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Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
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Dear Dame Meg,

Fortieth report of Session 2019-21: achieving government's long-term environmental goals – Recommendation 5

I am writing to explain why HM Treasury is delaying the target implementation date of the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that: **alongside the next Comprehensive Spending Review, the Treasury should publish analysis showing: how the full value of environmental impacts has been taken into account, and the impact of spending decisions on meeting government's long-term environmental goals.**

This recommendation was made in the *Fortieth report of Session 2019-21: achieving government's long-term environmental goals*, published in February 2021. The government agreed with the Committee's recommendation in April 2021, with a target implementation date of April 2022.

HM Treasury recognises the important role it plays in supporting the government's climate and environmental objectives. Reflecting this, the guidance for the 2021 Spending Review asked departments to include an assessment of the impact of their spending bids on greenhouse gas emissions and sought qualitative commentary on the impact on delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

Major spending bids and proposals were considered and assessed within the context of the broader suite of policies set out in the Net Zero Strategy using the best available data. HM Treasury is working with departments to refine some of this data, with the aim of improving the quality and consistency of appraisal and evaluation metrics. The Department continues to review the learning from the recent Spending Review and is considering what additional information should be published to support public understanding of the role the Treasury plays in meeting government's environmental objectives. For this reason, the Treasury is delaying the target implementation date for this recommendation from April 2022 to Autumn 2022.

I am copying this letter to the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Tom Scholar

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Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury