

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 2017, and I am pleased to 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.

Regards

Mark Hynes
Director of Governance and Law
London Borough of Waltham Forest