SINGLE DEPARTMENTAL PLAN PUBLICATION

Thank you for your letter dated 5th December, ahead of the evidence session tomorrow on Driving Value in Public Spending.

It remains the Government’s view that departments should not disclose internal Single Departmental Plans (SDPs) publicly. For internal Plans to be used as an effective part of departmental management and decision making, it is necessary that they contain ongoing policy development and information that is commercially sensitive or secure, which should be protected.

It is right that government planning processes are subject to detailed scrutiny. We recently made all internal SDPs available to the National Audit Office as part of their recent inquiry. Their report, 'Improving government’s planning and spending framework', gives their assessment of the internal SDPs and makes several recommendations – which we are actively looking at.

We are committed to continuously improving public plans, and to this end, have engaged with the Office for National Statistics, the Institute for Government and National Audit Office ahead of the next planning round. We would also be happy to meet with the Scrutiny Unit to discuss how we can best meet Parliament’s needs. I look forward to the hearing tomorrow.