



# Department for Communities and Local Government

1 August 2016

The Chief Executive  
County Councils in England  
District Councils in England  
London Borough Councils  
Greater London Authority  
Council of the Isles of Scilly  
The Town Clerk, City of London  
The Clerk  
Fire and Rescue Authorities  
Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE: STATUTORY NOTICE OF DATA COLLECTION** ***Local Government Finance Act 1988, section 139A*** **Data required from local authorities**

- 1. Each year we collect indicator data in order for the Secretary of State to keep under review the Local Government Finance Settlement, and assist with future calculations and analysis. This letter gives statutory notice of data required from the authority by 3 October 2016, or other such date specified, in Annex A. Hard copies of the letter are available on request.**

### **Statutory Notice**

- 2. In accordance with section 139A of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as inserted by paragraph 68 of Schedule 5 to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and amended by paragraph 77 of Schedule 13 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and section 109(2) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999), the authority is hereby required, **if it has not already done so**, to supply in writing to the relevant departments the information listed in Annex A to this letter for authorities in its class. The information is to be supplied on or before 3 October 2016, or such other date specified in Annex A.**
- 3. You should be aware that, if an authority cannot supply the required information on or before 3 October 2016 (or such other specified date), the Secretary of State may, pursuant to section 139A(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, assume the information required to be such as he sees fit.**

4. In accordance with previous practice, if the Secretary of State considers it appropriate to do so, he may rely on estimates based on information supplied to the relevant department at a date earlier than 3 October 2016.

### **Practicalities**

5. The authority may already have submitted the forms specified in Annex A. There is no need to provide the same information a second time. But you may wish to re-check this data. If any amendments are required, they must reach the relevant government department by 3 October 2016, or other such date as specified.
6. Forms should be returned to the address specified for them; there is **no need to send further copies to this part of the Department for Communities and Local Government**. Where a government department has set a date for the return of a form, that date remains relevant for purposes other than in relation to the local government finance settlement analysis.
7. If you have any enquiries relating to particular forms or data please contact the person who deals with those data. A list of these contacts is at Annex B. If you have any general enquiries arising from this letter, please contact **Shafi Khan** or **Karen Sussex** [shafi.khan@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:shafi.khan@communities.gsi.gov.uk) or [Karen.sussex@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.sussex@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Distribution list for notifications of the publication of Settlement documentation**

8. We intend to continue to publish local government finance settlement documentation on our website. In order to inform authorities when information is available we need up to date contact email addresses. I would be grateful if you could send any amendments to [karen.sussex@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:karen.sussex@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

**KAREN SUSSEX**

Local Government Settlement Team

## **Background**

1. The 50% business rates retention system came into force on 1 April 2013 and enables local authorities to retain a share of business rates, and increases on that share, giving them a significant financial incentive to help deliver growth locally. Full details are available on our website, for example in the Practitioner's Guide:  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140505104649/http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1314/settle.htm>
2. Indicator data collected from local authorities and other sources during 2012 were used for the calculation of the 2013-14 settlement and to establish the start-up funding assessments for the new business rates retention system. Details of the indicators and data values used in calculating the 2013-14 settlement are available on our website:  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140505104649/http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1314/tabs1314dat.htm>
3. In February 2016, our previous Secretary of State announced a review of the way that relative needs are calculated, in a world in which all local government spending is funded by local resources not central grant, to be used to determine the transition to 100% business rates retention. We therefore intend to continue our collection of data and maintain our time series which will assist with future calculations and analysis, although the review itself is at an early stage and no decisions have been made. If you have any views on this subject, we would welcome them as responses to the 'Call for evidence on needs and redistribution', published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/self-sufficient-local-government-100-business-rates-retention>, by 12.00am on 26 September. Annex A sets out the data required.