



Sir Christopher Kelly  
Chairman  
Committee for Standards in Public Life  
Room G.07  
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**The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP**  
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*Dear Sir Christopher*

Thank you for your letter of 28 June, about the new arrangements for local authority standards that came into force on 1 July and in particular about the timing of the introduction of the new arrangements.

The framework for the new arrangements are on the face of the Localism Act 2011, which received Royal Assent in November of last year. In December last year, my officials wrote to the Local Government Association, the National Association of Local Councils and others outlining the timetable for implementation, with 1 July as the date for the new standards arrangements to come into force. My officials have since been in contact with local authority standards practitioners providing advice as local authorities have gone about preparing for and implementing the new arrangements.

To assist local authorities, Bob Neill wrote to all local authority leaders on 11 April with an illustrative example of what a 'Nolan' compliant code of conduct might look like. Bob Neill wrote again on 28 June to local authority leaders in advance of the new arrangements coming into force, reminding them of the importance of the code of conduct and the role of the independent person.

You ask how we intend to monitor the implementation of the new standards arrangements. My Department will undertake a post implementation review of the policy to abolish the Standards Board regime in three to five years time. Monitoring arrangements will include a survey, by the Department, of local authorities to ascertain the arrangements in place to uphold standards of councillors and a survey, by the Department, of councillors and citizens to understand their attitudes towards the new arrangements for upholding standards, and their perceptions of standards of councillors.

*Yours ever  
Eric Pickles*

**THE RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP**