

OFFICIAL



Shona Dunn

Second Permanent Secretary

39 Victoria Street, SW1H 0EU

T **0207 9722797**

E Second.Permanent.Secretary@dhsc.gov.uk

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

1st June 2022

Dear Dame Meg Hillier MP

Re: Public Accounts Committee, Eight Report of Session 2019-21, NHS Capital Expenditure and Financial Management

I am writing to provide the committee with an update from the Department of Health and Social Care on progress against the outstanding Recommendation 5 in the above-named report.

Health infrastructure is one of this Government's top priorities. The capital strategy will be informed by the policy ambitions of government, and engagement with the NHS and health and social care sector. The government had intended to publish the capital strategy in Spring 2022; however, Ministers have now agreed to its publication before Autumn 2022. This is to allow more comprehensive engagement with stakeholders across the health and care landscape that we were not able to focus on during previous phases of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The strategy will provide clear guidance to local partnerships and include expectations for supporting the NHS Long Term Plan, managing backlog maintenance, digital investment and building new hospitals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shona Dunn'.

Shona Dunn

Second Permanent Secretary