



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Chief Executives
Principal Local Authorities in England

Via email

25 March 2015

Dear Chief Executive,

**THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (STANDING ORDERS) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS 2015**

I am writing to let you know that today The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 have been laid in Parliament, to come into force on 11 May 2015.

These Regulations, which apply to all principal councils in England, simplify and localise the disciplinary process for the most senior officers of a council i.e. the Head of Paid Service, the monitoring officer and the chief finance officer. They remove the requirement that a Designated Independent Person be appointed to investigate and make a binding recommendation on disciplinary action against these senior staff.

The Regulations provide that, in place of the DIP process, the decision will be taken transparently by full council, who must consider any advice, views or recommendations from an independent panel, the conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal, and any representations from the officer concerned.

In the case of a proposed disciplinary action against one of these most senior officers, the council is required to invite independent persons who have been appointed for the purposes of the members' conduct regime under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 to form an independent panel, and must include in that invitation any of its independent persons who are electors for that council's area.

Councils are required to modify their standing orders to implement these Regulations no later than the first ordinary meeting of the council after the Regulations come into force on 11 May 2015.

I attach a copy of the Regulations and the explanatory memorandum for your information.

Any queries about the Regulations should be addressed to Tayo Peters at tayo.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk or Hannah Brook at hannah.brook@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Rowsell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Paul Rowsell