

The Rt Hon Francis Maude MP

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General

70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Telephone 020 7276 0835

Fax 020 7276 0841

Email psfrancismaude@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

Web www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Our Ref: IDC308432

Martha Lane Fox
UK Digital Champion
Race Online 2010
4th Floor, 6 – 10 Lexington Street
London
W1F 0LB

22 November 2010

Dear Martha,

Thank you for your letter of 14 October setting out your proposals for the future of Directgov. I applaud the clarity of your proposals given the complexity of the subject. I am minded to accept your proposals in full but will need to consult with colleagues before I can reach a final decision.

By way of immediate action, I have asked my officials to get on with some of your specific proposals, including:

- Recruiting an Executive Director of Digital and Information in the Cabinet Office to bring together existing teams working in this area;
- Simplifying the governance of Directgov and ensuring that it has sufficient authority to act as the 'customer champion with teeth' to improve the user experience of digital public services;
- Producing a clear timetable for migrating all of Government's transactional services to Directgov;
- Working with departments on a timetable for the opening up of Application Programme Interfaces (APIs) as part of finalising the departmental spending settlement process;
- Asking Directgov and Business Link to create a plan for much closer working and sharing of resources, including the issues for customers and government that would need to be addressed if they were to converge into a single domain.

I agree in principle with your proposal that over time Government should move to a single domain based on agile shared web services. However, as your report makes clear, this will be challenging for Government and I will need to consult colleagues before we make a final decision about how to proceed. To take these and other cross government issues forward, I intend



to set up a new Ministerial Working Group on Digital reporting to the Cabinet Economic Affairs Committee.

I would be very grateful if you would continue to play an active advisory role to Government on taking these proposals forward, including through participation on the new Ministerial Working Group and the Efficiency and Reform Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Maude". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'F' and a long, sweeping tail.

FRANCIS MAUDE