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Dear Ian

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT - APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

Thank you for your letter of 2 October to the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government about the appointment of Independent Persons and them not being former members of the Standards set up under the old regime. I am replying because my responsibilities include local government matters. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

I note the concerns of the Council with regards this issue. My predecessor Bob Neill, in his letter to Local Authority Leaders of 28 June, made it clear that there needs to be a clean break between the old and the new regime. The new regime must be seen as a fresh start, without there being anything from the old regime being in place. As you note in your letter, we have allowed a transitional period until June next year to allow the appointment of new Independent Person. The Government has no current plans to review the requirements, but is committed to carrying out a review three to five years after implementation.



**BRANDON LEWIS MP**