



## Public Accounts Committee

**Sir Chris Wormald**  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Department of Health & Social Care**  
**39 Victoria Street**  
**London**  
**By email: [permanent.secretary@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:permanent.secretary@dhsc.gov.uk)**

2 December 2022

### Treasury Minute response- Managing cross-border travel during the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Thank you for the response to the Committee's report on *Managing cross-border travel during the COVID-19 pandemic*.

I am grateful for your commitment to provide information on chargeback and hardship recoveries and await your letter on this.

However, I am disappointed that you did not accept one of the Committee's recommendations.

My specific concerns are:

- **Recommendation 5 (not accepted)**: explaining why the Department of Health & Social Care did not take on board the Competition and Market Authority's (CMA) recommendations on the testing market. Your response states that you took on board many of the Committee's recommendations. However, the response only states that you held regular engagement with the CMA.

It remains that the point made in the Committee's report was that you did not formally respond to their suggestions for improvement. Although your response does outline some actions taken in the market this does not represent implementation of the CMA's suggestions for improvement.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with further information on how you responded to the CMA's recommendations, or why you did not feel that you needed to, **before the House returns from the Christmas recess.**



## Public Accounts Committee

I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours sincerely

Dame Meg Hillier MP  
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts