



## Public Accounts Committee

**Peter Schofield**  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Department for Work and Pensions**  
**4th Floor, Caxton House,**  
**6-12 Tothill Street,**  
**London**  
**SW1H 9NA**  
**By email: [psa@dpw.gov.uk](mailto:psa@dpw.gov.uk)**

28 June 2023

### **Accounting Officer Assessment on the Synergy Programme**

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Thank you for sending the Committee a copy of the [summary Accounting Officer Assessment \(AOA\) on the Synergy Programme](#).

I note that the summary AOA is an interim assessment given that funding has only been agreed to March 2024, rather than across all seven years of investment. You also limit your comments on regularity, propriety, feasibility, and value for money to the question of whether to proceed at this stage.

In light of the significant number of uncertainties and caveats present in the current summary AOA, please can you present a more comprehensive summary AOA when funding is approved for the next phase of the programme, rather than your current commitment to write if the factors change.

Yours Sincerely

Dame Meg Hillier  
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts