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8 May 2008

Dear Accounting Officer

FOLLOWING UP PAC REPORTS

This DAO letter recommends Accounting Officers to set in place:

- mechanisms for tracking compliance with PAC recommendations;
- arrangements for public reporting on progress.

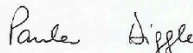
2. At a recent PAC hearing, it emerged that an NDPB had taken little effort to implement the recommendations in a PAC report of some seven years before, even though the Treasury Minute had largely accepted them. The PAC clearly found this disturbing.

3. It is important that the PAC has confidence that promises in Treasury Minutes will be honoured; and similarly that any that cannot be carried out are explained appropriately. It would undermine the credibility of Accounting Officers generally if the PAC thought that their advice would be neglected.

4. It is therefore good practice for public sector organisations to make arrangements to ensure that their undertakings in response to PAC recommendations, often to comply, are carried out. It is up to witnesses at PAC hearings to decide how to do this in their own organisations. Some find it useful, for instance, to establish a central tracking unit.

5. In future public sector organisations should plan routinely to publish information about their activity in following up PAC recommendations, if they do not already do so. For PAC reports up to mid 2008, these accounts will be in departmental autumn progress reports. Publication for future years may be different and details will follow separately.

6. Any questions about this letter should be addressed to David Barton at david.barton@hm-treasury.x.gsi.gov.uk or on 020 7270 5365.

Yours sincerely,


Paula Diggle
Treasury Officer of Accounts

