

27th June 2007

Shayne Coulson
Planning and Development Control Division
Zone 3/J5
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

Dear Shayne,

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2005

SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL REPORT IN RESPECT OF THE STATUTORY DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO CONSULTATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE PERIOD 2006/2007

I refer to the Amendment to the above Order and the introduction of Article 11B. This Article requires statutory consultees to report to the Secretary of State on the consultees compliance with section 54(4) of the Planning and Compensation Act 2004 which stipulates a duty to respond to consultations.

I can report that between the dates of 1st April 2006 and the 31st March 2007:

- The Assembly was consulted on 47 occasions by a Local Planning Authority.
- The Assembly gave a substantive response on 47 occasions to a Local Planning Authority within the period referred to in section 54(4) of the 2004 Act.

In relation to the above figures, 21 of the applications that were submitted to us were subsequently considered to be outside of the criteria the Regional Assembly has prescribed for the purposes of consultation between us and the Local Planning Authorities in the Region. We nevertheless responded to these stating that we had no comment to make. As paragraph 43 of Circular 08/2005 describes, such comments technically constitute a substantive response and is the reason why they are included in our overall figure.

- The Assembly was not consulted by a person other than a Local Planning Authority.

We are pleased therefore to report that there were no occasions where the Assembly gave a substantive response outside the period referred to in Section 54(4) of the 2004 Act.

The above Order does not apply to consultations associated with Local Development Frameworks. However, we nevertheless felt it would be of interest to report on this area of work as part of this submission.

Between the dates of 1st April 2006 and the 31st March 2007:

- The Assembly provided opinions of general conformity in respect of 8 Development Plan Documents that were submitted for Public Examination;
- The Assembly provided opinions of general conformity in respect of 3 Supplementary Planning Documents where this was requested;
- The Assembly provided advice on 31 separate occasions in respect of pre-submission Development Plan Documents which were sent to us by Local Planning Authorities in the Region.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter then please contact my colleague Tim Williams on 0121 678 1050 or via t.williams@wmra.gov.uk

Yours Sincerely

David Thew
Head of Planning

Cc - Ian Smith (Government Office for West Midlands)
Regional Conformity Advisors for the West Midlands