



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Paul Scully MP

*Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up,
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**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**

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Justin Madders MP
House of Commons
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7 September 2022

Dear Justin,

Thank you for your letter of 8 July, to the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP on behalf of your constituent, Ms Alison Kunaj, of Neston Town Council, about civility and respect towards local councillors and officers. I have been asked to reply as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Thank you for sharing Neston Town Council's views on civility and respect for local government officers and members. I can assure you that the Government remains committed to preventing unacceptable behaviour such as bullying and harassment and to safeguarding against intimidation.

As Ms Kunaj may be aware, we issued our response to the Committee for Standards in Public Life (CSPL) review of Local Government Ethical Standards on 18 March 2022. The full response can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-ethical-standards-government-response-to-the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life-report>.

Every local authority, including parish and town councils, is required to adopt a code of conduct for local authority members. As committed to in our response to the CSPL review, the Government will engage with sector representative bodies of councillors and officers of all tiers of local government to seek views on options to strengthen sanctions to address breaches of the code which fall below the bar of criminal activity and related sanctions, but involve serious incidents of bullying and harassment or disruptive behaviour.

Further, the Government is open and receptive to further steps to help prevent intimidation. We will therefore engage with interested parties on the best means to ensure that candidates and councillors are not required publicly to disclose their home address.

Thank you for taking the time to share Ms Kunaj's concerns.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL SCULLY MP