



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
*Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing &
Communities*
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations
2 Marsham Street
London
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Josh Goodman
Chief Executive
Office for Local Government

26 March 2024

Dear Josh

Office for Local Government – managing the period without a Chair

I write in response to the sad news that Lord Morse is stepping down from his role as the interim Chair of the Office for Local Government (Oflog). Lord Morse provided invaluable independent advice, challenge and support to the establishment and early development of Oflog. The Department is working at pace to appoint a new interim Chair.

There will be a period, however short, in which you will need to operate without a Chair in place. During that period, your strategic remit and priorities, as outlined in my letter of 15 February 2024, remain the same. In particular, I exhort you to continue to act with the spirit of independence set out in that letter. It remains the case that, once I have agreed your Corporate Plan for 2024 to 2027, Oflog will be free to deliver that plan as it sees fit.

Ministers will need to approve the metrics published on the Data Explorer (following recommendations from Oflog) and should have sight of reports before publication, but Ministers will not exercise any influence over Oflog's outputs, including any reports Oflog publishes on particular local areas.

I thank you and your team for your ongoing work to develop Oflog into an organisation that will truly help local government and the citizens it serves.

With every good wish,

RT HON MICHAEL GOVE MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations