



Public Accounts Committee

Sir Philip Barton KCMG
Permanent Under-Secretary
The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
King Charles Street
London
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By email: PUS.Action@fcdo.gov.uk

29 June 2022

Hera programme

Dear Permanent Under-Secretary,

I am writing to you following your letter of 28 April 2022 containing your summary Accounting Officer assessment of the revised implementation dates for FCDO's Hera programme. I note that the assessment has not yet been published on [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk).

The assessment states that the decision was made to revise the timetable for implementation in September 2021. However, your letter states that you considered this AO assessment and approved it on 28 April 2022. I would be grateful if you could explain the reason for the delay in producing the summary assessment and making it available externally. Please also confirm that FCDO will ensure that it produces and publishes its summary AO assessments in a timely way going forward.

In addition, the summary AO assessment itself covers the four Accounting Officer standards, but it is limited in detail. Please could you advise when in 2022 the Hera programme will be deployed, the risks to meeting this new timetable, the steps FCDO is taking to mitigate these risks and the total cost of the programme.

I would be grateful if you could respond to these points before the summer recess.

Yours sincerely

Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts