



**Department for
Communities and
Local Government**

The Lord McKenzie of Luton
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 0303 444 3461
Fax: 0303 444 3291
E-Mail: lord.ahmad@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

22 July 2014

Dear Bill,

Infrastructure Bill: Planning

During the debate on clause 20 of the Infrastructure Bill on 10 July, my predecessor Baroness Stowell, agreed to provide Baroness Andrews with further information about resource levels in local planning departments before and after the Killian and Pretty Review Final Report was published. As Baroness Stowell has now left her role in the Department for Communities and Local Government and I will be taking forward her work on the Bill, I have been asked to reply.


I regret to inform you that the Government does not collect data on the number of planning officers employed by local authorities. It is for authorities, as individual employers, to manage the structure and scale of their workforce in light of their local circumstances and in a way that enables them to meet their priorities and offers value for money for local taxpayers.

One important factor in influencing the number of planning officers is the size of the workload. When Joanna Killian and David Pretty were examining the planning application process in 2007/08, 596,000 planning decisions were made. However, the year that the Killian and Pretty Review Final Report was published saw a dramatic reduction in development activity due to the economic downturn and, as the table below shows, a corresponding dramatic drop in the number of planning decisions. In the most recent year that we have records for, the level of planning decisions remains in line with the post downturn trend.

Planning Decisions by Year

Year	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
No. decisions	596,000	489,000	418,000	440,000	440,000	430,000

I hope you find this information of use. A copy of this letter has been sent to Baroness Andrews, Grand Committee attendees and a copy has been placed in the House library.

Yours Sincerely


LORD TARIQ AHMAD