

From the Permanent Secretary
Sir Chris Wormald



Department of Health & Social Care

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Permanent.secretary@dhsc.gov.uk

Rt Hon Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 9NA

Sent via email to: pubaccom@parliament.uk

2 November 2021

Dear Chair

Re: House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts, Thirteenth Report of Session 2021-22, Initial Lessons from the Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

I am writing to provide the Committee with an update from the Department of Health and Social Care (the Department) on progress against the outstanding recommendation, below, in the above-named report.

3: PAC recommendation: The Department should update us by 31 October 2021 on the number of contracts awarded during the pandemic that are yet to be published.

As of the end of June 2021, the Department is not aware of any Contract Award Notices (and the associated Contracts and Contracts Finder Notices) which have not been published in respect of contracts awarded for the supply of goods and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following guidance from the Cabinet Office at the end of June 2021 to all Government Departments, the Department stopped tracking COVID-19 contracts specifically and moved publication reporting into 'Business As Usual' across the Health Family. The position is now reported to the Government's Chief Commercial Officer, on a monthly basis, in line with all Government Department publication rates.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Wormald

SIR CHRIS WORMALD
PERMANENT SECRETARY