



Department for Levelling Up,
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Lee Rowley MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
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**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
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Dear Roger,

Thank you for your letter dated 3 August to Paul Scully MP regarding delays in the external audit of local authority accounts, including pension fund accounts. I am replying as since 1 November, this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I recognise the scope and complexity of issues affecting external local audit, and the impact that this is having on reporting by local authorities and LGPS funds. The Pension Fund Annual Reports and the Scheme Annual Report are vital in maintaining transparency and accountability of the LGPS to members, employers, and taxpayers, and in informing the work that the Scheme Advisory Board does to help maintain the scheme.

I welcome the Board's advice and recommendation to consider the separation of main authority accounts and the pension fund accounts, in addition to the package of support for local audit already in place. I have asked my officials to consider the scope for developing this further.

I would like to thank you and the Scheme Advisory Board for your hard work, and commitment to making the LGPS a valuable part of the lives and futures for millions of workers.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP