



HM Treasury

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## DAO 02/17

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Dear Accounting Officer

### ACCOUNTING OFFICER ASSESSMENTS

This letter provides guidance on the preparation of Accounting Officer Assessments, including the new requirement to produce Accounting Officer Assessments for projects within the Government's Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP) starting at the Outline Business Case approval stage.

#### Action

All Accounting Officers

#### Context

In its report on its inquiry into 'Accountability to Parliament for Taxpayer's Money', the Public Accounts Committee recommended that "*Accounting Officers should prepare assessments of major projects and policy initiatives in line with Treasury guidance, where they have concerns about policies' feasibility or value for money.*"

The government has accepted this recommendation. The Treasury guidance on *Making an Accounting Officer Assessment* advises departments that it is good practice to prepare an assessment for each novel and contentious transaction or proposal. *Managing Public Money* expects that Accounting Officers should routinely scrutinise significant policy proposals, or plans to start or vary major projects, and then assess whether they measure up to the standards of regularity, propriety, value for money and feasibility.

The government agrees that major projects and policy initiatives fall within this guidance, including those which give rise to concerns about feasibility or value for money. The government also considers that an Accounting Officer Assessment should always be prepared for projects within the Government's Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP) starting at the Outline Business Case approval stage.

As promised in the government's response to the Committee, the Treasury has now further updated the guidance<sup>1</sup> to on *Making an Accounting Officer Assessment* setting out this new requirement.

## Contact

If you want to discuss this letter, please contact James Fraser on 020 7270 4847.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RDBrown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Richard Brown  
Treasury Officer of Accounts

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/accounting-officer-assessments>