



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**
Fry Building
London

I Tug

Via email
request-541090-
xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Email:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xxx.xx

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Our Ref:4079935
Your Ref:

Date:11 March 2019

Dear Mr I Tug,

Thank you for your email received on 21 February in response to my previous advice. You asked what are the Secretary of State's powers of inspection where a local council has failed in its 'general duty' and how does a member of the public inform the Secretary of State of that.

On an exceptional basis, where there is evidence that a council is at risk of failing to meet its best value duty, the Secretary of State may use his powers under the Local Government Act 1999 and conduct an investigation. This, however, is a last resort and used on an exceptional basis and in the most serious cases of concern about the governance and/or services of a local authority, such as in Rotherham or Tower Hamlets. A member of the public is of course welcome to write to the Secretary of State expressing such concerns about a council's performance. However, in this case there is no comprehensive evidence that the council in question is failing to meet its best value duty and therefore no further action will be taken by the Department at this stage.

Yours Sincerely

Stuart Young