

**FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**  
Andrew McCormick



Chris Poulton  
Managing Director  
Ofgem E-Serve  
9 Millbank  
London  
SW18 3GE

Adelaide House  
39-49 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8FD  
Tel: 028 90529441  
email: andrew.mccormick@economy-ni.gov.uk

**21 July 2016**

Dear Chris

**NORTHERN IRELAND AUDIT OFFICE (NIAO) REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT RESOURCE ACCOUNTS 2015-16**

In your letter of 8 July 2016 you raised the issue of the public announcement of the above report and the lack of prior notice to Ofgem of its publication.

As I said in my letter of 11 July, it is indeed the case that Ofgem colleagues should have been advised that the report was about to issue, so that you would be in a position to respond to enquiries. I agree with you that such notification would fall within the scope of the formal arrangements for the scheme, but it should not have been necessary to refer to the formality as this just should have happened on any reasonable definition of good practice. Unfortunately the step of alerting Ofgem colleagues was inadvertently overlooked. I apologise once again for this oversight. Indeed we should have sought the agreement of the NIAO to share the entire draft report with you prior to publication.

My officials have reassured me that Ofgem will be kept fully up to speed on all developments between now and the PAC, currently scheduled for 28 September.

In relation to the other points you raised regarding the Joint Review, I believe I have covered them in my letter of 11 July, which had largely been prepared before we received your letter of 8 July.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew McCormick', written in a cursive style.

Andrew McCormick  
Permanent Secretary  
Department for the Economy