



**Levelling Up, Housing
and Communities
Committee**

**Josh Goodman
Chief Executive
Office for Local Government
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London
SW1P 4DF**

29 April 2024

**Follow-up to oral evidence session with Government Minister Simon Hoare, 22
April 2024**

Dear Josh,

As you will be aware, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee recently held its final oral evidence session as part of its inquiry into Oflog with Local Government Minister Simon Hoare and Catherine Frances, Director General, Local Government, Resilience and Communities.¹ In response to many of our questions, Minister Hoare and Ms Frances suggested that the Committee follow up with you to ascertain further information where they were unable to do so². As such, please you could answer the Committee's questions as set out below:

- 1. What were Oflog's key findings from the Early Warning Conversation pilot it conducted with Oxfordshire County Council in February?**
- 2. Oflog's Draft Corporate Plan says that Early Warning Conversation review teams will include individuals such as serving or recent Chief Executives, Section 151 Officers and serving or recent Leaders of other local authorities.³ Can you confirm whether this is the approach Oflog took with the Oxfordshire pilot, and whether the plan is to continue to compose panels in this way going forward?**
- 3. Does Oflog plan on conducting further Early Warning Conversation pilots, and what are your timelines for completing Oflog's first 'full' Early Warning Conversations?**
- 4. Can you explain what level of detail will be included in the reports that local authorities will be required to produce and publish following Early Warning Conversations?**
- 5. How many members of the public have made use of the Data Explorer to date?**

¹ [Oral evidence](#) taken on 22 April 2024, HC (2024-2025) 64

² [Qq](#) 203, 204, 207, 208, 216, 229, 230, 231

³ Office for Local Government, [Office for Local Government \(Oflog\) Corporate Plan – 2024 to 2027](#) (Draft for consultation), February 2024, p 11

6. Do you have any feedback you can share from members of the public who have used the Data Explorer? In particular, any feedback that relates to how it can be improved?

Please could you reply to each of these questions by **Friday 11 May**.

Best wishes,

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

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