



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

14 December 2022

Dear Michael,

Local Government Finance Settlement

The Committee has noted that you made a Written Ministerial Statement on Monday 12 December regarding the [Local Government Finance Settlement](#) for the next two years for English councils.

While we welcome the information provided, we are dismayed that this was not an Oral Statement, which would give Members from all parties the opportunity to raise questions about the proposed settlement.

We understand, via a report in the Local Government Chronicle, dated 24 November, that the draft settlement will appear in the week of 19 December. As you will be aware, a debate on the draft settlement has not been announced prior to the Christmas recess.

We note that last year there was also no debate on the draft settlement in the December. We considered this to be an exception, as long standing practice has been that there is a debate on the same day that the draft figures are published.

Can you therefore please address the following questions:

1. When does the Government intend on publishing the draft settlement?
2. Does the Government intend to schedule a debate on the draft settlement?
 - a. If so, when?
 - b. If the Government does not intend to schedule a debate, is this an ongoing change in practice, and could this be communicated to all Members?

We would appreciate a swift reply to this letter, as the Government's intentions will inform what action the Committee wishes to take in scrutinising the draft settlement.



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It will also be helpful for those Members who may wish to apply for a debate on this matter in Backbench time, if no debate is being proposed by the Government.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Betts'.

Mr Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee