



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rishi Sunak MP
Minister for Local Government

*Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government*
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Clive Betts MP
Chair
Housing, Communities and Local Government
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Tel: 0303 444 3460
Email: rishi.sunak@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

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Dear Clive,

During the Westminster Hall debate of 17 May on the effectiveness of local authority overview and scrutiny committees, I promised to speak to the local government sector about these committees' powers to access information and their appetite for a greater ability to scrutinise external bodies.

As you will be aware, I accepted the Select Committee's recommendation to update the statutory guidance that was issued in 2006. To inform the writing of this guidance, my officials will be engaging over the Summer with individuals and organisations that have practical experience of scrutiny.

I will ensure that this engagement covers committees' powers to access information and their ability to scrutinise external bodies, and I will write to you again once I have considered their views.

RISHI SUNAK MP