



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

*Department for Levelling up, Housing and
Communities*

2nd Floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF

Christine Adams
Duddon Parish Council
Browfoot Cottage
Grizebeck
Kirkby-in-Furness
Cumbria
LA17 7XH

Tel: 0303 444 0000
Fax: 020 7035 0018

www.gov.uk/dluhc

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Date:**20 April 2022**

Dear Christine Adams,

Thank you for your letter received 24 March about local authority remote and hybrid meetings. I have been asked to reply.

In response to the pandemic, the Government introduced regulations under section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 to allow local authority meetings to take place remotely. The regulations were time limited and only applied to meetings held between 4 April 2020 and 7 May 2021. A High Court judgement handed down on 28 April 2021 confirmed that local authority meetings must take place in person.

Prior to the expiry of the remote meetings regulations, the Government recognised that councils were keen to retain the flexibility to choose to meet remotely or in hybrid form as and when circumstances dictate. A Call for Evidence on remote meetings was conducted from 25 March to 17 June 2021 to inform consideration of permanent provisions. Any permanent provision would require primary legislation and would depend upon available Parliamentary time. The department has considered responses to the Call for Evidence and Government will respond shortly.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Johnny Saisho
Local Government Improvement