



**Claire Cooper**  
*Deputy Director, Community Action Division*

**Department for Communities and Local Government**

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24 September 2010

Dear Chief Executive

**Withdrawal of statutory guidance on petitions**

I am writing to you about the statutory guidance on the duty to respond to petitions. This guidance was issued by the previous administration under Section 19 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, to principal local authorities in England on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is withdrawing '*Listening to communities: Statutory guidance on the duty to respond to petitions*' with effect from 24 September (although the document will continue to be available for reference on the department's website). This means you will now have more discretion to decide how you approach petitions locally.

The petitions requirements in Chapter 2, Part 1 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 necessarily remain in force unless or until they are repealed by fresh primary legislation. This includes the requirement to provide a facility for people to make e-petitions which will come into effect on 15<sup>th</sup> December this year. Local authorities will be paid for the new burden through the area based grants process this financial year, with the first payment on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Local authorities are legally bound to comply with the minimum requirements of all statutory duties. However in considering how you approach the petitions requirements, including in making arrangements to set up an e-petition facility, you will wish to consider current circumstances, and having regard to both the Government's commitment to remove unnecessary prescription for local authorities and the priority of cutting out all wasteful spending.

If you have any queries concerning this letter, please contact Carl Laughna on 0303 4442044, or e-mail on [carl.laughna@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:carl.laughna@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Claire Cooper".

**CLAIRE COOPER**