



Rt Hon Francis Maude MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

25 May 2010

Dear Minister

EFFICIENCY AND REFORM GROUP

On behalf of SOLACE I am writing to offer warm congratulations to you on your appointment as Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General. Your record in business and as a Minister will provide invaluable insight and understanding into the realities of running and reforming large complex organisations. In particular, I would like to welcome the creation of the Efficiency and Reform Group on which much will depend in coming months.

You come into government at an extremely challenging time but at a time that also offers great potential for change. And there is a huge appetite for change in local government. Things can and should be different. Quite simply, we cannot afford for things to remain the same. SOLACE members appreciate more than most just how challenging the future financial context is going to be. Many of us have tackled the range of issues you have laid out this week in our own councils and can bring very useful experience to aid you in your new role.

SOLACE believes that that we need to be honest about what government can achieve and that real change will only come when everyone works together and recognises their responsibilities as well as their entitlements. We hope the new government will recognise local government as part of the solution in building a responsible society and will work with us, as government on the frontline, as a partner to deliver better services at a price we can afford.

We were greatly encouraged by your words at our Annual Dinner in February and would like to make a helpful and constructive offer to meet with you and to lay out various ways in which we can provide support, feedback and advice on an ongoing basis.

Head Office: Hope House 45 Great Peter Street London SW1P 3LT www.solace.org.uk t: 020 7233 0081 f: 020 7206 4810

Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 2771210. VAT Reg. No. 875 4803 90. Registered office: Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LT

The companies below are SOLACE Gold Partners

Katherine Kerswell
President





SOLACE wishes you all the best in your role and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Kerswell
Chief Executive
Northamptonshire County Council

Head Office: Hope House 45 Great Peter Street London SW1P 3LT www.solace.org.uk t: 020 7233 0081 f: 020 7206 4810

Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 2771210. VAT Reg. No. 875 4803 90. Registered office: Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LT

The companies below are SOLACE Gold Partners

Katherine Kerswell
President



LIBERATA