



**CABINET OFFICE**  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

**Dame Meg Hillier MP**

Chair, Public Accounts Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

By email

November 2022

Dear Chair,

**Target implementation dates for Thirty-Sixth Report on EU Exit: UK Border**

I am writing to inform the Committee of changes in the target implementation dates for the recommendations 1 and 7 in the above report.

**Target implementation date for recommendation 1**

The Committee made a recommendation (1) that the Government should write to the Committee, within six months, on scenario planning for the introduction of the European Union's Entry/Exit System (EES). The European Commission announced over summer 2022 that the implementation date of EES would be delayed from October 2022 until May 2023, at which point a nine-month transition period would start. The Commission's hope was that the delay of the introduction of the system would lead to a smoother rollout.

EES is an EU requirement being implemented by the French at the juxtaposed controls in the UK, and they are responsible for the systems, technology, and processes. However, we have been working with the French, operators, and others to ensure the implementation of EES minimises any impacts on border flows and traffic build up.

This engagement has allowed us to modify our understanding of likely implementation scenarios to inform further analysis and sensitivities. Due to commercial sensitivities surrounding the data, we would not be able to publish all the details.

Furthermore, due to the changes of the implementation date, it would be appropriate to provide a further update to the Committee on this recommendation in May 2023, as we continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders and in particular the French to influence the final implementation design.

**Target implementation date for recommendation 7**

The Committee made a recommendation (7) that the Government should write to the Committee, within six months, setting out the timetable for its planned programme of work to create the world's most effective border by 2025, and the key risks it will need to manage in taking this forward. In the Treasury Minute Progress Report of April 2022, the Government indicated that the target implementation date for setting out that timetable was October 2022.

The Government is not yet in a position to publish its planned programme of work because of the need to resolve certain policy issues around border import controls.

The Government committed, on 28 April 2022, to publishing a Target Operating Model for the border. This will set out the plan for the delivery of the remaining border import controls on goods from the EU, as well as a revised timetable for the delivery of the various programmes falling within the 2025 Border Strategy, including Single Trade Window.

The finalisation of the policy elements of the Target Operating Model has been delayed by changes in Ministerial responsibility. The Government is working urgently to finalise these remaining issues and will then proceed to publish the TOM as soon as possible.

I can assure the Committee that progress in delivering the 2025 Border Strategy has not been affected by this delay. Work is proceeding as planned with the development of the Strategy, including in particular the Single Trade Window Programme.

**Yours ever,**



**Alex Chisholm**

Civil Service Chief Operating Officer & Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary  
**Email:** PSAlexChisholm@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **Telephone:** +44 (0) 20 7271 8822