



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Rt. Hon Robert Jenrick MP**  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities  
and Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
Government**  
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2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

**Jeremy Pocklington, CB**  
Acting Permanent Secretary

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
Government**  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

23 March 2020

Dear Jeremy,

#### **COVID-19 RESPONSE: MINISTERIAL DIRECTION FOR EARLY PAYMENT OF GRANTS**

1. Thank you for your letter. I have carefully considered the issues you have raised and I agree there is a strong public interest in providing additional cash to local authorities before the end of the month, to allow them to act on the government's recent announcements to tackle Covid-19.
2. This letter therefore provides a Ministerial Direction to formally direct you as Accounting Officer to authorise the early release of the two grants to local authorities totalling £3.4 billion.
3. I note your letter and this reply will be published once the need for confidentiality falls away.
4. I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to colleagues in local authorities and in the department who I know are working very hard and at pace during a challenging time for this country.

**RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP**