

Mr P Rowsell

By email: ConductCode@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Legal and Democratic Services
Gifty Edila, LLB, LLM, Solicitor Advocate
Corporate Director
Legal, HR and Regulatory Services Directorate
London Borough of Hackney
2 Hillman Street
London E8 1FB
DX 124200 HACKNEY 3

Tel: 0208 356 6234
Fax: 0208 356 6174
Email: yinka.owa@hackney.gov.uk

Our Ref: wrk BPARKIN/YXO
Your Ref:

Date: 19 March, 2015

Dear Mr Rowsell

I refer to your notice dated 10 March 2015.

The Council is in the course of preparing representations in response to that notice.

In order that it may do so effectively, please will you answer the following questions:

1. Lines 6 to 7 on page 3 of the notice state that the Secretary of State is "not convinced" by the Council's assessment of the consequences of moving to quarterly publication. Please explain precisely what the Secretary of State disagrees with, and why.
2. The last sentence of the middle paragraph on page 5 of the notice states that "other markets would probably develop for alternative media". Please explain what is meant by this, and in particular what markets and what media are referred to.
3. So far as the Council is aware, the Secretary of State has this month issued a direction to one authority, and notices to three others (including the Council). These are not the only authorities which publish newspapers more than quarterly. Please explain on what basis the Secretary of State has issued notices/directions to some authorities but not others.

Since these questions all relate to matters which the Secretary of State must have addressed before giving the notice, you should have no difficulty in responding without delay. Please may we have that response by close of business tomorrow, 20 March 2015.

Alternatively, if you wish to have longer to respond, please confirm that time for the Council's representations will be extended accordingly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yinka Owa', with a stylized, cursive script.

Yinka Owa

Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services

For and on behalf of the Corporate Director for Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
