[Your address]

 [Your telephone number]

 [Your email address]

 [Date]

[*Insert Ombudsman’s address:*]

[*If you live in England:*]

Local Government Ombudsman

PO Box 4771

Coventry

CV4 0EH

[*If you live in Wales:*]

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

1 Ffordd Yr Hen Gae

Pencoed

Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr

CF35 5LJ

By [first class post / email to: [*insert email address*]]

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Complaint about [*insert name of council*]**

 **Request for Ombudsman to investigate complaint before Council’s formal complaints procedure is exhausted**

I write to ask if the Ombudsman could investigate the following complaint. I enclose your complaint form, which I have completed.

I also enclose a copy of my original complaint to the Council dated [*insert date*].

Unfortunately, the Council have not responded fully to my complaint within the timescale, set out in their complaint policy.

I would therefore like the Ombudsman to exercise its discretion to investigate my complaint even though the Council have not responded fully to my complaint. I am asking this because:

[*Explain your reasons. Examples are given below*]

* [*eg* The Council has failed to make a decision on the complaint within the timescale in their Complaints Policy]
* [*eg* My complaint is urgent, because I am at imminent risk of homelessness. My landlord is threatening to evict me because of rent arrears that have been exacerbated by how the Council has dealt with my housing benefit claim].

I would ask you to note that I am unable to exercise a legal remedy because of my financial and personal circumstances.

[*Include the following paragraph if you have instructed a legal advisor or have a representative*:]

The following person is my representative. Please copy all correspondence in this matter to them:

Name: [name]

Organisation: [name of organisation]

Address: [full postal address]

Postcode: [postcode]

Telephone no: [number]

E-mail address: [email address]

Thank you for your help.

Yours faithfully

[Your name]

Copy: [*Insert name & job title of any person you want to forward of copy of this letter to, eg support worker, homelessness officer, legal advisor, councillor, landlord etc*.]