

Alex Powell
Deputy Director
Local Government Stewardship
Department for Communities and Local
Government
Floor 2, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tim Shields
Chief Executive
Hackney Town Hall
Mare Street
London
E8 1EA

020 8356 3021
tim.shields@hackney.gov.uk

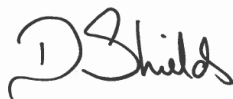
1st December 2017

Dear Mr Powell,

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 2017. Despite its rather grudging tone, I note that the Secretary of State has agreed to treat the document sent on 6 November 2017 as a notice of a proposed direction, rather than as a direction. In the circumstances I need not say anything further about the matter of its validity.

We now intend to proceed as indicated in sub-paragraph (iv) of my letter of 15 November 2017, i.e. to formulate a request for the further information that we shall need in order to make effective representations, which we shall do as quickly as we reasonably can, and in any event within the 14 day period referred to in my letter. Whether your deadline of 5 January 2018 for further representations is appropriate will depend upon the timing of the Secretary of State's response to that request, and how that relates to holiday arrangements of key individuals over the Christmas and New Year period.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T Shields'.

Tim Shields
Chief Executive

