

10th February 2012

The Chief Planning Officer
Local planning authorities in England

Dear colleague

NATIONAL PLANNING CASEWORK UNIT

I wrote to you on 10 March 2011 to inform you that a Unit had been established which took over some of the planning casework previously dealt with by the Government Office Network. As the Unit approaches its first anniversary, I am writing to update you on certain changes that have taken place since then, and to draw your attention to relevant information and guidance.

First, whilst many of you are already aware, I wish to confirm that there has been a change in respect of the Unit's enquiry number and email address:

All relevant correspondence should be addressed to:

National Planning Casework Unit
5 St Philips Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

Enquiry number: 0303 444 8050

npcu@communities.gsi.gov.uk

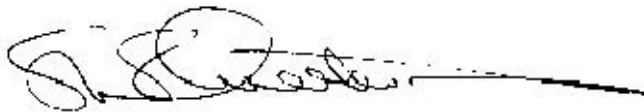
Secondly, in October, the Unit expanded its remit by incorporating some of the work previously undertaken elsewhere within the Department in respect planning casework within London. There have also been a few minor amendments to the types of casework dealt with by the Unit. An updated list is set out in Annex A.

Please remember that the Unit does not undertake work on LDFs. It is also not a statutory consultee, and will not comment on individual planning applications. Confusion has occasionally arisen in respect of the Consultation Direction <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/circularconsultationdirect> ,

where certain types of planning application need to be referred to the Unit once a local planning authority has resolved to grant planning permission. Further information aimed at helping local planning authorities in referring such cases, including details on what documents should accompany the referred applications will shortly be available on the DCLG website and via the Planning Portal.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that over the course of this Summer, the Unit will also start to take on Compulsory Purchase Orders and Exchange Land Certificates which are currently being dealt with by the National Unit for Land Acquisition and Disposal [NULAD]. We will be writing to local authorities about the arrangements which will be put in place to transfer this work nearer the time.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that this letter is cascaded to Development Managers and all officers involved in Development Management within your organisation.

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

STEVE QUARTERMAIN
Chief Planner

Annex A Planning casework dealt with by the Unit

- Referrals under the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009
- Requests to call in planning applications for Secretary of State's decision (including call-in requests for Review of Old Minerals Permissions)
- Environmental Statements (screening, scoping and trans-boundary effects)
- Listed Building Consent – Local Planning Authority Applications
- Listed Building Consent – Private Applications (Circular 08/2009)
- Conservation Area Consents
- Article 4 Directions
- Statutory Allotments Disposals
- Revocation Orders
- Modification Orders
- Discontinuance Orders
- Completion Notices
- Green Belt (London and Home Counties) Act 1938
- Public Requests to Order Disposal of Land (PRODS)
- Prohibition and Suspension Orders (minerals permissions)
- Local Development Orders
- Referrals under Section 62(5) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
- Civil Aviation Authority objections (DfT/ODPM Circular 1/2003)
- Referrals under the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966
- Consent under Section 14 (1) and 14(2) of Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990
- Consent under Article 17(2) of the Schedule to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967

From Summer 2012 the Unit will also be dealing with: (more details on timings will follow in due course):

- Compulsory Purchase Orders - three main types:
 - Planning – under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 226, as amended by section 99 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004)
 - Housing – for local authorities applying under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1985
 - Clearance – under Section 289 of the Housing Act 1985
- Exchange Land Certificates – under Section 19 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981
- Less than Best Price Disposal – under Sections 123 & 223 of the Local Government Act 1972
- Ground 10a Consent – under Schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1985