



Accounting Officer System Statement

Introduction

As the Permanent Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer for the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU), I lead the Department in support of the Government's objective of exiting the EU, including the coordination and negotiation of the UK's future relationship with the EU.

As the Accounting Officer, I am responsible for safeguarding the public funds with which the Department has been provided as part of its Estimate. This Statement describes how I fulfil these responsibilities in accordance with the Treasury's guidance set out in Managing Public Money. It describes the accountability relationships and processes within the Department, making clear who is accountable for what at all levels of the system, and describes the accountability I have for all use of public money through my Department's Estimate, all public money raised as income, and the management of other publicly owned assets.

Scope

Authority to make use of the resources that are allocated to DExEU is delegated to officials according to a strict framework which is kept under review. In the normal course of business, DExEU funds no Arms' Length Bodies, pays no grants to third parties, and devolves no responsibility to spend outside of the core departmental boundary.

Governance arrangements

In discharging my responsibilities as Accounting Officer for DExEU, I have established a system of internal control that provides me with the appropriate assurances over the regularity, propriety and value for money of the resources used by DExEU in performing its activities. This centres around the financial delegation framework I have established with the support of my Finance Director, which provides advice and assurance to the boards, committees and sub-committees, which are described below, as well as taking into account the other sources independent scrutiny, such as the work of Internal Audit.

Executive Board

I have established an Executive Board with my senior leadership team (from director level upwards) which oversees the operational and strategic management of the Department. The Executive Board will address the key issues affecting the Department and will ensure that effective decisions are made on these matters, with progress on actions and decisions reported back to the Executive Board on a regular basis.

Operations Committee

The Operations Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Executive Board on corporate activity and operational issues affecting the Department. It monitors corporate performance with management information on the Department reported to each monthly meeting.

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee provides support and advice to me and my Executive Board on matters relating to governance, risk management, the control environment and the integrity of financial statements. The findings of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee are reported to me via my Executive Board.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is chaired by a Non-Executive Board Member, and other members include one other Non-Executive Board Member and an Independent Member. The Committee is attended by one Director General, the Finance Director, and representatives from the National Audit Office and the Government Internal Audit Agency. Other senior officials from across the Department attend as required.

Risk

Effective risk management is an essential part of ensuring DExEU is able to deliver its objectives. Recognising this, I have established a strong risk and programme management strategy which includes departmental and directorate level risk registers which are reported to the Executive Board and its sub-committees. Our approach to risk management will remain under review to ensure it continues to meet the evolving requirements of the Department.

Interaction with Ministers

The Secretary of State for Exiting the EU and other departmental ministers have a duty to Parliament to account, and be held to account, for the policies, decisions and actions of the Department. They look to me as the Department's accounting officer to delegate within the Department the responsibility to deliver their decisions and to support them in making policy decisions and handling public funds.

This statement will continue to apply until a revised statement is published.

Oliver Robbins CB

Permanent Secretary and Accounting Officer
Department for Exiting the European Union

19 July 2017