



HM TREASURY

Public Money and Accountability to Parliament

Treasury Officer of Accounts Team

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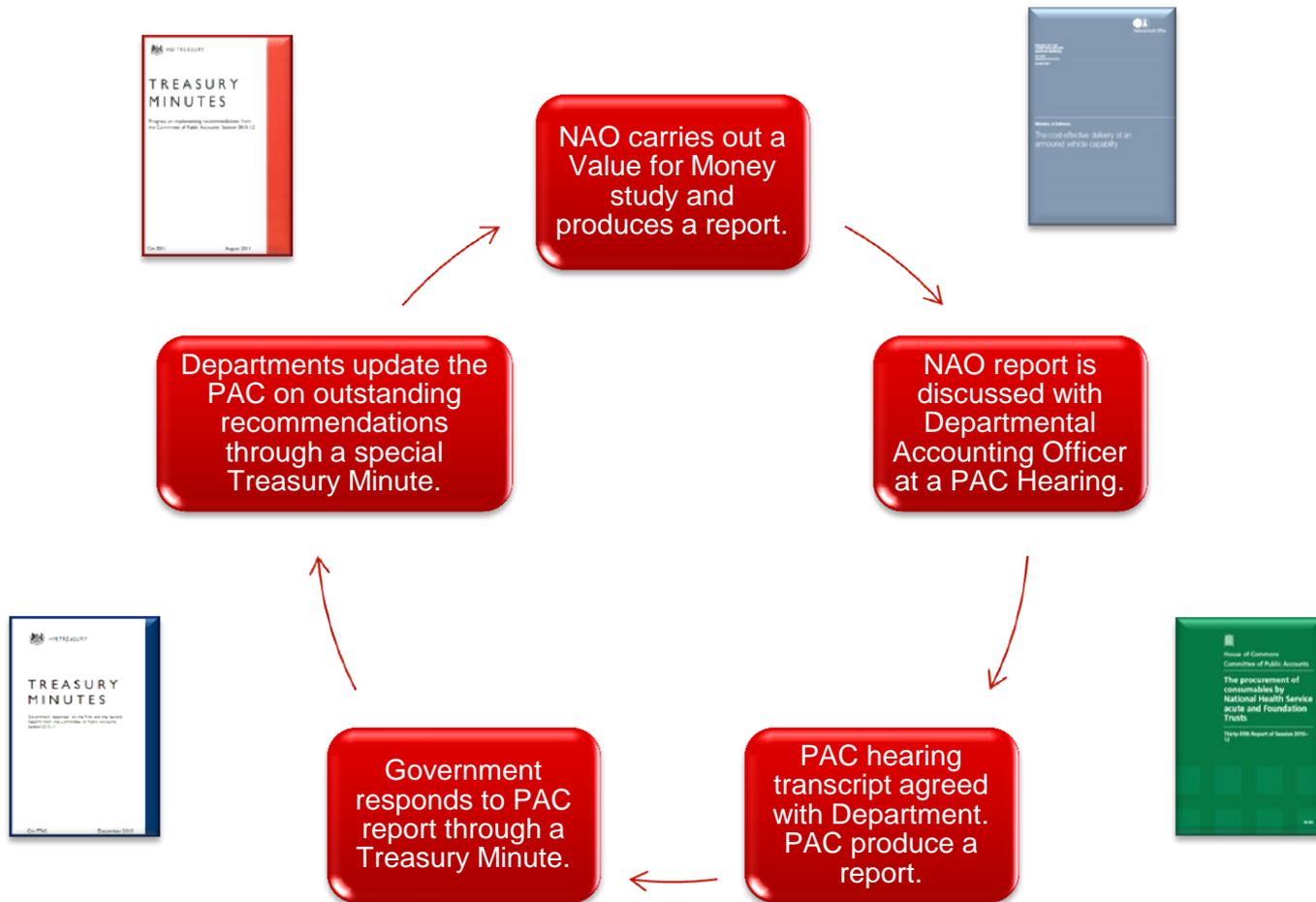


The Main Players

- Parliament
- Parliamentary Select Committees
- Public Accounts Committee
- Comptroller and Auditor General / National Audit Office /
- HM Treasury
- Government Departments – Ministers and Accounting Officers
- Arms Length Bodies



PAC Accountability Cycle





Parliament's Expectations

Parliament expects a sustained Government culture in which public money is handled responsibly, transparently, and to high standards of accountability.

This includes:

- stewardship to high standards;
- value for public money; and
- to be kept informed.



‘Managing Public Money’

- A Treasury issued guide for all central government bodies .
- It includes information on:
 - The authority required to spend public money
 - The responsibilities of accounting officers
 - How public bodies should manage themselves and their arms length bodies
 - The funding framework
 - Fees and charges
 - Working with other bodies



Government Departments – Corporate Governance Code

- Departmental Accounting Officer supported by Departmental Board.
- *Corporate Governance in Central Government Departments - Code of Good Practice* – first issued 2005, updated 2011
- Code ensures clear lines of accountability and transparency in decision-making.
- Departmental Board - Ministers, senior officials and non-executive directors. Secretary of State is Chair.
- Board provides leadership through oversight and challenge. Advisory and supervisory - but does not make policy.
- Board ensures governance arrangements in place with any Arms Length Bodies ('ALBs'). A 'Framework Document' sets out the governance for the ALB and the department's oversight arrangements.



Local Accountability

Departmental Accounting officers are responsible for ensuring funds passed to local bodies e.g. Councils, are used properly - but how to give assurance when they do not control the body??

Accounting officers need to ensure that there is robust local accountability in place.

How to assure parliament: Accounting Officers produce annual governance statements as part of their annual report and accounts, and set out their systems for ensuring proper control is achieved. This may comprise a web of checks and balances, using what is available locally.

Some departments produce 'Accountability System Statements' e.g. Department for Health, Department for Communities and Local Government



Some useful links

HM Treasury:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury>

Managing Public Money :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-public-money>

Corporate Governance Code:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/corporate-governance-code-for-central-government-departments>

Accountability System Statement for Local Government:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6264/2110027.pdf