



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Sajeeda Rose
Chief Executive
Nottingham City Council
By email

James Blythe
*Deputy Director, Local Government
Stewardship and Interventions*

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

www.gov.uk/mhclg

24 March 2026

Dear Sajeeda,

I am writing to inform you that after careful consideration, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government is satisfied that your Authority is failing to comply with the requirements of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999 (“the 1999 Act”) and has today made Directions under Section 15(5) of the 1999 Act in relation to your Authority. I enclose a copy of the Directions, together with an Explanatory Memorandum, which will be published on gov.uk, together with supporting material.

The Directions issued on 24 March 2026 implement an intervention package which is described below. You will see in the Directions and Explanatory Memorandum that the Secretary of State has today appointed Sharon Kemp as Ministerial Envoy. He is confident that her extensive knowledge and experience will help the Council to build further on the improvements already underway. A second Envoy appointment will be made in due course.

Your Authority is directed to cooperate with the Ministerial Envoys, who are accountable to the Secretary of State in that they have been appointed by him and can have their appointments withdrawn by him. The Ministerial Envoys are in place to provide support in an advisory and mentoring capacity to ensure the Authority takes the necessary steps to achieve the best possible outcomes for Nottingham residents and the public purse. Accordingly, the Ministerial Envoys will periodically report on

whether the Authority has made sufficient improvement to be able to comply with its Best Value Duty on a sustainable basis.

The Directions require your Authority to take certain actions as set out in Annex A. In summary:

- Work with the Ministerial Envoys to establish a Continuous Improvement Committee with appropriate membership, including external Leads for Adults Social Care and Children's Services.
- Work with the Ministerial Envoys to prepare a Continuous Improvement Plan within three months, and respond promptly and in public to any Committee recommendations on the Plan and its implementation.
- To continue to work with other councils in the Nottinghamshire area for unitary local government.
- To cooperate with the Ministerial Envoys and provide assistance and access to them as set out in the Directions and required to deliver improvement.

I appreciate that the Authority is already taking steps in relation to these actions. The Secretary of State's clear expectation is that the Authority will retain responsibility for leading its own improvements, with the necessary support from the Ministerial Envoys.

The Directions also require your Authority to pay the Ministerial Envoys reasonable expenses and such fees as the Secretary of State determines to be paid to them. The Secretary of State is mindful of the need for the remuneration to represent value for money for local taxpayers. In recognition of the nature and scale of the intervention, the Secretary of State has determined fees of £800 per day for each of the Ministerial Envoys, each with a maximum of 75 days annually. The Secretary of State also expects the Ministerial Envoys to be paid reasonable expenses in accordance with the rules for senior officers set out in your Authority's staff handbook.

The Directions will remain in force until 30 September 2027, with a review point after twelve months, unless the Secretary of State considers it appropriate to amend or revoke them at an earlier date.

The Department is keen to explore with your Authority and the Ministerial Envoys whether we can provide further support which could help to drive service improvements and improvement of outcomes experienced by your residents. This support offer, which will be developed in collaboration with other government departments, will sit alongside the statutory intervention and will be based around specific service outcome challenges that have been identified by the Authority, including additional support on children's services and adult social care.

Finally, the Secretary of State has asked for a report from the Ministerial Envoys within six months and thereafter at six-monthly intervals, or at such other times agreed with the Ministerial Envoys. This allows for a process for regular review. The Secretary of State has not ruled out the possibility that further actions be taken in the future.

I am copying this letter to the Authority's Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

Yours sincerely,

James Blythe

Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship and Interventions