



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/mhclg/contact

Our reference: TO2026/20473

Dr Peter Boyce

20 August 2026

Dear Dr Boyce,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 23 July 2026 regarding lieutenancy arrangements following local government reorganisation.

The Government recognises that historic counties are an important element of local traditions, which support the identity and culture of many communities, giving people a sense of belonging, pride and community spirit.

There is no intention that local government reorganisation will impact on the ceremonial counties or the important roles they play as the Monarch's representatives in those counties. Though historic, administrative and ceremonial boundaries may in some cases be coterminous, they do not exist for the purposes of the administration of local government.

The Lord Lieutenancies, which represent the Crown in each area, are based on counties, as defined in the 1972 Local Government Act and reflected in Schedule 1 of the Lieutenancies Act 1997, which is amended periodically in response to administrative boundary changes. These arrangements are maintained independently of administrative or demographic changes, and statutory alignment of ceremonial and historic boundaries is therefore unnecessary.

Where specific provision is needed in legislation, this will be considered as necessary, reflecting the circumstances in each area, as has previously been done for other areas undergoing local government reorganisation. As set out in the 20 July implementation letters issued to chief executives following the recent decisions on local government reorganisation in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, and Oxfordshire, the Government expects that further legislation may be needed to cover ceremonial matters that require specific provision, such as Lord Lieutenants or Charter Trustees.

Copies of the implementation letters to council chief executives, which explain the next steps in more detail, are available at: [Implementation letter to Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland chief executives](#) and [Implementation letter to Oxfordshire chief executives](#).

The Government remains committed to ensuring that ceremonial arrangements, including the role of the Lord Lieutenant, continue to be recognised and preserved as local government reorganisation is implemented.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan
Correspondence Unit