



**Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities**

Councillor Ian Ward

By email only

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Lee Rowley MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Local Government and Building Safety*

***Department for Levelling Up, Housing
and Communities***

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11 April 2023

Dear Ian,

I am writing to express my concern over issues which have come to my attention via the DfE Commissioner into SEND, the Local Government Social Care Ombudsman and the Housing Ombudsman in relation to Birmingham City Council. These reports include concerns over the governance arrangements in place across the council which fall under my remit.

I am encouraged by the work of the Chief Executive in reducing the churn of senior officers along with the internal review of governance that is currently taking place, however I would like to see a further, independent, external review of governance completed at the earliest opportunity which both diagnoses the issues in your authority and, where possible, provides assurance that action is taking place to remedy these.

I encourage your officers to engage with DLUHC officials on the external review. Officials will be in touch to arrange a suitable touchpoint in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP