



**Housing, Communities
and Local Government
Committee**

**Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF**

20 October 2026

Dear Angela,

MHCLG ministerial responsibilities and No10 North

We look forward to welcoming you to give evidence to our Committee on 11 November 2026. Ahead of the session, we would be grateful if you would provide us with an update on your ministerial responsibilities in light of recent Machinery of Government changes.

On 21 July 2026, a written ministerial statement confirmed plans for:

[...] targeted transfers of overarching strategic functions: moving local economic growth and devolution strategy from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and local economic growth policy from HM Treasury directly into No 10 North. These departments will continue to exercise some remaining functions in these areas. This ensures that local economic growth policy and regional empowerment are no longer isolated from one another, establishing No 10 North as the dominant driver of the UK's economy.¹

The statement also announced that the Office for Equality and Opportunity will move to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The statement said that "[w]here possible, these Machinery of Government changes will take practical effect from today [21 July]".²

¹ [Machinery of Government Changes](#), 21 July 2026, HLWS298

² [Machinery of Government Changes](#), 21 July 2026, HLWS298



Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

We are aware that, since this announcement was made, No10 North has been involved with aspects of policy which would formerly have been primarily within MHCLG's remit, including:

- engagement with MPs on Local Government Reorganisation;³
- correspondence with the Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission concerning political party spending limits;⁴ and
- oversight of the new cross-government taskforce on community renewal, which is developing aspects of high streets policy.⁵

In addition, in a speech announcing No10 North on 29 June 2026, before becoming Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP said "No10 North will oversee the biggest council housebuilding programme since the post-war period".⁶

We would be grateful for clarity on the following questions:

- **Which specific policy matters concerning "local economic growth and devolution strategy" are now the responsibility of No10 North, and which "remaining functions" are the responsibility of MHCLG? Have all of these changes now taken practical effect?**
- **Does the government consider that policy in areas such as community regeneration, political party spending limits, and council housebuilding may fall within the broad definition of "local economic growth and devolution strategy"?**
- **Who is the final decisionmaker in policy areas where responsibilities overlap between MHCLG and No10 North?**
- **Do you have strategic oversight responsibility for the Office for Equality and Opportunity as Secretary of State, or do these responsibilities lie solely with the Minister for Women and Equalities?**

³ HC Deb, 1 September 2026, [vol 790, cols 27-28](#)

⁴ Gov.UK, [Letter to the Electoral Commission: spending limits review](#) (29 August 2026)

⁵ Gov.UK, [Prime Minister puts public control, community regeneration and cost-of-living at the heart of plans to 'rewire Britain'](#)

⁶ Manchester Evening News, [Andy Burnham's speech in full as he promises to give UK 'new direction'](#)



**Housing, Communities
and Local Government
Committee**

We would be grateful for your response by 5 November 2026, ahead of your attendance to give evidence in the following week.

Best wishes,

Ms Abena Oppong-Asare MP
Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee