



House of Commons

ODPM: Housing, Planning,
Local Government and the
Regions Committee

**The Role and
Effectiveness of the
Local Government
Ombudsmen for
England: Government
Response to the
Committee's Eleventh
Report of Session
2004–05**

**Second Special Report of Session
2005–06**

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The ODPM: Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions Committee

The ODPM: Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and its associated bodies.

Current membership

Dr Phyllis Starkey MP (*Labour, Milton Keynes South West*) (Chair)
Sir Paul Beresford MP (*Conservative, Mole Valley*)
Mr Clive Betts MP (*Labour, Sheffield Attercliffe*)
John Cummings MP (*Labour, Easington*)
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Dr John Pugh MP (*Liberal Democrat, Southport*)
Alison Seabeck MP (*Labour, Plymouth, Devonport*)

The following members were members of the Committee during this inquiry.

Andrew Bennett MP (*Labour, Denton and Reddish*) (Chairman)
Sir Paul Beresford MP (*Conservative, Mole Valley*)
Mr Clive Betts MP (*Labour, Sheffield Attercliffe*)
Mr Graham Brady MP (*Conservative, Altrincham & Sale West*)
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Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/odpm.cfm.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Jessica Mulley (Joint Committee Clerk), Elizabeth Hunt (Joint Committee Clerk), Charlotte Littleboy (Second Clerk), Ben Kochan (Committee Specialist), Ian Hook (Committee Assistant), Ian Blair (Chief Office Clerk) and Emma Carey (Secretary).

Contacts

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Second Special Report

1. On 7th April 2005, the Committee published its Eleventh Report of Session 2004-05 as HC 458, on the Role and Effectiveness of the Local Government Ombudsmen for England. The Government's response, in the form a memorandum to the Committee from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, was received on 18th October 2005.

2. The Government's response is published as an Appendix to this Report.

Appendix 1: Government Response

The Committee's Recommendation

Recommendation 1: We recommend that ODPM publish a clear summary of what progress has been made in addressing the recommendations contained in the Commission for Local Administration in England's 2003 Review.

The Government accepts the importance of taking forward work following the CLA's 2003 review and indeed other proposals for the future of the Local Ombudsman, in a transparent and open way.

The Government notes that the supplementary memorandum which Nick Raynsford submitted to the Committee on 15 March, and which summarises the progress that had been made in addressing the 2003 review, has been published by the Committee as an annex to its report on the *Role and Effectiveness of the Local Government Ombudsmen for England*.

Since that memorandum was submitted, a consultation paper has been published by the Cabinet Office on a draft regulatory reform order to facilitate closer working between the Local Ombudsman and the Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman. The paper was published on 2 August and comments are requested by 18 November. Copies of the paper have been placed in the library of the House, and were also sent to the Select Committee Secretariat for circulation of all Select Committee Members.

Reports from the ODPM Committee since 2003

The following reports have been produced by the Committee since 2003. The reference number of the Government's response to each Report is printed in brackets after the HC printing number.

Session 2004-05

Eleventh Report	The Role and Effectiveness of the Local Government Ombudsmen for England	HC 458
Tenth Report	Local Government Consultation	HC 316-I
Ninth Report	Ward Boundaries	HC 315 (CM 6634)
Eighth Report	Empty Homes and Low-demand Pathfinders	HC 295-I (CM 6651)
Seventh Report	The Role and Effectiveness of the Standards Board for England	HC 60-I
Sixth Report	Electoral Registration (Joint inquiry with the Constitutional Affairs Committee, First Joint Report of Session 2004-05)	HC 243-I (CM 6647)
Fifth Report	The Role and Effectiveness of CABE	HC 59 (CM 6509)
Fourth Report	ODPM Annual Report and Accounts 2004	HC 58 (HC 407)
Third Report	Homelessness	HC 61-I (CM 6490)
Second Report	Annual Report to the Liaison Committee	HC 149
First Report	The Draft Regional Assemblies Bill	HC 62-I (HC 459)
First Special Report	Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2004-05, on the Draft Regional Assemblies Bill	HC 459

Session 2003-04

Thirteenth Report	Gypsy and Traveller Sites	HC 633-I (CM 6465)
Twelfth Report	Draft Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres	HC 952
Eleventh Report	The Role of Historic Buildings in Urban Regeneration	HC 47-I (CM 6420)
Tenth Report	Supporting Vulnerable and Older People: The Supporting People Programme	HC 504-I (CM 6348)
Ninth Report	Local Government Revenue	HC 402-I (CM 6328)
Eighth Report	The Role and Effectiveness of the Housing Corporation	HC 401-I (CM 6351)
Seventh Report	Postal Voting	HC 400-I (HC 973)
Sixth Report	Social Cohesion	HC 45-I (CM 6284)
Fifth Report	Decent Homes	HC 46-I (CM 6266)
Fourth Report	Coalfield Communities	HC 44-I (CM 6265)
Third Report	The Fire Service	HC 43-I (CM 6154)
Second Report	Annual Report to the Liaison Committee	HC 221

First Report

ODPM Annual Report and Accounts 2003

HC 102-I (*CM 6141*)