

**An open letter to Ed Vaizey, Libraries Minister  
1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act**

Dear Ed

I would like to congratulate you on your commitment to keep the Public Libraries & Museums Act, most recently in your contribution to the adjournment debate on libraries on 28 February 2011. At the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals we agree with you that “the statutory duty remains a very important safety net for the provision of libraries”.

I am sure you are aware of the review of statutory duties placed on local government currently being undertaken by the Department of Communities and Local Government\*. The review includes the Public Libraries & Museums Act; it refers to the rights of the Secretary of State to gather information and inspect services; and includes the requirement on public library authorities to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service. It specifically invites respondents to say which duties should be kept, and repealed.

I know that you will make it clear to your colleagues in the Department of Communities and Local Government that there is a continuing need for these duties. I am sure you realise the dangers of giving way on this point, when libraries are the subject of so much public concern. Giving way would fuel the already great concerns for the future of the public library service. I know that you share my passion for the value and future of public libraries. The Conservative Party should be proud of having put the 1964 Act onto the Statute Book.

I would welcome your reassurance that the Coalition Government will remain true to the Act.

Yours sincerely



Annie Mauger  
Chief Executive  
The Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals

\*For information on the DCLG review see: <http://tinyurl.com/6dkj7yz>

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