Thank you for your letter of 18 June 2019 requesting your Committee has sight of un-redacted versions of the EU Exit consultancy contracts on which the NAO recently reported.

Of the 40 EU Exit contracts reviewed by the NAO, the Cabinet Office is at this time only able to comment on the 30 which it let and owns. The remaining 10 contracts were let by a number of other departments including DExEU, Home Office and Defra.

The 30 contracts which Cabinet Office let are all in relation to arrangements we put in place to enable Government departments to quickly draw on constancy support for critical EU Exit programmes. Under these arrangements, multiple suppliers have been contracted under the same base contract. These 30 contracts consist of:

- 21 initial contracts; and,
- Nine variations to extend nine of the initial contracts (let in April 2018 for a one-year term to April 2020). These contracts, highlighted in Annex A, are duplicates of the initial contracts, with only the end date changed.
In the 30 Cabinet Office contracts only *de minimis* information was redacted: content relating to personal information, contract charges and supplier proposals was redacted from the contracts. This is the standard approach and considered good practice. I have enclosed the un-redacted versions of these base contracts for you and your members to consider. Due to the personal and commercially sensitive nature of this information, I would be grateful if you could ensure that this information is handled appropriately, in line with the terms outlined in your letter dated 19 June.

Redactions of those contracts placed by other government departments have been determined by each individual Contracting Authority, which is able to request additional redactions beyond the minimum the Crown Commercial Service would recommend. The Cabinet Office was not party to the content of or rationale behind these redactions, and is therefore unable to provide a response to the Committee in regards to these contracts at this time, nor is it able to provide un-redacted versions of them.

I understand it is important for the Committee and the National Audit Office to understand why more extensive redactions were made by other Contracting Authorities. The Cabinet Office and Crown Commercial Service will, therefore, work with these departments to understand the reasoning behind the more extensive redactions, and will provide you with a further reply on this matter by Monday 15 July.

John A Manzoni
Chief Executive of the Civil Service & Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary

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