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Permanent Secretary  
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Spending Review

The Chancellor informed the House on the 2 July that Departments have already been “commissioned to carry out the work necessary” for a Spending Review, and “it must be for the new Government to decide, in the circumstances, whether it is appropriate to conduct a full three-year spending review or a one-year exercise.”

Guidance

1. What “work” has been commissioned by the Treasury for the Departments for the Spending Review?
   i. Please could you confirm that Departments have been sent guidance on their Spending Review submission, and if so could you share the guidance with the Committee?
   ii. Have the Departments been requested to submit any equalities analysis (impact on groups with “protected” characteristics) to accompany their Spending Review and, and if so could you share the guidance with the Committee?
   iii. How many years have Departments been asked to plan for, for both the resource and capital budgets?
   iv. Have the Treasury given departments an indication of the overall ceilings for resource and capital budgets in the Spending Review period?
   v. What assumptions will the Departments make for Brexit in their submissions?
   vi. How has the Treasury updated its guidance from the guidance it issued at the 2015 Spending Review?
   vii. Treasury officials told us that this Spending Review will have a greater focus on “outcomes”, be “cross-cutting” across departments, and also have a greater emphasis on realistic cost setting. How will that be reflected in the Departments’ submissions, and how is it reflected in the Treasury’s guidance to Departments?

1 https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-07-02/debates/937E8585-2528-4C6F-BFD3-B030CF44C630/SpendingReview
viii. Treasury officials told us that a zero-based capital review is being carried out. When will that be completed? What are the main outcomes of it so far?

**Timings**

2. What is the deadline for Departments to send back their submissions, and when will the Departments be given their allocations for 2020-21?

i. Once the Departments have sent back their submissions, what is the minimum amount of time that the Treasury needs to finalise the allocations?

ii. When is the latest that the Government can make the decision as to whether to conduct a full three-year spending review or a one-year exercise?

Nicky Morgan  
Chair of the Treasury Committee