



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Tony McArdle  
*By email*

**Max Soule**  
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22 February 2024

Dear Tony,

### **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL: INTERVENTION**

I am writing to inform you that the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has nominated you as Lead Commissioner for the purposes of the Directions he made on 22 February 2024 under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999, in relation to Nottingham City Council. I enclose the formal nomination document. I also wanted to thank you for your continued work in Croydon, in your role as Chair of the London Borough of Croydon Improvement and Assurance Panel. I am very grateful for the skills and expertise that you have brought to the Panel and your sustained efforts in supporting the Council's ongoing recovery.

You are nominated as Lead Commissioner at Nottingham City Council from 22 February 2024 for a period of two years. The Secretary of State has today nominated two Commissioners in total. He has also nominated Margaret Lee as Commissioner. A Commissioner for transformation will be nominated in due course. As Lead Commissioner, your role will be to bring together the team, setting the direction and coordinating work to exercise the Directions. Ministers are clear they expect a managed transition from the Improvement and Assurance Board to the Commissioners and that momentum isn't lost, particularly over the critical budget setting period for 2024/25. They are supportive of the Commissioners drawing on reasonable support to facilitate this transition, including from the former Board members, if they wish and in the terms they deem reasonable.

Commissioners will have the roles and responsibilities set out in the Directions, a copy of which I enclose, along with a copy of the Explanatory Memorandum. Under the Directions, Commissioners will act jointly or severally and are accountable to the Secretary of State, in that you have been nominated by him and can have your nomination withdrawn by him. I have also enclosed terms of engagement that you will need to sign and return; your nomination is made on the conditions set out in the terms of engagement.

You will be entitled to a fee for each day you act as a Commissioner. You 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 £1,200 per day. Fees are payable up to a maximum of 150 days per annum. These limits should not be exceeded without prior approval of the Secretary of State. As to reasonable expenses, we would expect these to be in accordance with the rules for senior officers set out in the Authority's staff handbook.

In your role as a public appointee, it may be necessary to disclose information on your remuneration as part of annual accounts and you will be required to consent to the disclosure of this information. By accepting this appointment, you will be indicating your consent to this.

The Secretary of State expects you to take an interest in matters across the Authority, beyond those functions you are exercising, given the importance of ensuring that the Authority is delivering best value in all that it does. You will play an important role in informing Ministers' response to the situation in Nottingham.

You will wish to note that the Secretary of State has asked that you and your fellow Commissioners provide him with an update at six-monthly intervals – or at any other time deemed necessary by the Secretary of State.

You are required to exercise care in the use of information that you acquire in the course of your duties and to protect information that is held in confidence.

You must declare any personal or business interests which may, or may be perceived to, influence your judgement in performing your functions. These interests include (without limitation), personal direct and indirect pecuniary interests, and any such interests of your close family members and/or of people living in the same household as you or your close family members.

You are expected to ensure that acceptance of gifts and hospitality can stand up to public scrutiny. Similarly, care should be taken that no extravagance is involved with working lunches and other social occasions.

In your role as a public appointee, you must act appropriately and in accordance with the required standards. You are required to uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Seven Principles of Public Life (as amended from time to time). You will be required to demonstrate your commitment to the principles and values of public service throughout your appointment.

Your appointment has the status of an office holder and not of an employee. Nothing in this letter shall be construed as, or taken to create, a contract of service or contract for services between yourself and DLUHC, the Crown, or Nottingham City Council.

Should you have any queries or issues, either now or during the Directions period, please contact me in the first instance.

We are very grateful for your commitment to taking up this challenge to improve the performance of Nottingham City Council as Lead Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

**Max Soule**  
Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship

**NOMINATION UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 (DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 15(5) AND (6) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 TO NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, 2024)**

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, in exercise of his powers under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999, and in accordance with the Directions to Nottingham City Council dated 22 February 2024, nominates Tony McArdle as Lead Commissioner to act jointly or severally with the Commissioners for the period beginning on 22 February 2024 and ending on 22 February 2026, or such time as the Secretary of State determines.