

13 November 2009

The Chief Planning Officer
Local Planning Authorities in England

Dear Chief Planning Officer

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING HERITAGE APPLICATIONS -
NOTIFICATION AND DIRECTIONS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE (ENGLAND)
DIRECTION 2009**

I am writing to let you know that a new Circular, 08/2009 attached, is being published today by Communities and Local Government. At Annex A of the new Circular is the Notification to the Secretary of State (England) Direction 2009. This direction will replace the current direction under section 15(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, which appears at paragraph 26 of DETR Circular 01/2001 (Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications – Notification and Directions by the Secretary of State).

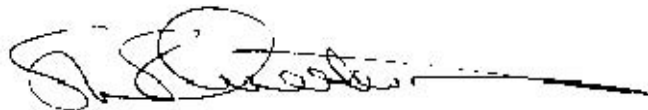
The new direction will take effect on 1 December 2009 for applications received on or after that date. Its effect is to extend the categories of listed building consent applications which local planning authorities are not required to notify to the Secretary of State. With effect from 1 December 2009 the Secretary of State will only need to be notified of applications where the local planning authority is minded to grant consent and has received written objections from English Heritage or one of the six National Amenity Societies covered by the direction. At present the Secretary of State has to be notified, broadly, of all applications which the planning authority is minded to approve affecting Grade I and Grade II* buildings as well as those applications for Grade II (unstarred) buildings which involve the demolition of the principal building, the principal wall of a principal building, or a substantial part of the interior.

Responses to consultation on this new arrangement confirmed our view that it will not result in any reduction of the necessary levels of protection and will further help to simplify procedures. The Secretary of State will still retain the option to call in any application where it is thought necessary to do so.

Apart from this Direction, which will replace the Direction at paragraph 26 of Circular 01/2001, and a summary of requirements for notifying applications for listed building consent at Annex B of the new Circular, which will replace the corresponding part of

Appendix A to Circular 01/2001, the present contents of Circular 01/2001 as amended by ODPM Circular 09/2005 will remain valid.

Yours sincerely,

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

Steve Quartermain
Chief Planner