



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

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Minister for Local Government
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Chief Executives of Local Authorities in England

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Dear Colleague,

Withholding details of councillors' sensitive interests and home addresses

In response to recent concerns from elected members about intimidation in public life, I want to ensure that all councillors and elected mayors are aware of the sensitive provisions in Section 32 of the Localism Act 2011.¹

The sensitive interests' provisions provide for details about a registered interest to be excluded from versions of the Register of Interests available for public inspection (or published online) where a member and monitoring officer agree that the disclosure of that interest could lead to violence or intimidation of them or their family. They provide for members to disclose that they have an interest but for the details to be withheld from the public register.

On receipt of this letter, I would be grateful to you bringing the contents to the attention of all current members of your Council and your Council's Monitoring Officer. The Government encourages monitoring officers to look sympathetically at accommodating requests for the withholding of home addresses from published versions of the register of interests where there are legitimate concerns of violence or intimidation.

Previously the Prime Minister, when Minister for Local Government in 2019, wrote to all Leaders of local authorities in England on this matter. I want to refresh awareness of the sensitive interests' provisions among the current cohort of councillors in response to recently raised concerns about councillors' personal safety.

This letter will be published on gov.uk for guidance purposes. I remain grateful to all those who serve their communities as local council members.

SIMON HOARE MP
Minister for Local Government

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/section/32/enacted>