



COUNCILLOR IAN WARD
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Our Ref: IW/1738tr

27 April 2023

SENT VIA E-MAIL ONLY TO: PSLeeRowley@levellingup.gov.uk

Lee Rowley MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government
and Building Safety
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1 4DF

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 11th April 2023 expressing your concerns about governance related issues cited in recent reports from the DfE Commissioner, Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman and Housing Ombudsman.

The issues identified in the various reports are being responded to through improvement plans and activity, much of which is reported to external boards (e.g. SEND Improvement Board) and monitoring meetings (e.g. Housing Ombudsman).

I note your desire to see a further independent, external review of governance to provide assurance that action is taking place to respond to the issues reported. Council officers are currently in discussion with DLUHC officials about this, considering both the scope and the timing of a review to ensure it compliments other improvement activity already planned or in progress.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Ian Ward
Leader of Birmingham City Council