



**Department for
Communities and
Local Government**

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**

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www.gov.uk/dclg

Our Ref:3436605
Your Ref:DE

Date:15 August 2017

Dear Mr Eaton

Thank you for your letter of 10 April to Edward Timpson MP, then Minister for Children and Families, about the council tax exemption introduced by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. Your letter was forwarded to this Department since we are responsible for policy on council tax. Please accept my apologies for the protracted delay in you receiving a response. It is not clear to me why there was such a long period before this was allocated to my team for answer, but I am very sorry that you have had to wait so long.

The Department has noted the decision of the Council to introduce a council tax exemption for those care leavers up to the age of 25. It notes the Council's view that the exemption would provide significant benefit to care leavers, whilst having minimal impact upon council finances. This follows similar provisions that have been brought forward by a number of councils.

Your letter also highlights the Council's resolution to urge the Government to introduce a national exemption for such care leavers. Given the flexibility that local councils already have to reflect local circumstances and to bring forward their own exemptions and discounts to take account of those circumstances, the Government has no plans to introduce such an exemption.

Thank you for taking the time to write to advise the Government of the work your Council is taking forward.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bates

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