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Convenor
Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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21 June 2017

Dear Jackie

ARE Futures Fujitsu Technical Assurance Review

Thank you for your letter of 13 June 2017 on the above subject.

I welcome your recognition of the Scottish Government's position that the final Report should not be published due to the commercially and security sensitive information contained in it. I also recognise that you need an appropriate way to have a discussion at the forthcoming Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee meeting with the Auditor General in an appropriately uninhibited way.

In your letter you ask for the Scottish Government to provide a redacted version of the full report or should this not be possible, the Scottish Government prepare a separate public document setting out, in a fair and balanced manner, the key issues in a way that would not breach commercial confidentiality.

I would like to restate our commitment to Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee on January 25th noting that, although some elements of the report will be confidential because they have commercially and security sensitive aspects, the Scottish Government did plan for the Report to be developed in such a way that the key recommendations would be shareable along with the proposed actions.

I have taken advice from my officials, including Scottish Government Chief Information Officer, concerning the publication of the report either in part or completely and have instructed Officials to take an approach based on your second option which I think will meet your needs. That is, to publish the key findings from the Executive Summary of the report along with a commentary that explains how the Scottish Government is addressing the recommendations made. This document is attached.



I would emphasise again my desire to be fully transparent regarding the challenges associated with the Rural Payments IT system and the plans to address them. I believe this approach is in line with my commitment and meets the need of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Fergus

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