



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3450

Email:
james.brokenshire@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/mhclg

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To all MPs in England

Dear colleague

INTERVENTION IN ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

I am writing to inform you that in line with the statement that I made on 23 July 2018, and having taken account of the representations received, I have decided to confirm my minded to decision. I am exercising my powers under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 and revoking the Direction of 26 February 2015 as amended, in relation to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

This will end the role of Commissioners in the Council and hand back the remaining executive functions to the Council on 24 September 2018.

With the support of Commissioners, the Council has made steady and significant progress in its improvement journey since they were appointed in February 2015 after reports from Professor Alexis Jay and Dame Louise Casey found systemic failures of the Council to protect vulnerable children from sexual exploitation.

The Commissioners have advised me that now “the political and senior officer leadership of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is able to function and continue its improvement without the need of Commissioner oversight”, advice supported by an February 2018 Independent Health Check and OFSTED’s January 2018 assessment of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council’s Children’s Services as ‘good’.

As I said to the House in July, I am mindful that the decision to hand back the remaining functions, particularly children’s services, is a significant one. From 24 September 2018 I am therefore putting in place a further general Direction to 31 March 2019. The general Direction requires that the Council:

- carries out an independent review of delivery by 18 February 2019; and
- abides by the Best Value Duty, as with all councils.

I am placing a copy of the documents associated with these announcements in the Library of the House and on my Department's website.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Brokenshire', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small horizontal line under the first few letters.

RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP