Dear Amyas,

SUBMISSION OF FURTHER EVIDENCE TO COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Thank you for your letter dated 12th December, regarding the submission of evidence to the Committee of Public Accounts following the session on children and young people’s mental health.

As you’re aware, the performance ratings in the table reflect the views of the National Audit Office and not those held by NHS England. Simon Stevens stated during the Committee that whilst we factually agree with your Report, we differ on this judgement of progress as it was developed based on the National Audit Office’s own rating system.

As we discussed when we met and as has been reflected in both our correspondence and the correspondence you have had with NHS England, whilst we are content the report is factually accurate, and appreciate very much the efforts of your officials in working with us to ensure its accuracy, we do not agree with all of the conclusions drawn in the Report. These include the judgements in the Report’s RAG rating system where there are pre-existing progress measures in place that could have been used. The statement that ‘progress made is not fully reflected in the National Audit Office’s analysis’ is therefore reflective of this view. We agree that this does not impact the factual accuracy of the report. I apologise if the wording around this was unclear.
For the avoidance of doubt, the achievements in delivering the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health that are listed in our letter to the Committee were in response to the Committee's specific request that we should do so. I hope this clarifies our position and resolves any further issues.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

SIR CHRIS WORMALD
PERMANENT SECRETARY

CC
Meg Hillier MP
Simon Stevens