



CABINET OFFICE



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

15 July 2021

Dear Chair,

OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN PUBLICATION

Following our letter of 15 March 2021 and the Declaration on Government Reform on 15 June 2021, the Government has today published Outcome Delivery Plans (ODPs) for 2021-22. These new ODPs form the basis of the revised government planning and performance framework.

ODPs set out how each UK government department is delivering its priority outcomes, which were first agreed at Spending Review 2020, together with clear deliverables and metrics for measuring success. Priority outcomes capture the Government's most important long-term policy objectives, from maximising employment and improving skills to achieving net zero by 2050. ODPs also set out how the Government is driving forward a modern and high-quality Civil Service that attracts and invests in skilled people, embraces innovation, and is equipped for the delivery of outcomes.

The new plans form part of a wider cross-Government reform to improve the delivery of public services for citizens. Improvements include a stronger focus on joint working between departments to deliver shared outcomes; more thorough considerations of affordability, capability and risk; and a greater emphasis on high-quality evaluation, which is critical to understanding what works.

The most important next step is of course to deliver against these plans and to monitor performance in a timely and forward-looking manner. As we move into this phase, the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury will regularly monitor progress against Outcome Delivery Plans. Parliament and the public will be able to review how each department is performing against its priority outcomes in their Annual Report and Accounts, which departments publish annually after the end of each financial year. More regular performance information for many of the metrics agreed for priority outcomes can be found in official statistics and other public datasets. Hyperlinks to these datasets have been included in Outcome Delivery Plans to make this data more accessible to the public.

This has been a challenging year and there remains further work to be done to build on the first year of Outcome Delivery Plans and drive continuous improvements in the way we do planning and performance across Government. We look forward to building on the progress made this year and we are confident that this provides us with a strong foundation on which to drive delivery of medium-to-long term real world outcomes that matter to citizens.

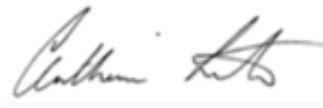
We are copying this letter to the Chair of the PACAC, Comptroller and Auditor General and the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Best wishes,



Alex Chisholm

Civil Service Chief Operating Officer
and Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary



Catherine Little

Director General Public Spending
HM Treasury