



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Lee Rowley MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
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Lord Evans
Committee on Standards in Public Life
H M Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

17 February 2023

Dear Lord Evans,

Thank you for your email of 4 October to the Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP about the Government response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life report on Local Government Ethical Standards. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities. Please accept my sincerest apologies for the delay in responding.

I would personally like to thank the Committee for the extensive work they undertook conducting this review and for sharing carefully thought-out recommendations. As you have highlighted, the Government responded last year and, in doing so, sought to strike a balance between the issues we believe do not need a legislative response but can be more appropriately, effectively, and swiftly taken forward by local authorities as best practice, the importance of protecting free speech and freedom of association within the law.

We are committed to working to ensure that local government is supported in reinforcing its reputation for ethical local standards and we are keen to build on the sector-wide enthusiasm for improvement, which is evident in your report.

I look forward to working with you and your Committee in the future and thank you again for getting in touch.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP