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4th February 2014

Paul Rowsell
Deputy Director – Democracy
Dept. for Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Mr Rowsell,

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council: Proposed Intervention

Further to your letter to me earlier today, setting out the Department's proposed intervention package in the light of the CGI report, while the Council will be writing to you more substantively when all the details have been digested in full, I wanted to respond to you quickly to seek clarification on some key issues.

Firstly, we wish to work with the Department as a top priority to agree the process and timescales around the appointment of Commissioners, in line with the Secretary of State's intentions. The Council would wish to be involved in and consulted upon the proposed appointments.

We have already welcomed the appointment of the Children's Commissioner and would similarly wish to do all we can to ensure the further four Commissioner appointments are agreed and in place as quickly as possible, in the interest of certainty and stability in our decision-making.

In addition, for our clarification, I would be grateful if you could confirm that the arrangements for the local elections in May 2015 should progress in usual manner.

Finally, as you are aware, the process to appoint a permanent Chief Executive is well underway. However, and noting that one of the Commissioners will act as a Managing Director, could you confirm whether this process should now be suspended until the Commissioners are of the opinion that this would be appropriate.

I will contact you with the Council's further comments on the intervention proposals and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Ormondroyd', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Jan Ormondroyd
Interim Chief Executive

cc: Sir Bob Kerslake, DCLG Permanent Secretary
Gemma Penn, DCLG