

## **Planning Appeal Oak Tree Farm**

16 September 2010

### **Which CLG Minister is responsible for taking the decision on this case.**

It is not our practice, prior to the issue of a decision letter, to state which Minister is responsible for taking a decision. However, we are willing to make the information available after the decision has been published. For the avoidance of doubt, we can confirm that the Secretary of State, in whose constituency the appeal site lies and who submitted a written representation on the appeal, will not take the decision himself.

### **Whether particular CLG Ministers take decisions on planning casework from particular regions.**

This was generally the case up until the 2010 general election. However, current Ministers have decided not to organise the work on planning casework decisions on a regional basis. The allocation of cases to particular Ministers is decided having regard to the objective of avoiding any conflict of interest, or the perception of such conflict.

### **When CLG contacted the Planning Inspectorate to request the recovery of this appeal.**

This question seems to assume that CLG was aware of the appeal and contacted the Planning Inspectorate about it. In fact, as indicated in its letter to you of 29 July 2010, the Inspectorate actively monitored appeal decisions during the general election purdah period. Between the end of the purdah period and early July, there were discussions about whether this appeal (and others) should be recovered, and the final decision was taken on 2 July, the date the Inspectorate wrote to notify you about the recovery.