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31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Dame Meg Hillier MP, Chair  
Public Accounts Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**From Tamara Finkelstein CB**  
Permanent Secretary

Dear Chair,

**Re: Public Accounts Committee – Tackling Defra’s ageing digital services**

I am pleased to answer the questions you had below.

Q 39 (Cyber incidents): Chris Howes said he would correct the record if his recollection of an incident in 2019 was wrong (if you could confirm either way please).

I can confirm that Chris Howes’s recollection was correct, and this incident occurred in 2019.

Q 85 (fishing licenses): Chris Howes said he would come back on numbers of fishing licenses.

In the financial year 2021/2, 974,952 rod fishing licences were issued by Defra.

**TAMARA FINKELSTEIN CB**  
Permanent Secretary