



Treasury Committee

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Dear Ross,

Thank you for your letter of 30 July, in which you describe the causes of the IT failure at RBS on 15 and 16 June, and the steps being taken to avoid such problems in the future.

You explain that the failure occurred following the renewal of a digital security certificate that supported the encrypted link between RBS and SWIFT/VocaLink. RBS was unaware that the certificate fulfilled this function, so it was not configured appropriately when it was renewed. I would be grateful for an answer to the following questions.

- What digital security certificate did RBS think was authenticating its communications with VocaLink, if not this one?
- More generally, are you now confident that the functions of all your security certificates have been identified and properly documented, and conversely that all functions requiring encrypted connections have been traced back to the corresponding security certificate? If not, when do you expect to be able to provide this assurance?
- Your letter describes a 'four step process' that you are introducing to mitigate the risks arising from digital security certificates. What system for mitigating these risks was in place before the incident? In particular, was there an inventory of security certificates and their functions, and if so, why did it not correctly identify the certificate used to authenticate connections with SWIFT/VocaLink?

I would also be grateful for written evidence that those responsible at operational level, and therefore capable of doing harm to the bank, its customers and markets, have been individually identified. Likewise, could you provide evidence that individual responsibility for IT systems and associated risks has been allocated to a Board-level executive under the Senior Managers Regime?

I will be placing this letter, and in due course your response, in the public domain.

Andrew Tyrie
RT HON ANDREW TYRIE MP
CHAIRMAN OF THE TREASURY COMMITTEE