



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Max Soule
Deputy Director, Local Government
Stewardship and Interventions

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and
Local Government**
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Denise Murray
Commissioner
Slough Borough Council
By email

20 November 2024

Dear Denise,

I am writing to you to confirm that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government extended your nomination as Commissioner for the purposes of the Directions made on 20 November 2024 under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999, in relation to Slough Borough Council. These Directions extend the intervention until 30 November 2026. They replace the Directions issued on 1 December 2021 (updated on 1 September 2022 and 22 May 2023) and accompanying nomination with immediate effect and will be published alongside the Explanatory Memorandum on gov.uk.

Ministers are very grateful for the rigour and dedication that you have brought to your role supporting Slough Borough Council since you were appointed on 22 May 2023. Whilst many challenges remain, the progress made to date by the Council would not have been possible without the oversight and direction provided by you and your fellow Commissioners.

As Commissioner you will have the roles and responsibilities set out in the new 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and are accountable to the Secretary of State, in that you have been nominated by them and can have your nomination withdrawn by them. I have also enclosed terms of engagement that you will need to sign and return; your appointment is made on the conditions set out in the terms of engagement.

Arrangements for your reasonable expenses will continue unchanged and you will continue to be entitled to a fee for each day you act as Commissioner. These fees are set at £1,100 per day. Fees will be payable to you 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 again expect these to be in accordance with the rules for senior officers set out in the Council'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 continue to take an interest in matters across the Council, beyond those functions you are exercising, given the importance of ensuring that the Council is delivering best value in all that it does. You will continue to play an important role in informing Ministers' response to the situation in Slough, including what the right medium to long term plan might be for Slough given the scale of the financial and wider challenges facing the Council.

The Secretary of State has also asked that you continue to work closely with Paul Moffat, the Children's Services Commissioner and in the work to improve Children's Social Care with Slough Children's First and in the work to improve SEND services in Slough Borough Council. The intervention programme requires genuine collaboration across education, social care and financial leadership in authorities, for the long-term benefit of children and young people, and as such your involvement will be critical to Slough's progress.

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 by 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 MHCLG, the Crown, or Slough Borough Council.

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for assisting in this intervention. We are very grateful for your continued commitment to work with the Council in partnership to support focus on recovery and reform.

Yours sincerely,

MAX SOULE
Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship and Interventions

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

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, in exercise of powers under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 and in accordance with the Directions to Slough Borough Council dated 20 November 2024 nominates Denise Murray as Commissioner for the period beginning on 20 November 2024 and ending on 30 November 2026 or such time as the Secretary of State determines.