



Committee of Public Accounts

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair of the Work and Pensions Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: ES

8 January 2018

Dear Frank,

Thank you for your letter of 21 December asking about the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions assertion that the Public Accounts Committee had agreed that "the Government does not release project assessment reports produced by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority".

I can confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the Public Accounts Committee has not explicitly agreed to reviews not being made public. The Committee has consistently argued for greater transparency in the IPA and its predecessor. The Committee has not agreed a blanket policy on publishing or quoting from certain classes of documents and would consider whether or not to make a particular document public, in whole or part, on a case by case basis. Similarly, we have not considered a blanket policy on publication based on the time elapsed since preparation of the document.

Yours sincerely

Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts