



Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Dennis Skinner,
Head of Improvement, Workforce, Leadership & Productivity
Local Government Association

cc. Rishi Sunak MP,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, MHCLG

cc. Jacqui McKinlay
Chief Executive, CfPS

11 January 2018

Dear Dennis,

Thank you for your letter of 20 December following our conversation that day regarding the Committee's recent report into the effectiveness of overview and scrutiny committees in local authorities, and your concerns with how the £21 million funding referred to in paragraph 75 of that report is described.

I appreciate and acknowledge that the £21 million funding to which the report refers to in paragraph 75 covers the wider LGA improvement offer which scrutiny is only one part of. I am happy to make that fact clear by proposing to the Committee that your letter and my response on this issue is reported to the House and published on the Committee's website alongside the report. I also appreciate the further information you provide on how the LGA itself monitors and evaluates the programmes related to this funding, and how it works with the Government on this. The Committee's wider point that the Government should improve its monitoring of such spending remains important, however, and I hope the Department will still consider this issue carefully.

I am copying this response to the new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Rishi Sunak MP, and to the Chief Executive of the CfPS, Jacqui McKinlay.

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Communities and Local Government Committee