



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Max Soule

*Deputy Director, Local Government
Stewardship*

**Department for Levelling Up,
Housing and Communities**

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Eleanor Brazil
By email

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www.gov.uk/dluhc

24 January 2024

Dear Eleanor,

I am writing to thank you for agreeing to act as the Children's Services Panel Member on the London Borough of Croydon Improvement and Assurance Panel. This letter formally confirms your appointment by the Secretary of State to the Panel.

The London Borough of Croydon Improvement and Assurance Panel was established by the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 18 January 2021, following the non-statutory review of the Council conducted in November 2020.

The purpose of the Panel as agreed then was:

- To provide external advice, challenge and expertise to the London Borough of Croydon in developing and implementing their Improvement Plan; and
- To provide assurance to the Secretary of State of the London Borough of Croydon's progress in delivering this Plan.

On 20 July 2023, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities issued Statutory Directions, under section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1999, moving the London Borough of Croydon Improvement and Assurance Panel to a statutory footing. The Directions and accompanying Explanatory Memorandum are published on gov.uk and set out that the Council is directed to adopt any recommendations from the Improvement and Assurance Panel with respect to the London Borough of Croydon Renewal Plan – now the Mayor's Business Plan – and its implementation.

You will be paid a fee for your work and will also be entitled to reasonable expenses. Under the terms of the Directions, it is the Authority's responsibility to meet these costs and the Secretary of State has set these fees for you at £900 per day.

The Secretary of State will need regular assurance that the Council is working at pace to deliver the scale of change that is needed. It has been agreed that the Panel will provide regular reports to the Secretary of State until 20 July 2025 when we hope that the work of the Panel can be concluded.

I would be grateful if you could review, sign and return the accompanying Terms of Engagement for Appointment to the department at interventions@levellingup.gov.uk to

formally accept your appointment. If you have any questions, please do get in touch at any time.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Croydon.

Yours sincerely,

Max Soule

Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship