

From the Permanent Secretary  
Sir Chris Wormald



## Department of Health & Social Care

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Dear Chair

**Re: Public Accounts Committee, Eight Report of Session 2019-21, NHS Capital Expenditure and Financial Management (Recommendation 5)**

I wrote to you in November last year about the recommendation above. Since then, the PAC has re-iterated this recommendation through their Thirty-Fifth Report of Session 2022-23, Introducing Integrated Care Systems (Recommendation 5). I am aware that this recommendation remains outstanding, and at the time I noted that it was the Government's intention to publish the capital strategy as soon as possible over the winter period of 2022-23.

Since that time, plans to publish a capital strategy remain under consideration, and the Department will update in due course.

Health infrastructure remains one of this Government's top priorities and once published the strategy should provide clear guidance to the health and care system, including expectations for supporting the NHS Long Term Plan, managing backlog maintenance, digital investment and building new hospitals.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Wormald

**SIR CHRIS WORMALD  
PERMANENT SECRETARY**