

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
www.gov.uk/mhclg/contact

7 September 2026

CC: Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP (Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government); Rt Hon Matthew Pennycook (Minister of State for Housing and Planning); Pippa Heylings MP; Ian Sollom MP; Daniel Zeichner MP; Cllr Katie Thornburrow (Leader, Cambridge City Council).

**Re: Voice of the River on the Board of the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation**  
**Your Ref: TO2026/21140**

Dear Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government,

Thank you for your reply dated 21 August to our letter dated 29 July 2026 (attached for those in copy).

I respectfully note that your response - suggesting that we apply for a Voice of the River to sit on the permanent GCDC board via your open recruitment exercise - **fails to address the substantive points we raised**, the fallback alternatives or our 'Next Steps' questions. You did not address the governance features that distinguish this from a standard seat (Annex to our letter, paras 1–2). In particular:

1. Inviting an individual to apply personally is different from Voice of the River as a role or function having standing representation. The Voice of the River seat would need independence to consult external experts, reporting rights, and rights to designate Nature-related matters.
2. If these governance mechanisms were not in place, the Voice of the River would be no different from any other member of the Board. Our letter gave five detailed reasons why this would be structurally insufficient and your letter did not engage with this substance at all.
3. A director appointed through open competition owes duties to the corporation itself, not to a river-representation function. The letter doesn't acknowledge this tension or explain how an independently-selected director could fulfil the role we proposed or how a director's board confidentiality obligations would sit against any expectation of public reporting on river matters.

Our letter was sent from over twenty signatories, but you addressed the response only to me. We have collected further support, approaching 100 people including the original signatories, please see <https://reanglia.org.uk/voice-of-the-river-on-the-greater-cambridge-development-corporation/>. I am replying in the first instance in my capacity as lead contact for this collective.

I would appreciate an answer to these points at your earliest convenience, in particular whether the Secretary of State has engaged with the questions in our letter.

Yours sincerely,

Jenni Ramos

Lead Correspondent ([cam-on-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:cam-on-board@googlegroups.com))