

Robert Courts MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Sharon Groth
Town Clerk & Chief Executive Officer
Witney Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Witney OX28 6AG

Monday, 9th May 2022
Ref: rd/RC48964

Dear Sharon,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the conduct of councillors towards town and parish council clerks, and for encouraging me to sign Early Day Motion (EDM) 691.

I must point out from the outset that from the moment I was elected to Parliament I made the choice, like a growing number of MPs on a cross-party basis, to never sign any EDMs, which are ineffective and a waste of taxpayers' money. They have, for very good reason, been described as 'Parliamentary graffiti' and you can read my full explainer on the matter here: robertcourts.co.uk/early-day-motions.

With that said, I am grateful to you for raising this important issue and I of course agree with you about the importance of ensuring there is a robust system in place to deal with local councillors who have been found guilty of bullying and harassment following an independent investigation.

I have therefore written to the responsible Minister at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to raise your concerns and to request the Minister's up to date position on the points raised in your letter. I will be back in touch as soon as I receive a response.

Many thanks again for taking the time to write to me.

Yours,

Robert Courts MP

P.S. Thank you
for raising this
important matter.
Writing to the minister
is more effective than
an EDM.

From the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Witney in West Oxfordshire
including Bampton, Burford, Carterton, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Eynsham, Witney and Woodstock.