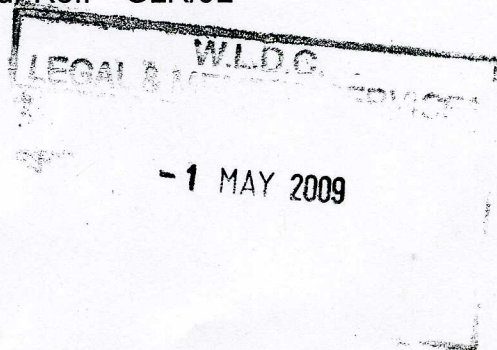


28 April 2009

Gillian Rowe
West Lancashire DC
PO Box 16
52 Derby St
Ormskirk
West Lancashire
L39 2DF

Our Ref:
Your Ref: GLR/JL



Dear Gillian,

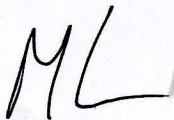
Standards Committees - Local Determinations and Costs

Thank you for your letter of 23 February to Hazel Blears about the local assessment of allegations of misconduct against members and co-opted members of local authorities in England. Your letter has been passed to me for response because I work in the team that deals with the conduct regime. I apologise for the length of time it has taken to respond to your letter.

We appreciate West Lancashire District Council's hard work in implementing the provisions of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 and the new devolved conduct regime for members and co-opted members of local authorities in England.

I acknowledge that devolving responsibility for the initial assessment of misconduct allegations, and in most cases the investigation and determination of such allegations, to 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,



Mark Coram