



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Marcus Jones MP  
Minister for Local Government

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Marcus,

**Re: Letter to Mr Damian Eaton of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 ref: 3508904**

I write to thank you for your response to Mr Damian Eaton of the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, and respond to the points you make.

I welcome your acknowledgement of the commitment of hard working staff in Local Government, and their role in delivering key services to the public through challenging times. It is worth noting that these committed staff, through opting to continue applying their noted skills and experience in the employ of Local Government this year, will be electing to give themselves a real terms pay cut of roughly 2%. This is due to the differential between the public sector increment (1%), and the current rate of inflation (3%). This situation has been similar or worse across the last seven years, and has understandably led to a situation whereby 71% of all Local Authorities are reporting problems with staff recruitment and retention, staff crucial in guiding Local Government through the challenging circumstances you note.

In your response, you however appear to give the impression that the policy of National Government is not a variable of significance to the process of setting Local Government pay. This is not the case. It is no coincidence Local Government pay rises have been restricted as described above over this last seven-year period, during which Local Government has shouldered a disproportionate burden of the National Government's policies of fiscal restriction collectively known as 'austerity'. Discussions on these matters between national employers and unions clearly and crucially take place in the context of the funding available to Local Authorities, a major contributor to which remains the HM treasury in accordance with Government policy in this area. As clearly set out in our motion of September 14<sup>th</sup>, to which this correspondence pertains, Stockport Council is requesting that HM Government review policy in relation to Local Government funding as a whole; as opposed to

relating to pay considerations in isolation. Subsequent to this, pay review bodies can then begin their work free from current constraints, liberated therefore to reconsider the Local Government 'pay cap' in discussion with the relevant unions.

To suggest these bodies can make such decisions independent of Government policy is both erroneous and appears to misread the nature of both the correspondence at hand, and the Stockport MBC motion of September 14<sup>th</sup> which stimulated this. I ask therefore that you pass on the forgoing clarified points to the relevant authorities, and look forward to your correspondence on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Cllr David Sedgwick,  
Cabinet Member for Reform and Governance, Stockport MBC.**