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Kirun Patel
Shareholder Executive
Department of Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Sent by email to: bis.lr.consultation@bis.gsi.gov.uk

20th March 2014

Dear Kirun Patel,

Introduction of a Land Registry service delivery company: Consultation response

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing over 23,000 spatial planners. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of spatial planning for the benefit of the public. As well as promoting spatial planning, the RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development. This response has been informed by discussions with members in private and public sector planning practice and in particular through or RTPI Networks.

Please find below our response to your consultation in the question format requested. We trust that the response below is explained sufficiently but please do not hesitate to follow up with our contact as shown as required.

The thrust of our response is a call for the registration of ownership and transactions of land and land options with Land Registry to be made compulsory. This will facilitate an informed national debate about land use, as well as strategic planning at the national, regional, and local level. As it stands there are gaps in the national data base of land ownership and transactions and this is stifling the national debate. The lack of transparency in the land market, where most transactions do not occur on the open market at all, discourages much needed new entrants into the sector. At a time of a national housing crisis when new developers in particular are needed to help meet national housing need, the opacity of ownership and transactions needs to be dealt as a priority by Land Registry.

Yours sincerely

Joe Kilroy MSc
Policy Officer



RTPI 2014

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