



# Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

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Councillor Matthew Golby  
Leader  
Northamptonshire County Council  
Cabinet Office  
One Angel Square  
Northampton  
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22 January 2019

Our Ref: NCC/FD

Dear Councillor Golby

The Secretary of State's letter of 18 December explained that in view of the decision by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) to undertake a fresh consultation about its library service, there appears to be no good reason to continue consideration of the existing formal complaint under section 10 (1) (a) of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 (the Act) that NCC was failing to carry out its duties relating to the public library service imposed on it by or under the Act. The letter noted that unless we received any representations to the contrary from the complainant by 18 January 2019, the Department would discontinue its current investigation of the complaint.

I can confirm that the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport did not receive any further representations. The original complainant, CILIP, did however write to confirm that it is content to withdraw the original complaint.

In light of this and in view of the current fresh consultation on proposals for the library service, I can confirm that the Secretary of State has authorised the Department to discontinue its investigation into this complaint.

As noted in the Secretary of State's letter of 18 December, the duties under the Act are on-going and the Department will continue to monitor NCC's compliance with its duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service in the same way as with any other local authority. In addition, if the Department receives representations relating to any subsequent decisions by NCC about its library service following the consultation, we will carefully consider these to determine whether they should be treated as a new formal complaint.

A copy of this letter is being provided to the complainant.

Sheila Bennett  
Head of Libraries Strategy and Delivery

