



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

29 August 2017

*Dear Jeremy*

Thank you for your email of 1 August to the Prime Minister enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Mr Peter Webb of Romilly Cottage, 139 Binscombe, Godalming, Surrey, about Government Accounts. Your email has been passed me for response as this policy area is in the Treasury's remit.

Your constituent asked about the production of Accounts and Budgets with actual figures alongside. The Alignment Project – Clear Line of Sight, which was introduced in 2011-12, consolidates financial reporting to Parliament in a more consistent, transparent and straightforward way at all three stages of the process – budgets, estimates and accounts. Information on budget and actuals can therefore be found in the annual accounts of individual organisations. Departments have recently published their 2016-17 accounts and these are available on the gov.uk website.

As the budget and outturn information is included in the annual accounts of individual organisations, there are currently no plans to include this information in the Whole of Government Accounts.

Mr Webb enquired about how Parliament is exercising oversight. There are various committees in Parliament tasked with providing oversight over these matters, for example the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The reports on their findings are available online at <http://www.parliament.uk/>.

Management information in government is specifically mentioned in the recent PACAC report on Accounting for democracy: making sure Parliament, the people and ministers know how and why public money is spent (Fourteenth Report of Session 2016–17).

Please pass on my thanks to Mr Webb for taking the trouble to make me aware of these concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Hammond'.

PHILIP HAMMOND