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**The Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP**  
Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and  
Energy

**Department for Business, Innovation and Skills**  
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26 February 2015

Dear Isobel

## **FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL MEASUREMENT OFFICE**

I write to update you on the outcome of the review of the National Measurement Office carried out by BIS officials. Following earlier decisions regarding the future of the National Physical Laboratory, I can now confirm the future direction for NMO.

I want to ensure that we are doing all we can to improve the regulatory environment, and that must include simplifying technical regulation, much of which originates in Europe. The review highlighted NMO's work in supporting businesses to comply with these regulations, both in regard to metrology requirements but also much more widely, covering many other technical regulations on behalf of other government departments.

I am convinced that collectively we can do more to help businesses by building on existing good practice. As the responsible Minister for better regulation, I want to see closer alignment between our deregulation efforts – improving policy and implementation - and the work of NMO in more intelligently enforcing technical regulations. To that end, I have asked my officials in the Better Regulation Delivery Office to create a Centre of Excellence, working with NMO in order to simplify technical regulation for the benefit of British business. Often the same or better regulatory outcome can be achieved with a much lower burden on business by applying best practice and thinking through enforcement. The Centre of Excellence will be the place to do just that.

The leadership needed to create a Centre of Excellence will be provided by Graham Russell, Chief Executive of BRDO, utilising BRDO's expertise in regulatory implementation, and drawing on the front line enforcement skills and capabilities of NMO. Existing metrology policy, technical and enforcement work will continue to be delivered by NMO but with a new name of the National Measurement and Regulation Office to better reflect the breadth of work carried out by the organisation. BIS will assume responsibility for the customer function for the National Measurement System and sponsorship of NPL.

Sponsorship responsibility for NMO will transfer to BRDO on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, reporting directly to me as the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Energy.

I believe these changes will not only allow us to support a better regulated business environment, but also will create positive opportunities and build on the established skills and expertise in both organisations. I would like to thank you and your non-executive colleagues on the Steering Board of NMO, as well as Richard Sanders, acting Chief Executive and his team of staff, for your commitment and professionalism throughout this review phase and look forward to your continued support in our efforts to improve the way regulation is enforced.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Hancock', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy flourish.

**MATTHEW HANCOCK**