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Dear Accounting Officer

DAO(GEN)07/02
14 March 2002

PUBLICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO LORD SHARMAN'S REPORT "HOLDING TO ACCOUNT"

Purpose of this letter

This letter alerts departments to the publication of the Government's response to Lord Sharman's report "Holding to Account" which looked at matters of audit and accountability in central government.

Action

2. Accounting Officers are asked to:

- Ensure that awareness of the publication of this document and of its content is spread appropriately within their organisations;
- Note that departmental AOs, PFOs in main and smaller departments and Heads of Internal Audit are being sent copies of the Sharman report and that PFOs are being asked to send a copy to each of their sponsored executive NDPBs, with copies being sent to PFOs by the Treasury for this purpose;
- Be aware of the forward work that will be arising as set out in the attached "Short Guide".

Contacts

- Matters related to the content of the Government response should be addressed to Lorraine Constable, Treasury Officer of Accounts team (tel: 020 7270 5361; email: lorraine.constable@hm-treasury.gov.uk).

¹ This DAO letter will shortly be published on the Treasury's GSI website at <http://www.hm-treasury.gsi.gov.uk/psd/dao/dao.htm>. Please email mangai.rajasingham@hm-treasury.gov.uk if you would like an electronic copy.



Background

3. Lord Sharman published his report “Holding To Account” in February 2001 following his review of audit and accountability in central Government. He made 21 recommendations about these matters.

4. The response to Lord Sharman’s report has been published and accepts Lord Sharman’s main recommendations directed to the Government. The Executive Summary of the response and a short guide to the response are attached for information. Hard copies of the full response can be obtained from The Stationery Office and the document can be obtained electronically from the Treasury’s website (www.hm-treasury.gov.uk).

Brian Glicksman
Treasury Officer of Accounts