



Communities and Local Government Committee

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Lydia Porter
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22 January 2010

Dear Ms Porter

Draft Planning Policy Statement 15: Planning and the Historic Environment

Dr Starkey and Mr Whittingdale have now received a response to the letter to Rt Hon John Healey, Minister for Planning, regarding the proposed draft of Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15), which we copied to you last month.

I attach a copy of Mr Healey's reply. As you will see, it indicates that the Department will be formulating a strategy for handling those aspects of the draft PPS that have been seen as needing clarification or amendment, and that that strategy will "certainly involve some consultation with stakeholder organisations".

In the light of this reply – and given the late stage of the Parliament, which means that the remaining time available to the Committees is very limited – the Chairs have agreed that there does not seem to be a strong case for any further work by the Committees at this stage. However, if you are dissatisfied with the process, or the result, of the further consultation which is planned, you may wish in due course to write to the Committees again setting out your concerns. The Committees could then consider at that stage what, if any, further action on their part might be appropriate at that point.

Yours

Huw Yardley, Clerk, CLG Committee

Tracey Garratty, Clerk, CMS Committee

Enc

cc: Dr Phyllis Starkey MP
John Whittingdale MP
Rt Hon John Healey MP
Bob Kindred



The Rt Hon John Healey MP
Minister for Housing and Planning

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5 July 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Healey", written over the printed name.

DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 15: PLANNING AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Thank you for your letter of 14 December, about concerns that have been expressed in connection with the consultation draft of PPS 15.

A number of respondents to the consultation exercise, which ended on 30 October, have also chosen to make separate representations through other channels, so we are well aware of some of the concerns that have been made to date, including those by organisations referred to in your letter. We have already begun discussions with English Heritage and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport about the most suitable ways to address the points raised by these bodies.

But it is important that we take account of all the responses to the consultation. There were nearly five hundred, and every one of them is currently being considered and assessed. Once this assessment is completed, which we expect will be during January, we will have full information on the whole range of comments that were made during the consultation, the organisations or individuals that made them, and the extent to which issues are common to different sectors. This will enable us to adopt an appropriate strategy for handling those aspects of the draft PPS that have been seen as needing clarification or amendment. I cannot yet say what the detail of such a strategy might be, but it will certainly involve some consultation with stakeholder organisations.

My colleague, Ian Austin will be taking the lead in this consideration. We will write to you again as soon as we have had the opportunity to take advice on the full range of consultation responses, to let you know how we intend to proceed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Healey", written over the printed name.

JOHN HEALEY MP