

*From the DHSC Permanent Secretary
Sir Chris Wormald and Chief Executive
of NHSEI Amanda Pritchard*



Department of Health & Social Care

Rt Hon Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
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Sent via email to: pubaccomm@parliament.uk

10 November 2021

Dear Chair,

Re: Treasury Minute Progress Reports – November 2021

We are writing to apologise for the delay to the publication of the following Treasury Minute Progress Reports:

1. Mental Health in Prisons (Eighth Report of Session 2017-19)
2. NHS Capital Expenditure and Financial Management (Eighth Report of Session 2019–21)
3. NHS Nursing Workforce (Eighteenth Report of Session 2019-21)
4. Digital Transformation in the NHS (Twenty-Second Report of Session 2019-21)
5. COVID-19: Supply of Ventilators (Twenty-Seventh Report of Session 2019-21)
6. Reducing Emergency Admissions (Forty-Fourth Report of Session 2017-19)
7. COVID-19: Test, Track and Trace (Part 1) (Forty-Seventh Report of Session 2019-21)
8. Interface between Health and Adult Social Care (Sixty-Third Report of Session 2017-19)
9. Mental Health Services for Children and Young People (Seventy-Second Report of Session 2017-19)
10. Clinical Commissioning Groups (Eighty-Third Report of Session 2017-19)
11. Auditing Local Government (Eighty-Fifth Report of Session 2017-19)
12. NHS Financial Sustainability: Progress Review (Ninety-First Report of Session 2017-19)
13. Adult Health Screening (Ninety-Sixth Report of Session 2017-19)
14. NHS Waiting Times for Elective and Cancer Treatment (One-Hundredth Report of Session 2017-19)
15. Penalty Charge Notices (One-Hundred and Fifteenth Report of Session 2017-19)

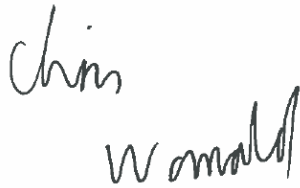
These progress reports were originally intended to be provided as part of the Treasury minutes Progress Report, published on 8th November 2021. Early in this reporting round, the Department and NHS England & Improvement (NHSE&I) became aware that there was a more limited timeframe for completing this round of updates. This factor alongside ministerial changes, the spending review, conference recess and the associated shifts in strategic priorities would mean that delivering to the deadline would be a challenge. The Department made HM Treasury aware of this challenge in early October and formally requested an extension to the deadline, which was not possible.

Policy teams within the Department and NHSE&I worked hard to report on our progress in implementing the Committee's recommendations to the deadline set by HM Treasury. Six reports were submitted for publication. The delays which caused us to miss the TM publication were split between the Department and NHSE&I.

Our two organisations will be working together over the coming months to assess how we can improve on the existing collaboration between the relevant stakeholders involved in the process of responding to Public Accounts Committee recommendations.

We would like to apologise for the delay and reiterate our commitment to timely reporting of our progress in implementing the Committee's recommendations, and meeting other deadlines and accountability requirements set by the Committee. We will be working with HM Treasury and the Committee clerks to ensure the progress reports are published by alternative means as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Sir Chris Wormald in black ink.

Sir Chris Wormald
Permanent Secretary
Department of Health and Social Care

Handwritten signature of Amanda Pritchard in black ink.

Amanda Pritchard
Chief Executive
NHS England and NHS Improvement