative burden arising from new legislation, or drive departmental behaviour on administrative burdens reduction, should monitoring of the target suggest it will not be met. We would be grateful if you could explain what assurance you have that departments across government will be making proportionate contributions to the overall target.

I would be grateful if you could write back on these points by **27 November 2026**.

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

Yours sincerely

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