



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Simon Hoare MP
Minister for Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
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Cllr Shaun Davies – LGA Chair
Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London
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18th January 2024

Dear Shaun,

I have written today to all Leaders of upper tier and unitary authorities in England to draw their attention to the recommendation in Simon Bailey's Independent Review of the Disclosure and Barring Regime (18 April 2023) concerning the eligibility of local councillors for criminal record checks. A copy of my letter, which will be published on GOV.UK, is here enclosed and the review is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-the-disclosure-and-barring-regime>

I am seeking the LGA's support in encouraging councils to adopt, as best practice, enhanced criminal record checks for all councillors being considered for appointment to any committee which discharges education or social services functions. It is desirable in the interests of assuring a consistent approach to safeguarding that all councils adopt this best practice. My view is that there are considerable reputational benefits for councils in being robust on this matter.

As my letter to Leaders makes clear, the Government intends to keep under review the case for mandating the requirement for DBS for relevant councillors. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the LGA's position on this issue with you.

SIMON HOARE MP
Minister for Local Government