



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Alison McGovern MP**

Minister of State for Local Government  
and Homelessness

2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Councillor Neghat Khan  
Nottingham City Council Leader

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15 July 2026

Dear Councillor Khan,

I wrote to you on 24 March setting out that, after consideration of the representations received, the Secretary of State was satisfied that the Authority is failing to comply with the requirements of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999 (“the 1999 Act”) and had issued Directions to the Council to implement the proposals, under section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1999. A Ministerial Envoy was appointed, and I explained a second Ministerial Envoy would be appointed in due course.

I am writing to inform you that the Secretary of State has today appointed Sir Stephen Houghton CBE as Political Envoy to provide oversight, support and guidance to help the Council drive forward improvement. Whilst the Council will cover the cost of the Political Envoy, in line with practice set out in statutory guidance, Sir Stephen Houghton will spend a maximum of 75 days supporting the Council at a daily fee of £800, significantly fewer days than the Commissioners’ maximum of 150 days each.

I remain optimistic that, as Council Leader, you will continue to work constructively with the Ministerial Envoy team to deliver the necessary changes and embed a culture of continuous improvement for the benefit of the people of Nottingham.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Executive.

Yours ever,

**ALISON MCGOVERN MP**

Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness