Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

21 December 2020

Via email

Lawrence Conway,
Chief Executive,
South Lakeland District Council

Sam Plum,
Chief Executive,
Barrow Borough Council

Dear chief executives

Thank you very much for your final proposal on Local Government reorganisation that we received on 9 December 2020.

We are currently assessing all the proposals we have received against the terms of the invitation letter and the accompanying statutory guidance.

It would appear that you may have misinterpreted the statutory requirements around whether a unitary council area can be divided between two different police areas. Our clear view is that, when exercising his powers under Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to give effect to structural or boundary change, the Secretary of State must ensure that no unitary county council area or district council area is divided between two or more police areas. (See for example section 13(4) of the 2007 Act).

In the light of this, you may wish to seek further advice on this point and you may wish to provide an assessment of the impact (including consideration of the necessary legislative changes) of your proposal on the local police forces as requested by the statutory guidance accompanying the invitation, as well as include the views of the relevant PCCs in this context.

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Further you may also wish to seek further advice on the legislation surrounding Fire and Rescue Authorities, and you may wish to provide an assessment of any impact (including consideration of the necessary legislative changes) of your proposal on the local fire and rescue authorities as requested by the statutory guidance accompanying the invitation, and include the views of the relevant fire and rescue authorities in that context.

If you wish to provide an update to your proposal including an assessment of the impacts, please do so by close of 7 January 2021.

I am copying this letter to Kieran Keane, Chief Executive of Lancaster City Council.

Yours sincerely,

P. Rowsell

P ROWSELL

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