



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government

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

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

APPENDIX 1

Becky Shaw
Chief Executive
East Sussex County Council
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1UE

Tel: 0303 444 3450

Email: robert.jenrick@communities.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/mhclg

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Dear Becky,

Thank you for your letter of 20 October reporting on the motion agreed by your full council to ask Government that Local Authorities be given the powers to continue to be able to decide to hold virtual and/or physical meeting after 7 May 2021.

To extend the facility for councils to continue to meet remotely, or in hybrid form, would require primary legislation. As there is no option to extend the current regulations under the Coronavirus Act 2020 as section 78 (3) contains the sunset date of 7 May 2021.

However, I can assure you that I am aware that the flexibility to meet remotely has been welcomed by many, and it has undoubtedly played a significant part in helping local authorities continue to make business critical decisions in a democratic way whilst protecting the health and safety of their members, officers and the public. Government will be considering carefully the case for extending these regulations through primary legislation as necessary in the coming months.

Once again thank you for writing on this important matter and drawing my attention to the motion agreed regarding the continuation of remote meetings by East Sussex County Council.

I hope you are well. Thank you for your work in West Sussex. Robert.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP