

To: Chief Planning Officers
In England

24 August 2009

Dear Chief Planning Officer

SENSITIVE INFORMATION IN PLANNING APPLICATIONS (SIPA)

On 24 May 2007, the Department wrote to you setting out how to deal with applications containing sensitive information and the applicant wanted to follow the procedure outlined in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the memorandum to CLG Circular 02/2006 "Crown Application of the Planning Acts".

The DCPO letter signalled an intention to review the operation of this procedure and we would now like to put this in train.

I should therefore be grateful if you would, for the two years ending 24 May 2008 and 2009, tell the Department:

- How many applications were received requesting treatment under the SIPA provisions;
- How many of these were accepted for SIPA treatment;
- Whether anyone requested to see the separate part of the planning register;
- Whether any such people were identified (eg as members of the public, journalists etc).
- Your views on how the system has worked to date and whether there are any changes you would like to see.

I should be grateful for your responses by Friday 30 October 2009. Please send them to

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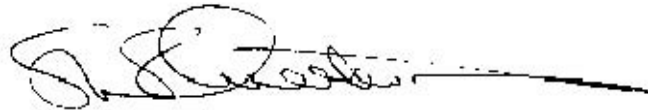
The letter of 24 May can be found at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/lettersensitiveinformation>

Circular 02/2006 can be found at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/150982.pdf>

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Quartermain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Quartermain
Chief Planner