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

Richard Bacon MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

14th November 2007

Dear Richard,

PAC DEBATE – 23 OCTOBER 2007

In the debate on the reports of the Committee of Public Accounts, you asked whether, as stated in the Treasury Minute response to the Committee's 20th Report that the Lorenzo product would be available during 2008. I undertook to make inquiries and write back to you.

I understand that Lorenzo is the name for a suite of products from iSoft. It will be delivered in staged releases to the NHS of increasing functionality, which will provide over time:

- the ability for clinicians to record clinical assessments and diagnoses and produce discharge notes;
- the ability to order radiology and pathology tests and to receive the corresponding results back;
- the patient administration system;
- links with specialities including theatre and maternity systems; and
- additional clinical functions across a wider range of clinical settings.

Deployments of Lorenzo are scheduled for 'early adopter' sites in the summer of 2008. Responsibility for deployment, including planning and timetabling, will be managed at local level, by agreement with the suppliers in line with their capacity and their local business circumstances and implementation slots. The NHS and suppliers are working together to ensure that Lorenzo will be delivered within the terms and life of the contract.

It is intended that early adopters will get access to the first release next spring and the second release later in the year, prior to their being made more generally available three months later.

The Treasury Minute response to the Committee's 20th Report on the National Programme for IT in the NHS was therefore correct in stating that the Lorenzo product would be available during 2008. I have also been informed that there have been a number of road shows recently at which Lorenzo was successfully demonstrated to front-line NHS staff. Moreover, the Lorenzo system to be deployed in 2008 is compatible with new software with a new architecture and is not based on the old iPCM/iCM platform.

Finally, it is expected that Lorenzo will be fully rolled out across North, Midlands and East Programme for IT[1] within the lifetime of the contract with CSC/iSOFT, which runs until 2015.

I hope this is helpful.

I am copying this letter to Edward Leigh.

Kind Regards

ANGELA EAGLE MP