



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Matthew Pennycook MP**  
*Minister of State*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities &  
Local Government**  
4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

Dear Lindsey,

1 August 2024

**The vital role of professional planners in building the homes we need**

On 30 July, the Deputy Prime Minister set out to the House of Commons this Government's plan to build the homes this country needs. As a crucial first step in this plan, we have launched an eight-week consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and several other changes to the planning system.

The Deputy Prime Minister and I have enormous respect for the planning profession. For my own part, I have seen first-hand the positive impact of your vision and leadership; your engagement with local people; and your collaboration with colleagues across disciplines.

I therefore wanted to write to you, as President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, to convey a clear message on behalf of Government to professional planners – and in particular those serving in local authorities across England.

First, we fully recognise the critical role that planners and related professions, working hand in hand with elected members, have and will play in unlocking the growth the country needs. Second, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge that many of the reforms we set out yesterday represent significant change, which will require leadership and professional commitment. The Government knows how important it will be to bolster capacity and capability in planning departments up and down the country, which several of our proposals are designed to address – including increases in planning fees and placing more trust in planning officers.

As the Deputy Prime Minister said yesterday, “skilled, professional planning officers are agents of change and drivers of growth, playing a crucial role in delivering the homes and infrastructure this country needs”. I look forward to working with you, and the whole profession, in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

**Matthew Pennycook MP**  
Minister of State