



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

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Dear Paul

I write further to the letter sent to your predecessor by the former Secretary of State on 28 July 2022 asking the Planning Inspectorate to not send letters or reports which conclude that local plans are unsound and incapable of being made so and/or which advise councils that local plans should be withdrawn.

The previous instruction to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2022 was always intended to be temporary in a period of transition. Since last summer the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) has been progressing through Parliament and we have produced an NPPF prospectus in order to provide further detail on the Government's approach to producing a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that supports our ambitions to change the planning system.

With the above in mind and to ensure the current plan making system continues to operate effectively ahead of our transition into a new plan making system there is no need for this instruction to remain in place and therefore this letter removes this instruction. However, the Department still expects Inspectors to deal with examinations pragmatically continuing to focus on addressing shortcomings in plans to ensure plans can be adopted and communities can benefit from up to date local plans.

Please can you ensure your Inspectors are aware of the above as they continue their critical and decisive role in examining plans to support our ambition to get more up to date plans in place.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Averley
Chief Planner