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**Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life**

**1 October 2018**

Dear Simon,

I am writing to thank you for giving up your time on Monday 10 September to talk to me and my fellow Committee member, Jane Ramsey, about your experiences of ethical standards in local government as well as matters relating to ethical standards in public life generally. This will be enormously helpful in helping to inform our review.

We were impressed by the leadership demonstrated by senior officers and members of the council, which has led to a redrafting of its code of conduct and procedure for dealing with complaints under the code, as well as by the council's commitment to uphold standards by delivering high quality, relatable induction and ongoing training for members. It was also insightful to see how Uttlesford builds and maintains an ethical culture through its use of Independent Persons. Georgina Butcher-Doulton and Catherine Wellingbrook-Doswell were clearly highly committed and experienced in matters of propriety and procedure; had high expectations of councillors and a conviction of the need for professionalism and due process.

I would be grateful if you would pass on the thanks of our Committee to the Chief Executive of Uttlesford District Council and Cllr Derek Jones for taking the time to share their experiences and views with the Committee.

I also particularly wish to convey the thanks of the Committee to you and your team in Democratic Services, who coordinated our visit and provided us with such a warm welcome. We understand that coordinating a programme with so many participants is a very time consuming activity for the council. Your efforts ensured that we had many fruitful conversations on the day.

The Secretariat will write to you closer to the time of the publication of the Committee's report and will ensure that your council receives a copy and details of the launch.

My sincere thanks once again.

Yours sincerely,

 (pp. Amy Ashkin)

Dr Jane Martin CBE  
Member, Committee on Standards in Public Life