Public Accounts Committee

Susannah Storey
Permanent Secretary
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

By email

27 October 2026

Treasury Minute response – The Bank of England's Real-Time Gross Settlement System Renewal Programme

Dear Susannah

I am writing in relation to government's response to the Committee's report on *The Bank of England's Real-Time Gross Settlement System Renewal* Programme, which was published in March 2026. Three recommendations were initially taken forward by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). As DSIT has now been disbanded with many digital-related functions transferring to your department, I am contacting you as the relevant Permanent Secretary.

The Committee was extremely disappointed at the response to Recommendation 5 to reinstate the Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) role. The response reiterated the current, unsatisfactory position with GCDO functions covered by the DSIT Permanent Secretary. Subsequent machinery of government changes affecting responsibilities for digital - including the Permanent Secretary of DCMS being named as Head of Profession for Government Digital and Data - still do not address the recommendation and make us unclear about the status of the GCDO role. The Committee reiterates that now is a good time to re-establish the GCDO role with the aim of recruiting a candidate with proven experience, skills and knowledge in digital business management and transformation.

We also note that DSIT did not address Recommendation 1 to prepare a lessons learned paper, committing instead to a workshop with the Bank of England. This stops short of pulling out the substance of how the Bank overcame challenges on such a major digital transformation programme.

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I was pleased to see that DSIT had committed to some positive actions as part of Recommendations 1 and 2 of the report. This included applying learning from the RTGS Renewal Programme to updates of the Roadmap for modern digital government, Digital Workforce 2030 strategy, the Technology Modernisation Action Plan, and digital, data, innovation and AI learning offered as part of the National School of Government leadership learning. Given the transfer of responsibilities, I would be grateful if you could confirm that these updates are on track for completion by October, or if not, set out what plans there are to complete these.

I would be grateful if you could write back on these points, particularly on what actions you are taking to fully address the Committee's recommendations, 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

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