



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Lee Rowley MP**

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local  
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Clive Betts MP  
Chair of LUHC Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
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30 August 2023

Dear Clive,

I am writing further to my letter of 26 June 2023 to update you on the recruitment campaign for the new Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

### **Appointment of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman**

Following an open competition conducted in line with the Governance Code for Public Appointments, I am pleased to inform you that the Secretary of State has selected Amerdeep Somal as the preferred candidate for this role. I am grateful for the support and advice your Clerks have provided to arrange a pre-appointment scrutiny hearing with Ms Somal on 18 September.

### **Interim arrangements**

I committed to notify you of the interim arrangements I intend to put in place to ensure continuity until the appointment is made. I have recommended that His Majesty extends the term of the interim incumbent, Paul Najsarek, for an additional four months until 31 January 2024.

I look forward to receiving your report following the pre-appointment hearing. Please let me know if you would like any further information.

Yours ever,

**LEE ROWLEY MP**