



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Dame Meg Hillier
Chair, Public Accounts Committee

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Dear Dame Meg Hillier,

Re: Covid loans - dissolutions objections incident

In view of the PAC hearing into the Bounce Back Loan Scheme on 10th January 2022, I am writing to draw your attention to a letter I have sent to the National Audit Office informing them of an incident that occurred in November 2021 which affected the automatic extension of our objections to companies striking-off whilst holding a government-backed covid support loan.

This is a process and measure instituted by BEIS as part of our counter-fraud response across the Covid-19 government-backed debt schemes, and this incident prevented the process operating effectively in its November cycle.

As the letter notes, my officials have already taken steps to work with Cabinet Office to minimise the risk of future incidents and are also currently engaged in understanding the full facts and impact of the incident, as well as undertaking scoping of post-event actions. As more information is available, I am happy to provide further facts and updates in relation to the incident.

Best wishes,

Sarah Munby
Permanent Secretary, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy