

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
The Speaker
Speaker's House
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

5 November 2025

Dear Mr Speaker

**Local Government Boundary Commission for England:
Supplementary Estimate Submission for 2025/26**

I am writing to inform you, in advance of our meeting with the Speaker's Committee on 11 November, that the Commission intends to return £500,000 of its allocated budget for 2025/26 through the supplementary estimates process.

As we discussed with the Committee at our session in March, this provision was originally included in our main supply estimate in anticipation of potential demands arising from the English Devolution White Paper and, specifically, local government reorganisation (LGR).

At that time, the scope and pace of LGR were uncertain, and we sought to ensure that the Commission would be equipped to respond swiftly and effectively to any requests for support. The additional funding was intended to provide flexibility, allowing us to bring in temporary staff or specialist expertise, such as legal advice, to meet emerging needs.

Since then, our role in supporting LGR has become clearer. We have worked closely with both MHCLG and local authorities to provide our expertise in support of their work on councillor numbers and interim electoral arrangements for new authorities. This has included delivering webinars, publishing guidance, and responding to individual requests for advice. We believe that these have been useful inputs into the process and we will continue to offer support throughout the LGR exercise.

In the event, we have been able to complete this activity without the need for additional staff and within our core resources. This has been possible by making effective use of capacity within our review teams, facilitated by a reduced review programme following our decision to pause activity in areas invited to submit proposals for new unitary authorities.

We are now confident that the remaining work during this financial year can be delivered without drawing on this additional LGR budgetary provision. It is appropriate, therefore, to

return these funds, reflecting our commitment to only spend what is necessary to deliver our objectives.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to work with MHCLG to develop further our understanding of the ways in which we can assist LGR over the coming year and beyond. This will ensure that our 2026/27 estimate reflects a robust understanding of the likely demands and associated requirements.

I hope this provides helpful context for our decision and reinforces our commitment to responsible financial stewardship whilst meeting the expectations placed on the Commission.

We look forward to meeting with you, and your Committee, on 11 November and will be pleased to discuss this matter with you then. In the meantime, should you require any further information in advance of that meeting, our Director of Corporate Services, Bipon Bhakri (bipon.bhakri@lgbce.org.uk), will be pleased to assist.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Mellors', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Colin Mellors

Chair

Local Government Boundary Commission for England