



Department for Levelling Up,
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Dear Ian,

Thank you for your letter of 18 July, to Rt Hon Greg Clark MP about the Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022. I have been asked to reply as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

I am pleased to hear that Devon County Council's Standards Committee has welcomed the new provisions to disqualify registered sex offenders from local government that we introduced via the Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022 ('the Act').

We have taken steps to bring disqualification criteria into line with both modern sentencing practice and the values and high standards of behaviours the electorate have a right to expect of the elected members that represent them. The government considers there should be consequences where councillors, mayors and London Assembly members fall short of the behaviour expected in an inclusive and tolerant society.

The provisions of the Act do not extend to other elected members such as Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) or Members of Parliament (MPs). Standards and conduct for MPs and PCCs are governed under separate regimes with their own mechanisms to disqualify or sanction against unacceptable behaviour. For example, MPs can be recalled under certain circumstances if at least 10% of the constituency electorate sign a petition. There are no plans to review policy for MPs at this time.

The disqualification rules for PCCs are generally stricter than for councillors and mayors. For example, a person cannot be a PCCs if they have ever been convicted of an imprisonable offence, even if they did not receive a custodial sentence, suspended or otherwise. The government has launched Part Two of its review into the role of PCCs, details are online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/part-2-of-the-police-and-crime-commissioner-review>.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL SCULLY MP