

COVID-19 UPDATE: Issue 76
26th March 2021

**...Government Announces Remote Meeting Powers
are Not Being Extended...**



Dear Chairman, Councillors, Clerks & Affiliates

Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State at the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), has written to council leaders about remote meetings to confirm the government will not bring forward emergency legislation on this issue at this time. NALC Chair, Cllr Sue Baxter, has [responded](#) to express her disappointment, as have the Local Government Association (LGA) in their [statement](#). The government has also [updated the guidance on the safe use of council buildings](#) – also disappointing that the NALC were not involved or consulted; the NALC will be working with County Officers to assess the new guidance, provide feedback to the government and give further advice on where they can. A 12-week [call for evidence](#) about how remote meetings have been used has also been published. Chief Executive, Jonathan Owen has strongly urged all Local Councils and County Associations to respond!

As part of NALC's lobbying, they are pleased to be supporting the application by Hertfordshire County Council, Lawyers in Local Government and Association of Democratic Services Officers to the court for a declaration. This will continue despite the government's decision and is expected to be determined before the end of April. You can read more on all of this in our news story [here](#).

This information comes from the weekly bulletin of Jonathan Owen, NALC Chief Executive. To read the bulletin in full, please see the attached PDF document. Please also see attached, a letter from Luke Hall MP, Minister of State for Regional Growth & Local Government, which explains HM Government's position on this important matter.

For information and updates on the current status Covid-19 rules and restrictions please visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Stay safe and look after yourselves.

With kind regards,

Eli Haires

Communications Officer

EALC, 42B High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1AH

Tel: 01371 879722

www.ealc.gov.uk

Working Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9am – 5pm

Friday: 8:30am – 4pm

