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Our ref: PS/0781

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP
Chair, Treasury Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

12th February 2019

Thank you for your letter of 23 January in response to my letter of 17 January concerning the Government's updated guidance on pre-appointment scrutiny and the updated list of appointments subject to such scrutiny.

I understand that the Chancellor is writing to you separately on the points of substance you raise in your letter and setting out an explanation about the specific posts. The guidance published on 17 January sets out the criteria which the Government uses to judge whether a post should be subject to pre-appointment scrutiny.

You raised a concern about the removal of 'HM Treasury' from the headings in the pre-appointment list. This list sets out public appointments, which are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, which have been agreed as being subject to pre-appointment scrutiny. Currently, HMT does not have any posts within the scope of this. However, I wanted to ensure the previous entries, which are now shown at the bottom of the list, were included as the Government expects the guidance to also apply to those posts.

I am aware that there are a number of other bespoke arrangements between HMT and the Treasury Select Committee, including where the appointment will be made but the committee will be given an opportunity to hold a hearing with the person appointed before they have taken up their role. These are outside of the scope of the pre-appointment scrutiny guidance, as set out in paragraph 37 of the guidance.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee and to the Chancellor.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O Dowden', with a large, sweeping initial 'O'.

Oliver Dowden CBE MP