



# Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

**Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP**

*Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for  
Housing, Communities & Local Government*  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2024/20221

Sharon Wilde / Stacey Booth  
GMB National Officer  
GMB  
Mary Turner House  
London  
NW1 2HD

7 October 2024

Dear Sharon and Stacey,

Thank you for your letter of 30 August on behalf of GMB union members working across local government and schools regarding Public Sector pay. I always say, I was born in Stockport but raised in my union. I understand the crucial work that union officers do to support workers across the country and I am grateful for your continued commitment.

I appreciate you taking the time to write to express your concerns about local authority budgets. The Government is under no illusions about the scale of the pressures that local authorities are facing, impacting the services councils can provide to local people. We are committed to resetting the relationship between local and central government and working in partnership in the interests of working people. We understand that improving how local government is funded is crucial to enabling councils to deliver for local residents and ensuring we can deliver our missions.

Future local authority funding decisions will be a matter for the next Spending Review and Local Government Finance Settlement. The Department will work with local government leaders to ensure they are better able to fulfil their statutory duties.

On the issue of pay, this is ultimately a decision for local councils. It is the responsibility of employers to make an assessment of what is affordable within the overall available resources. Employers do of course have to pay the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage and we recognise that pay and wages are one of a number of inflationary pressures facing local government.

I appreciate you taking the time to write to express these concerns and I can assure you that I have passed these onto departmental officials for their consideration.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON ANGELA RAYNER MP**

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government