Dear Mr Field and Ms Leaver

Thank you for your further letter of 12th September 2018, in respect of the Insolvency Service’s investigation into BHS. Your letter followed on from our earlier correspondence, in July 2018, following the report by the Financial Reporting Council (“FRC”) in relation to the accounts for Taveta Investments Limited (“Taveta”) and its subsidiaries (including BHS).

In my earlier letter to you, of 16th July, I stated that we were in the process of obtaining from the FRC any relevant material they had from their investigation, including anything relating to the conduct of directors of the Taveta group of which we were not previously aware. This was in order to determine whether this information contained any new evidence that may give us cause to review our decision to conclude our investigation into BHS.

The FRC provided the material requested on 17th August 2018, following which our investigators have undertaken a thorough review of it; considering its implications in the context of the entirety of the information we have examined in the course of our investigation. As a result of that review process, the agency has concluded that there is nothing further in this material that would merit disqualification action against either the directors of Taveta, or its subsidiaries; consequently we will not be reopening our investigation.

During our investigation into BHS we were in regular contact with both the FRC and the Pensions Regulator (“IPR”). I can confirm that throughout we received the full cooperation of both and that, where lawful and appropriate to do so, we shared information and documents that assisted our respective enquiries.
As we have begun disqualification action against three former directors of BHS there is little further comment that I can offer about the investigation publicly. As I explained previously, to do so may prejudice those court proceedings. For that reason I am unable to comment on the property transaction you have referred to in your letter, other than to say that the scope of our investigation encompassed all of those matters that were included in the joint Select Committees' report of their inquiry into BHS.

Should you find it helpful to meet with me, in private, I will be able to provide you with some further detail as regards our investigation of this subject and of the FRC material considered. If you would like to take me up on this offer, please let me know when you would like this to take place and my office will ensure that I am available.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Albon
Chief Executive