

From the Permanent Secretary
Sir Chris Wormald



Department of Health & Social Care

Meg Hillier, MP
Chair, Committee of Public Accounts
House of Commons
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Sent via email to: *pubaccom@parliament.uk*

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Dear Chair

Release of Papers on Government PPE Contracts with PPE Medpro

Thank you for your response to Minister Quince's letter dated 20 December 2022 regarding the provision of documents to the Public Accounts Committee on the motion of a humble address passed on 9 December 2022. I wanted to write to assure you of our progress to achieving the aim of the humble address in a timely manner.

We have been working closely with the Clerk of the Committee, making the necessary arrangements for the provision of documentation relating to Ministers and Special Advisors. The aim is to complete this process shortly after the February recess. I trust when you review the information you will understand its sensitive nature given the ongoing investigation into suspected criminal offences committed in the procurement of PPE contracts awarded to PPE Medpro. I am well aware of the Committee's record of handling sensitive information, and I therefore have no concerns that it will all be handled correctly.

DHSC is coordinating the collection of information across government and will ensure the Committee receives it in a timely manner allowing it to perform its important duties. The information collected relates directly to ministerial and special advisor communications and, in line with previous similar humble addresses, we have interpreted this to include relevant private communications as well. Due to the circumstances of government business during the period in scope (1 January 2020 until the completion of the last contract on 30 June 2020) we expect the information to be held electronically, allowing us to search information held using keywords. We will release the information with junior officials' names redacted. To assist the Committee, when providing the information, we will include a covering note setting

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out how the documents were collected and how we determined the information in scope.

I hope you find this update satisfactory, please let me know if you require any further detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Wormald'.

**SIR CHRIS WORMALD
PERMANENT SECRETARY**