Dear George,

Money Advice Service: independent review

Thank you for your letter of 30 July, in which you responded to my letter of 17 July about the review of the Money Advice Service.

As you know, the Treasury Committee considered carefully whether to recommend the abolition of the MAS and whether it should continue to exist as a statutory body. It concluded instead that this should be the first question to be asked by the independent review which is now underway. You appear to have concluded that the reviewer should not undertake this work. A review which is not able to consider this question falls far short of what is needed.

I was, however, grateful for your assurance that the Treasury, and not the MAS, will be responsible and accountable for the implementation of the Government’s “guidance guarantee”. Should I understand from this that the role of the MAS will be limited to the use of its systems, and that it will not take any substantive decisions? The Committee will look closely at the detailed information about the role of delivery partners such as the MAS when it is published in the autumn.

I will be placing this letter, and your reply, in the public domain.

ANDREW TYRIE
CHAIRMAN OF THE TREASURY COMMITTEE