



Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
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Simon Fell MP
Chair, APPG on Cyber Security
House of Commons
London
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Dear Simon,

Thank you for your recent correspondence on cyber threats to local government and the Government Cyber Security Strategy (GCSS) which outlines our ambitions to strengthen critical functions against cyber attacks by 2025.

The local government sector is included in the scope of the GCSS where the leadership for this sector is delegated to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). An overall budget of £85.8 million has been allocated to DLUHC to address the cyber security challenges facing councils and invest in local authority cyber resilience over a three year period. A Cyber Health Framework for local government will be established to set clear cyber standards and a baseline of cyber security.

In regard to a local government Security Operations Centre (SOC), the principle of 'Defending as One' is at the heart of the GCSS, and recognises that no sector has the capacity in place to defend itself at scale. While local authorities are responsible for funding and managing their digital estate, since 2020, the DLUHC Cyber Support programme has provided technical advice and £13.9 million grant funding to over 120 local authorities to help them mitigate vulnerabilities in a coordinated and scalable manner.

A high proportion of the sector is currently signed up to NCSC's Early Warning Service and some local authorities are piloting their Cyber Threat Intelligence Adapter where local authorities can integrate NCSC threat intelligence into their own

platforms. DLUHC continues to work with the sector, the Cabinet Office and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) on the best approaches to support local government, including the potential role of a local government SOC.

Additionally, we will continue to support the sector led Cyber Technical Advisory Group (C-TAG) and regional Warning, Advice and Reporting Point (WARPs) where intelligence and best practice is shared.

As you mentioned in your letter, skills and training are very important. To date the DLUHC Cyber and Local Digital programme has supported over 3,000 council staff with digital skills training. In order to address the challenges councils face with recruitment, training and cyber education, DLUHC is leading a three year programme working with local councils, the Local Government Association and a range of professional bodies to ensure councils have the skills, knowledge and tools they need to design and deliver modern digital services and address cyber risks.

I hope this reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kit Malthouse', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster