

From: The Rt. Hon. Sir John Stanley, M.P.

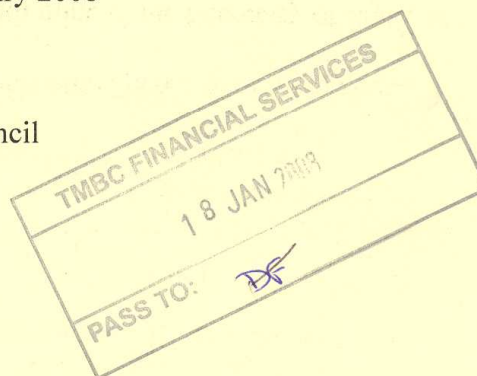


HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

15 January 2008

Mrs S Shelton BSc (Hons) CPFA
 Finance Director
 Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
 Gibson Building, Gibson Drive
 Kings Hill, West Malling
 Kent, ME19 4LZ



Dear Mrs Shelton.

Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement

Many thanks for your letter of January 4 and for a copy of your letter of the previous day to the Minister for Local Government, John Healey.

I agree with you that the provisional Finance Settlement for the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is grossly unfair and unreasonable.

I have now written myself in support of your extremely well argued letter and I attach a copy of my letter of today's date to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears.

I shall write to you again when I receive the Secretary of State's reply.

I am copying this letter, together with mine to the Secretary of State, as you have done yours to the Minister for Local Government, to the Leader of the Council, Mark Worrall, the Cabinet Member for Finance, David Aikman and the Leader of the Opposition, David Thornewell.

Yours sincerely
John Stanley

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15 January 2008

The Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

I attach this letter of January 4 that I have received from the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's Director of Finance, Mrs Shelton, together with a copy of her letter of the previous day to John Healey regarding the provisional local government finance settlement for the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

I am writing to say that I strongly support, and entirely agree with, the conclusive case that Mrs Shelton has presented on behalf of the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for a significantly improved financial settlement.

On any objective assessment, the Provisional Settlement for the Council is grossly unfair and unreasonable and I wish to urge you strongly to improve it materially when the Settlement is finalised.

I await your response.