



Department for
Communities and
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The Chief Planning Officer
Local Planning Authorities in England

Dear Colleague

I am writing to alert you to changes coming in to effect on 25th June, upon commencement of Section 6 of the Growth and Infrastructure Act and The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) (Amendment) Order 2013 (SI 2013/1238) which could affect your existing procedures in validating and processing planning applications.

The amendment will have the effect of setting out a formal route for an applicant to challenge information requests by local authorities, enabling an applicant to appeal against non-determination after the statutory time period has passed and no formal validation has taken place. This means that a local authority can no longer compel a developer to provide information because it is on a local validation list – if an applicant considers that the information requested on a local list does not meet the tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Act, they can now challenge the need to provide it.

The changes implement the proposals set out in the consultation paper 'streamlining the planning application process', and will also reduce the number of applications that must be accompanied by a Design and Access Statement and simplify their content, along with changes to the format of decision notices.

Links to the Government Response to the Streamlining the Planning Application Process consultation, along with the DMPO amendment order and the commencement order for Section 6 of the Growth and Infrastructure Act can be found below.

If you have any queries please contact Tom.Winter@communities.gsi.gov.uk
(telephone – 0303 44 41305)

STEVE QUARTERMAIN
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Relevant links

Government Response to Streamlining the Planning Application Process Consultation (published 3 June)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/204379/Streamlining_the_Planning_Application_Process_Consultation_Government_Response.pdf

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) (Amendment) Order 2013 (SI 2013/1238)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2013/1238/contents/made>

The Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 (Commencement No. 2 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2013 – will be on www.legislation.gov.uk shortly.