

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change
Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Revenue



Dr Sue Bidrose
Chair of the Local Government Commission

Dear Sue

Thank you for your report on the Standardised Code of Conduct for Local Authorities, fulfilling the Terms of Reference issued in February 2025. I also acknowledge the work of Brendan Duffy as former Chair of the Local Government Commission in completing this report.

I appreciate the Commission's thorough work in developing the standardised code and engaging extensively with the local government sector and interested stakeholders.

I thank the Commission for the recommendations presented in the report.

I have asked the Department of Internal Affairs to consider options to progress a governance education programme as resources allow. Should you have the capacity to contribute to this work, my officials would be happy to work with the Commission as this work progresses.

I agree with the recommendation that there should be mechanisms to collect and share good practice between local authorities, and to compile statistical information about complaints. As there is currently no central organisation to manage the nation-wide pool of investigators, I request that the Local Government Commission takes on this good practice and data collection role until such time as there is a central organisation in place more suitable to take on this role.

I have asked the Department of Internal Affairs to scope work on establishing a nation-wide pool of investigators. As noted in your report, this may take some time to establish.

I have also asked the Department to progress work on guidelines for local authorities to support the Code of Conduct.

Again, I thank the Commission for the report, and the work you perform to improve good local government in New Zealand, and the promotion of good practice across the sector.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Watts', written over a horizontal line.

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government