



Claire Cooper
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**Department for Communities and Local
Government**
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Dear Chief Executive

Changes to petitions requirements

I wrote to you on 24 September informing you of the withdrawal of the statutory guidance on the duty to respond to petitions under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. This has provided more discretion for you to decide how you approach petitions locally.

In that letter, I also explained that the petitions requirements in Chapter 2, Part 1 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 remained in force unless or until repealed by fresh primary legislation. We now have the legislative opportunity to seek to remove these requirements through the Localism Bill which was introduced to Parliament on 13 December.

The requirements of the petitions legislation remain in force as their repeal is debated during the passage of the Localism Bill, and local authorities are required to meet these. In considering your approach to doing so, you will wish to have 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 Emily Bliss on 030344 42022 or e-mail emily.bliss@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claire Cooper", is positioned above the printed name.

CLAIRE COOPER