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**Email: [chair@public-standards.gov.uk](mailto:chair@public-standards.gov.uk)**

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local  
Government

Sent by email

**Committee  
on  
Standards in  
Public Life**

21 October 2024

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

I am writing as Chair of the independent Committee on Standards in Public Life. The Committee has a long-standing interest in local government standards, which it most recently considered in its 2019 report, [Local Government and Ethical Standards](#).<sup>1</sup>

As part of our research for that report, we took a wide range of evidence, and identified best practice in councils and local authorities. Our report, which we would like to draw to your attention, made recommendations to improve the adjudication of standards issues at a local level whilst maintaining the benefits of devolved arrangements. Those recommendations were rejected by the previous government but they were well received by the sector at the time and continue to be mentioned today.

High standards of conduct in local government demonstrate that decisions directly affecting the quality of life of people in our communities are being taken in the public interest. We believe that this is critical if local government is to maintain the public trust that it needs.

Given the government's wish to reshape the relationship between national and local government and the importance of having arrangements in place to maintain high ethical standards, it would be helpful to know if the government is open to considering the recommendations proposed in that report.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this, and other aspects of our work with you, if you would find that helpful.

I am copying this letter to Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office; and Darren Tierney, Director General, Propriety & Constitution Group, Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely

**Doug Chalmers**  
**Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life**

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