Dear Lord Hall,

RE: Treasury Minute response – Renewing the EastEnders set

Thank you for the response of 3 April to the Committee’s report on Renewing the EastEnders set. I am grateful for your commitment to provide us with information on how the BBC ensures best practice in procurement and contract management across all its contracts.

However, I am concerned by the lack of meaningful commitments made against the two remaining recommendations. I am not satisfied with the responses provided and do not consider your proposed actions to sufficiently deal with the issues that we highlight in our report.

My specific concerns are:

- **Recommendation 1**: On annually updating the Committee on E20 from October 2019 onwards. Your response states that the NAO already receives information and you simply commit to providing us with extracts from standard monthly monitoring reports for BBC critical projects. It is our understanding that these monthly reports only provide a RAG rating and limited information on E20. Therefore, the response does not adequately address the Committee’s specific requests for the BBC to set out (in annual updates) the latest cost information and completion date of the project, as well as how it has learned lessons from previous failings, and whether revised risk and contingency budgets were adequate.

- **Recommendation 2**: On developing processes to ensure the right skills are in the place at the outset of all critical projects. Your response just cites existing processes and confirms we will be updated by the specified date. There is no commitment to developing any new processes or procedures to address our specific concerns. This does not assure us there will not be a repeat of the various issues encountered on E20 that ultimately stemmed from the right skills not being in place at the start.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with further information on how you will address these concerns and for a reply by Friday 28th June.
I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

MEG HILLIER MP
CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS