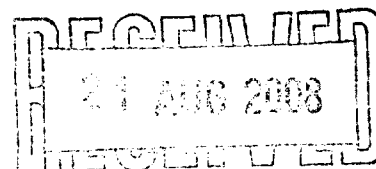


15 August 2008

Mr Steven Quayle
Director of Law and Corporate
Governance/Monitoring Officer
Slough Borough Council
Town Hall
Bath Road
Slough
Berkshire, SL1 3UQ

Our Ref: HB/16/024206/08
Your Ref: SQ/JC



Dear Mr Quayle,

Thank you for your letter to Hazel Blears of 22 July on behalf of Slough Borough Council's Standards Committee about the new devolved conduct regime for local authority members in England. I have been asked to respond as the official with responsibility for this policy area.

The Department acknowledges that devolving responsibility for the initial assessment of misconduct allegations against local authority members, and in most cases the investigation and determination of such allegations, to local authority standards committees will have resource implications on local authorities. The Government has therefore, in accordance with the new burdens principle, included an extra £2.3 million per annum in the Local Government Finance settlement to reflect the estimated additional cost to authorities.

Yours sincerely,



Karl Holden
Policy Adviser