



Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
and Minister for the Cabinet Office  
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London  
SW1A 2AS

Rachel Reeves MP  
Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
**By email only**

Our reference: MC2020/03550

9 April 2020

Dear Rachel,

Many congratulations indeed on your recent appointment as Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

I am writing to you today with an update on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) Verify programme and the provision of digital identity services to government.

As you will know, the Coronavirus crisis has led to unprecedented demand for key online services such as Universal Credit. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has given approval to the Cabinet Office to continue [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) Verify operations for up to a further 18 months.

This will require additional HMG funding, which represents a change in the position announced by the former Minister for Implementation, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP. In the immediate term, these decisions will allow us to take further steps to bolster [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) Verify's resilience and security, ensuring that we can continue to provide crucial online services.

In due course you will be receiving further updates on the Government's plans for digital identity which meet the requirements of both the private and public sectors.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and will be sent to the chair of the Public Accounts Committee. The Government will of course be issuing a formal update via a Written Ministerial Statement when Parliament returns.

**With every good wish,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Gove".

**Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**