



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**

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Our Ref:4464916

Date: **10 October 2019**

Dear I Tug,

Thank you for your further email of 12 September concerning your ongoing complaint about your council.

The role of local authorities is to provide the important day to day functions and services used by the community that it serves.

Over many decades, Acts of Parliament have given local authorities the ability to charge property taxes to fund local services. The Government believes that local authorities are best placed to make decisions about their local area and has no plans to change their taxation powers. Where they fail to discharge their responsibilities adequately there are established procedures which offer redress, including complaints and appeals processes, and ultimately recourse to the courts.

In certain circumstances, the Secretary of State has powers to intervene in the running of a local authority, but this is rare and of last resort. Sections 10 and 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 provide further detail:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/27/contents>.

While I appreciate that you feel your council is failing in its tax collecting duties and therefore best value duties, I must make clear that the Department does not have a mechanism to investigate complaints from individuals. However, if you have specific evidence of your council's failure to meet its best value duties having fully exhausted the council's complaints procedures, then you can send it to the Local Government Stewardship Division at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bhardwaj
Local Government Stewardship Division