

The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, MP,  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities  
and Local Government

Your name:

Address:

2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF  
United Kingdom

Date:

Dear Secretary of State,

## **Re: Redbridge's Unpaid millions**

I live/work in Redbridge, and I'm appalled that the government is not keeping its promise to pay back the money the council used to help keep our local communities safe during the Coronavirus pandemic.

We want our £45m back. It equates to almost the entire net revenue budget for all Council services, excluding social care, for this financial year.

As thousands lost their lives to Covid-19, we saw vital and potentially life-saving new services created in Redbridge. We stood strong together. Medication was delivered to the vulnerable, food was given to children who would normally be dependent on school dinners and essential PPE was delivered to our care homes.

Online health and wellbeing support was made available for residents and advice was given to businesses.

But this costs money. £60m was spent this financial year to help manage the spread of Coronavirus and you have only paid back £15.7m.

In March 2020, you told 300 Councils in the UK:

"My absolute priority is to ensure [councils] are well placed to respond to Coronavirus and protect vital services, including social care. The Government will provide whatever funding is needed for councils to get through this and come out the other side."

You must honour your promise you repay the £45m because we want our excellent services to continue. Our children's social care service has been rated 'Outstanding' despite being one of the lowest funded nationally and our adult social care service has been ranked as one of the best in the country.

Redbridge Council manages its budget well. It was independently ranked as the sixth most productive Council in the UK per pound invested and the second best in London.

But if the Government does not provide the compensation that was promised, this time next year they will be forced to make some very difficult decisions about the services.

We call upon the government to once again commit to providing the necessary funding to return our £45m.

Yours sincerely,

Your name