



Ministry of Housing,  
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Dear Chris,

Thank you for your email dated 12 February, on behalf of your constituent Cllr Mario Creatura of Croydon Council, regarding the Committee on Standards in Public Life's recommendation to introduce powers to sanction councillors who breach their code of conduct. I appreciate how important this matter is to Cllr Creatura and I am grateful to you for contacting this department with his concerns.

It is crucial that local authority members inspire the confidence and trust of their electorate and the Government is committed to supporting local government to build and maintain its reputation for operating with high ethical standards. I am grateful to your constituent for sharing his views on the matter.

I acknowledge that the Government response to the CSPL's report is overdue and apologise for the fact that publication has been held up, firstly due to the 2019 election and then subsequently in the urgent business of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, I can assure you that the Government recognises it has a key part to play in ensuring the standards framework is clear, effective and serves to enhance the reputation of local government. We have considered the Committee's recommendations carefully, in particular the recommendation to introduce a time-limited sanction of suspension for councillors and the associated safeguards, and we intend to publish our formal response in due course.

I trust this information is helpful and I thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours ever,

**EDDIE HUGHES MP**