



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Jim McMahon OBE MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
English Devolution*
2 Marsham Street
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Doug Chalmers
Chair
Committee on Standards in Public Life

27 November 2024

Dear Doug,

Thank you for your letter of 21 October to the Deputy Prime Minister, about reforms to the local government standards regime. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Thank you for drawing my attention to the recommendations made in the Committee's 2019 Review of Local Government Ethical Standards. Elected members have a duty to consistently demonstrate and promote the highest standards of conduct and public service. The Government is committed to working with the local government sector to strengthen standards and governance arrangements to ensure a fit for purpose sector that can deliver for the public.

As you are no doubt aware, the Deputy Prime Minister recently announced in a speech at the Local Government Association Conference on 24 October, the Government's intention to give local authorities powers to address poor conduct. We will shortly be consulting on reforms to the local government standards framework. We intend to consult on a range of measures to address this challenge, including a proposal to enable local authorities to suspend members who violate codes of conduct.

I welcome your kind invitation to meet to discuss our proposals. I am hopeful you will be able to attend a roundtable that I will be holding with key stakeholders in the sector. My office will reach out to you with further details once the standards consultation has been published.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write and share your views on this important matter. I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

JIM MCMAHON OBE MP

Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution