



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

Jim McMahon OBE MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
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Your reference: SD/mc
Our reference: MC2024/25289

Cllr Stephen Davies
Gloucestershire County Council
Cabinet Office, Shire Hall,
Westgate Street,
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Via email

10 December 2024

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your letter of 16 October 2024 in which you highlight a resolution recently passed by Gloucestershire County Council related to standards and conduct in local government.

The Government is sympathetic to the view that whilst the vast majority of local elected members maintain high standards of conduct and are driven by duty and service, even a very small minority of members can have a serious destabilising effect, potentially bringing a council into disrepute and distracting from the critical business of delivering for residents.

We consider the current local government standards regime is broadly ineffectual, inconsistently applied, and lacking in adequate powers to effectively sanction members found in serious breach of their codes of conduct. We are actively considering options to strengthen the standards regime for local government and provide councils with more effective means to address serious misconduct by elected members, including a proposal to allow for the suspension of members who violate codes of conduct.

In due course we will be consulting with local authorities, sector representative bodies, and other key stakeholders to ensure a wide range of views are heard. When the consultation is published, I encourage your council to respond so that your views and experiences can be taken account when analysing the responses that will frame future policy and legislative change.

Thank you again for taking the time to reach out regarding this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

JIM MCMAHON OBE MP

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