EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Via email
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Enquiries to: Cllr. Richard Millard
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Date: 5th November 2026

Dear Minister,

Hampshire LGR – second request for information

Thank you for your response of the 4th of November to my letter concerning Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire.

However, I must be frank: your response does not answer either of the clear and reasonable questions I asked you. Instead, it largely repeats information already given in the Government's unclear statement.

Firstly, I asked for your personal assurance that the Government's final decision on Hampshire will be made before the pre-election period begins in March 2027. Your response says only that every area will have an "outcome" by early 2027. It does not confirm whether that outcome will be a provisional "minded to" position or a final decision. These are not the same thing.

Secondly, I asked what would happen if the Government decides not to proceed with any of the proposals currently before it. Your response confirms that all options remain under consideration but provides no explanation about the process that would follow, or whether retaining the current structure of local government in Hampshire remains a possible outcome.

These are straightforward questions and they require straightforward answers.

I am therefore asking you again to confirm:

1. Will the Government make its final decision on local government reorganisation in Hampshire before the pre-election period begins in March 2027?

2. If the Government does not select any of the proposals currently before it, what process will follow and is retaining the existing structure of local government in Hampshire one of the options available to the Government?

Councils, staff and communities across Hampshire have already faced a prolonged period of uncertainty. They deserve clarity about both the timetable and the full range of possible outcomes. Referring to an “outcome” by "early" 2027 is not sufficient when the Government has not made clear what an "outcome" actually means.

I would be grateful for a direct response to each of these questions which actually answers the questions, rather than reiterates previous generic information.

Regards,



Cllr. Richard Millard
Leader of East Hampshire District Council