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**Identity &
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David Moss
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Our Ref: PG/11/202/9139

25 March 2011

Dear Mr Moss

Thank you for your email of 4 March 2011 to the Permanent Secretary. I have been asked to reply.

As per the previous response from Alistair Bridges, the current passport application system is nearing its 'end of life' and requires replacement, therefore it is not appropriate to cancel the contract with CSC as we require a replacement system to ensure we can continue to deliver a good service to our customers.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has also worked with CSC to identify and deliver further savings to the original contract. This has been done by removing requirements we no longer felt were needed, obtaining some services direct from other suppliers and achieving other efficiencies. This has resulted in a reduction of the value of the contract with CSC by approximately £94m and a net saving to IPS of about £14m when taking spend with other suppliers into account.

In addition, IPS estimate that the cancellation of ID cards and the National Identity Register will realise savings of £86m over four years and further savings in the region of £134m will be realised by halting the introduction of fingerprint biometric passports.

Yours sincerely

17 Sarah Rapson

Sarah Rapson
Chief Executive and Registrar General

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