Annex A

A) “Not held” (parts 2 and 3) — scope and search assurance

1. **Please confirm precisely what locations were searched (e.g., audit file(s) for WGA 2023–24, relevant engagement folders, correspondence repositories, and any central risk/issue logs), and the date range applied.**

   The WGA audit file for 2023-24 was reviewed in its entirety. This encompasses all the work done on the audit of the 2023-24 financial statements and the evidence required to support the audit opinion, regardless of the date this work was completed. This file includes, but is not limited to;

   - All reports to management (management letters, planning reports, update reports, completion reports)
   - All our audit query logs (which include those shared with HMT and those used internally)
   - All review points raised during review of the audit file by the engagement lead, manager and/or director
   - Our documentation of significant judgements on the audit and, if relevant, consultation with our technical teams
   - Our work on all the significant risks on the audit whether those arise from the consolidation process itself or are risks that are escalating to the group from individual components
   - Internal briefing documents

   The engagement manager and engagement director conducted searches off all work programmes/folders in the audit and all attachments. Note – we did not restrict our search to documents deemed unlikely to inform the public: we searched all documents.

   The engagement manager and engagement director also searched their inboxes and the Sharepoint folder used to store documentation for the WGA 2023-24 audit.

2. **Please confirm the key search terms used and whether searches included common variants (e.g., “National Loans Fund”, “NLF”, “WGA”, “intra-government”, “elimination”, “offsetting”, “balances”, “reconciliation”, “liabilities persistence”, “unattributed liabilities”, “audit query”, “management letter”, “points for attention”, “issues log”).**

   As per the original request, the terms used were;

   - National Loans Fund

- NLF
- Persistence of debt
- Persistence
- Length of debt
- Repayment of debt
- Attribution of liabilities

As noted above, all audit documents were searched for these terms (including but not limited to all query logs, all reporting to management, all review points on the audit, and all internal briefing documents.

All references to the NLF were extracted.

One reference to a long-standing judgement about the non-elimination of gilts held by pension schemes was identified as being relevant. The judgement and the internal email from the technical team agreeing with this judgement was shared, with individual's email addresses redacted.

(For reference the original request was;

Please disclose any recorded information held (including summaries, management letters, or formal audit correspondence) that evidences whether the NAO has raised any audit observations, concerns, or queries relating to:

- *the persistence of liabilities recorded to the National Loans Fund, and/or*
- *the absence of individual or beneficiary-level attribution for such liabilities.*

As noted in section 1, we went beyond this and felt comfortable conducting a search of all of our working papers, documents, evidence and emails relating to the 2023-24 WGA.

The already returned information is the summary of searching all of those repositories and was not limited to summaries, management letters and formal audit correspondence).

3. **If the NAO holds no recorded information evidencing any audit observations/queries of the type described in parts 2–3, please confirm explicitly whether that is because (i) no such observations/queries were raised, or (ii) they may exist but would be captured only in audit working papers (which my request expressly did not seek).**

We can confirm that it was because (i) no such observations exist.