

The Chief Planning Officer
Local Planning Authorities in England

10 November 2010

Chief Planning Officer Letter:

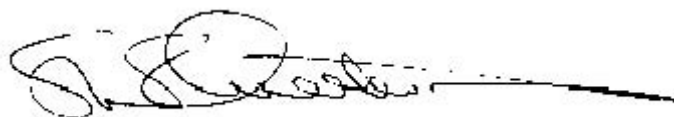
ABOLITION OF REGIONAL STRATEGIES

I am writing to you today following the judgement in the case brought by Cala Homes in the High Court, which considered that the powers set out in section 79 [6] of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 could not be used to revoke all Regional Strategies in their entirety.

The effect of this decision is to re-establish Regional Strategies as part of the development plan. However the Secretary of State wrote to Local Planning Authorities and to the Planning Inspectorate on 27 May 2010 informing them of the Government's intention to abolish Regional Strategies in the Localism Bill and that he expected them to have regard to this as a material consideration in planning decisions.

I am attaching the proposed clause of the Localism Bill that will enact that commitment. The Bill is expected to begin its passage through Parliament before Christmas, and will return decision-making powers in housing and planning to local authorities. Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate should still have regard to the letter of the 27 May 2010 in any decisions they are currently taking.

I should also draw to your attention that Ministers have signalled they are moving ahead with the New Homes Bonus, which will reward councils for building homes and working with their local communities. A consultation paper on the detail will be published very shortly with the new scheme coming into effect next April, and new homes delivered now will be rewarded under the scheme.



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1 Abolition of regional strategies

- (1) Part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (regional strategy) is repealed.
- (2) The regional strategies under Part 5 of that Act are revoked.