



## Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

**Lord Stephen Greenhalgh**

*Minister of State for Building Safety and Fire*

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and  
Communities**

4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Email: [PSSStephenGreenhalgh@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:PSSStephenGreenhalgh@levellingup.gov.uk)

17 February 2022

Dear Council Leaders,

### **Council Cyber Resilience Best Practice**

In light of the current tensions in Ukraine, and recent malicious cyber incidents, I am writing to you about the current threat to local authorities from cyber-attacks. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) recently updated [guidance on the increased threat](#) which you may find particularly helpful. The NCSC are currently investigating reports of malicious cyber incidents in Ukraine, and these attacks serve as a reminder of how serious this threat can be.

Whilst we are not aware of any current specific threats to UK organisations, you will be aware of some recent high-profile cyber incidents in local authorities – they are disruptive for residents and councils, and they can be expensive to fix. I encourage all councils to follow some basic steps to reduce the risk of falling victim to an attack, and to help recover more quickly if one does succeed.

Please ensure your councils have taken all reasonable steps to reduce the risks, such as:

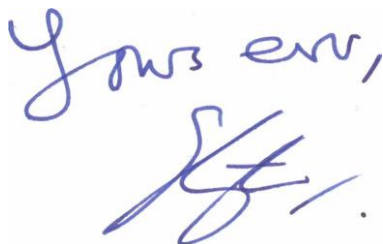
- Checking that backups and restore mechanisms are working
- Installing all current security patches
- Ensure that online defences are working as they should
- Keeping up to date with the latest threat information from NCSC
- Improving access controls
- Making sure that you have effective and up to date incident response plans

Obviously, it is much easier to do this now, rather than during a live attack. I am asking you to act now to reduce risks to your residents, your services, and your staff, so that you are prepared for any incident, and can keep services running.

We will continue working with the NCSC to closely monitor the situation to help organisations to stay ahead of the threat, and I look forward to continuing working with you to support the vital work that local authorities do.

We will also be writing to your Chief Executive.

If you would like further information, then please do not hesitate to contact my officials in the DLUHC Local Digital Cyber team at [cyber@localdigital.gov.uk](mailto:cyber@localdigital.gov.uk).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yours ever,' followed by a stylized signature.

**Lord Greenhalgh**  
**Minister of State for Building Safety and Fire**  
**Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and Home Office**