



(By e-mail)

**Robbie Moore MP**

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary*

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

*1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Seacole Block*

*2 Marsham Street*

*London, SW1P 4DF*

17 January 2023

Dear Minister,

Storm Henk has battered the nation, with Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland facing the full force.

Since New Year, our councils, emergency services, charities and other organisations have worked round-the-clock to evacuate residents, find them temporary accommodation, set up rest centres, clear standing water, close flooded roads and much more, enacting our role to safeguard life and support residents to stay safe. Two weeks on from the initial response, coordinated by the Local Resilience Forum, the situation is thankfully much improved and we're focusing on supporting communities to get back on their feet.

With around 650 homes flooded, this is the biggest resilience issue we've faced for many years and was severe enough for us to declare a major incident. It's good news that the Government has recognised the hefty impact and released the package of national funding but to fully maximise the impact for our residents, there are issues which need unblocking.

We understand anyone flooded during Storm Babet and Henk can only claim once. Some residents have started to recover after Babet, and would be eligible for £500, yet may have to expend further money to replace damaged furnishings again. This is devastating and although there are numerous demands on the public purse, allowing them to be eligible for an additional £500 would certainly help in these circumstances. One-thousand-pounds is not a lot of money in the current financial climate yet a very welcome helping hand to those directly affected.

Businesses without flooding insurance, or those which can't demonstrate efforts to put it in place, are also exempt. This is a real concern for small and medium-sized enterprises. Flooding insurance will not be at the forefront of their minds and we're already seeing local flood-hit businesses facing the prospect of going bust.

Clarity is also needed to prevent residents missing out. Firstly, we're concerned that an admin error with the national database is holding up payments for Storm Babet, with the deadline fast approaching. Secondly, we understand that a Ministerial decision is required to enact the National Flood Recovery Framework. We've received confirmation that Leicestershire is eligible for funding but not yet for Leicester or Rutland. Clearly a line needs to go somewhere

but the stark reality of arbitrary administrative boundaries is that one home can claim funding but another on the same road cannot. As things currently stand, Rutland will not qualify because Government funding is based on the number of homes flooded rather than a percentage.

We're well aware of the many challenges facing Government but are calling for pragmatism and empathy to ensure everything is done to support the residents and businesses whose lives are currently on hold.

A changing climate means flooding remains a growing challenge for everyone involved, both those directly affected and the agencies involved in supporting. Whilst there are no easy answers, your support in help bring forward the above changes with Government would go some way to improving on the current situation.

We're very happy to talk in more detail and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

**Cllr Nick Rushton**  
Leader, Leicestershire  
County Council

**Cllr Gale Waller**  
Leader, Rutland  
County Council

**Cllr Adam Clarke**  
Deputy City Mayor for  
Climate, Economy & Culture,  
Leicester City Council

**Cllr Terry Richardson**  
Leader, Blaby District  
Council

**Cllr Jewel Miah**  
Leader, Charnwood  
Borough Council

**Cllr Phil Knowles**  
Leader, Harborough  
District Council

**Cllr Stuart Bray**  
Leader, Hinckley and  
Bosworth Borough  
Council

**Cllr Pip Allnatt**  
Leader, Melton  
Borough Council

**Cllr Richard Blunt**  
Leader, North West  
Leicestershire District  
Council

**Cllr Samia Haq**  
Leader, Oadby and  
Wigston Borough  
Council