

CENTRAL OFFICE

JP/son
28th January 2026

Mr Harry Honnor
Senior Adviser (Workforce & Negotiations)
Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
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SENT ELECTRONICALLY
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Ms Naomi Cooke
Employers' Secretary
Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London

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SENT ELECTRONICALLY
Naomi.Cooke@local.gov.uk

Dear Harry and Naomi,

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FOR EMPLOYEES COVERED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE
JNC LOCAL AUTHORITY CRAFT & ASSOCIATED EMPLOYEES AGREEMENT (RED BOOK)
PAY 2025/2026**

Thank you for your letter dated 22nd January 2026.

Thanks again for trying to offer clarity through written correspondence on your recollection of spinal point alignment discussions and the rationale behind that dating back to 2016.

As outlined in previous correspondence, I would welcome structured discussions on this, with the Local Government Association National Employers, to discuss the review and its correct positioning within Red Book.

The UK has seen the introduction of new legislation, regulations and acts regarding building safety and competence. Local Government Employers have also been committed to a without prejudice review of the NJC pay spine since 2023, which further highlights why the principles set in 2016 require revisiting.

We are committed to help achieve a structured solution with 2025 and 2026 in mind that safeguards the Agreement going forward. However, as previously stated, we simply cannot accept your offer for 2025 and have had all resolution processes closed to us by the Local Government Association.

We ask again that meetings are scheduled to discuss the above; anything other than this will be seen as provocation of the workforce and Craft Workers in general, while closing options for disputes resolution machinery.

Yours sincerely



**JASON POULTER
NATIONAL OFFICER
CONSTRUCTION SECTOR**

cc: George Georgiou GMB National Officer
Neil Tasker, Southwark Unite Branch Secretary
Clare Keogh, Unite National Officer for Local Authorities sector