

**Robert Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer

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Jim McMahon OBE MP  
Minister of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government  
Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
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**By email to: [jim.mcmahon.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jim.mcmahon.mp@parliament.uk)**

8 August 2024

Dear Mr McMahon,

As Chief Executive of SLCC, I represent clerks serving over 5,000 town, parish and community councils across England and Wales. These councils range from large towns with populations exceeding 50,000 to small rural parishes of just a few hundred residents. Despite their diversity, they all share a common purpose: to serve as the first tier of local government, directly engaging with the communities they represent.

First and foremost, on behalf of SLCC, please accept my congratulations on your appointment as Minister of State. We look forward to working with you to strengthen local governance and improve outcomes for communities across the country.

I write specifically with reference to your announcement on 30 July concerning local audit. We welcome your commitment to take action on the backlog and support the plans you have presented.

Within the local council sector, our concerns relate to the £6.5m threshold for full audit. The removal of the threshold has broad support across our sector and has previously received informal support from the Ministry. We believe it could be taken forward during this first phase of the overhaul of local government audit to prevent any further smaller authorities contributing to the backlog.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this, and other aspects of local council audit, with you and our sector partners who, I'm aware, have been in correspondence with you in this matter.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment and thank you for the commitments you have made.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Smith  
Chief Executive  
Society of Local Council Clerks