



**Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government**

James Blythe

*Deputy Director, Local Government
Stewardship*

**Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local
Government**

2nd Floor, Fry Building
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Sir Tony Redmond
By email

11 December 2025

Dear Sir Tony,

I am writing to inform you that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has again appointed you as Lead Commissioner for the purposes of the Directions he issued on 25 May 2023 under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to Woking Borough Council.

You are now appointed as Lead Commissioner for the period until 24 May 2028, to work closely with Richard Carr as Managing Director Commissioner, Barry Scar as Finance Commissioner and Mervyn Greer as Commissioner. The Secretary of State expects that you will work closely with them to deliver improvement at the Council.

As Commissioner, you will continue to have the roles and responsibilities set out in the Directions, a copy of which I enclose along with a copy of an Explanatory Memorandum. Under the Directions, you are accountable to the Secretary of State in that you have been nominated by him and can have your nomination withdrawn by him.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.

You will continue to be entitled to a fee for each day you act as Commissioner. You will also be entitled to reasonable expenses. Under the terms of the Directions, it is the Council'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 Council's staff handbook. You will make sure that any payments from the Council in relation to your existing responsibilities are consistent with the principle that you are only paid once for your activities and are consistent with the Seven Principles of Public Life.

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.

As you know, 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.

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 the Council.

In addition to the administrative support, you will be provided by the Council, the Department has made arrangements for a civil servant to be appointed as the Chief of Staff for Commissioners, and further resource could be made available during the intervention as required.

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 commitment to taking up this challenge to improve the performance of Woking Borough Council so that it effectively serves and protects the people of the area.

Yours sincerely

JAMES BLYTHE

Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship and Interventions