The RT Hon Robert Jenrick MP

Your Name:

Your Address:

Date:

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities

and Local Government

2 Marsham Street

SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State,

**Re: Please keep your promise and pay your bill**

I am an Ealing resident and am deeply worried by your broken promise to pay Ealing Council the money that you owe for its work to keep local communities safe during COVID-19.

We have come together as a local community and helped each other through this difficult time and the council has played its part. So far it has

* Delivered more than 11,000 free food parcels to vulnerable residents
* Provided free parking permits to more than 2600 key workers
* Proactively called more than 20,000 shielding residents
* Provided more than £73million in grants for businesses and awarded more than £56million of rates relief
* Provided safe places to stay for more than 450 rough sleepers
* Provided emergency grants to 62 voluntary and community groups
* Sourced one million items of PPE for local frontline staff
* Provided emergency PPE for 442 local care providers
* Granted nearly 2500 council tax holidays to support residents facing hardship
* Kept 87 local schools open for 1,025 children of key workers, including during the school holidays. All state-funded schools are now open
* Kept 150 parks and green spaces open

This is important work that needed to be done, but it costs money. At the start of lockdown, you promised that you would provide councils with the resources they needed to do this.

So far, it has cost Ealing Council £65million to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Despite, your promise to provide it with the resources it needed to do the job, they have only received £26million. This leaves Ealing with a budget gap of £39million.

Ealing residents have already lived with more than a decade of cuts from government and we are now being asked to pick up the government’s bill for COVID-19. This isn’t fair and it could mean that next year Ealing residents like me are going to lose some important local services that really matter. It also leaves Ealing in a weak position if COVID-19 comes back and might mean that it is unable to cope during a second wave.

I am asking you to please do the decent thing. Keep your promise and pay your £39million bill.

Yours sincerely

Your Name here