



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Dear Robert, Linda and Steven,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February about the Government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL's) review of Local Government Ethical Standards.

It is crucial that local authority members inspire the confidence and trust of their electorate and the Government is committed to supporting local government to build and maintain its reputation for operating with high ethical standards.

I acknowledge that the Government response to the CSPL's review is overdue and apologise for the fact that publication has been held up, firstly due to the 2019 election and then subsequently in the urgent business of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, I can assure you that the Government recognises it has a key part to play in ensuring the standards framework is clear, effective and serves to enhance the reputation of local government, particularly regarding the behavioural difficulties faced by local councils. We have considered the Committee's recommendations carefully, including the recommendation to introduce a time-limited sanction of suspension for councillors, and we intend to publish our formal response in due course.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to me about this important subject.

LUKE HALL MP