



Public Accounts Committee

Shona Dunn
Second Permanent Secretary
Department of Health & Social Care
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By email: Second.Permanent.Secretary@dhsc.gov.uk

21 April 2023

DHSC Summary Accounting Officer Assessment - Digitising Social Care

Dear Second Permanent Secretary,

I am writing to you regarding your summary accounting officer assessment (AO assessment) for Digitising social care, dated 16 March 2023.

The summary assessment provided limited information about the programme's budget and timeline. I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information:

- a programme budget and spend to date;
- a timeline and update on progress against key programme milestones;
- the delivery confidence assessment awarded at the Gate 3 Review in February 2023; and
- the main findings from the Gate 3 Review.

I also note that in accordance with HM Treasury guidance, summary AO assessments should be published at an early point which in practice, means alongside the request for the Accounting Officer's approval of the Outline Business Case (OBC), or at the point when it enters GMPP if this is later". I understand that the programme joined the GMPP in the first quarter of 2022-23 and the Gate 0 review took place in May 2022. Please explain the delay in performing, and publishing, the summary AO assessment and advise when you intend to publish the summary on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

I request that you respond to this letter by the time the House returns from the Coronation Recess.

Yours Sincerely

Dame Meg Hillier
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts