



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister for Digital and Culture
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dcms
enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

INT2021/08857/DC
6 May 2021

Dear Meg

Please find enclosed a copy of a Departmental Minute issued on 28 April 2021 notifying Parliament of a new, short-term, and exceptional contingent liability in relation to an exhibition staged by the National Gallery, an arm's length body of DCMS. I also enclose a link to the accompanying Written Ministerial Statement made on the same date: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-04-28/hcws946>

Following the announcement on 22 April of the imminent prorogation of Parliament, my department hastened to secure the approvals necessary to notify Parliament before the liability was expected to come into force (8-10 May). I regret that notification of the Public Accounts Committee has, on this occasion, been delayed. Officials worked at pace to scrutinise and eventually condone the National Gallery's request, to rescue a high-profile exhibition on the verge of collapse. This exhibition, that had been due to be inaugurated by HRH The Prince of Wales on 17 May, will serve as a very public demonstration of the Gallery's commitment to international partnerships as we emerge from the darker days of the pandemic.

With best wishes,

Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Digital and Culture