



Department for
Communities and
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Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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8th April 2016

Members of the House of Lords

Dear Colleagues,

Housing and Planning Bill Committee sitting Nine: Parts 6 to 9

I am writing following the ninth and final sitting of the Lords Committee on the Housing and Planning Bill on 23 March.

Part 7: Compulsory Purchase

As promised by Viscount Younger, I shall be writing separately to the Earl of Lytton on the points raised in discussion of amendments 103BAA, 103BG and 103BH. All the peers who contributed to the debate or who tabled amendments in that group will receive a copy, as will the House Library.

We have considered the points raised by Baroness Parminter in moving amendment 103C, and are discussing how best to take them forward with the National Trust.

Clauses 145 – 148: Planning Competition

I agreed to consider a number of points raised in the debate on this subject, and provide further information on engagement. As soon as those considerations are complete, I will write further on this.

Part 8: Public Authority Land

Lord Bridges has written separately following up where necessary on points raised during debate on this part of the Bill.

New Clause: Sustainable Drainage

In December 2014, the Government strengthened national planning policy on Sustainable Drainage Systems, with effect from April 2015. The strengthened policy

makes clear the expectation that sustainable drainage systems will be provided in all major new developments, unless demonstrated to be inappropriate. This strengthened policy applies alongside the existing policy expectation for sustainable drainage systems to be given priority in new developments in flood risk areas and the drainage requirements of Building Regulations.

I explained that we need to give these new arrangements time to show they can work effectively. We have recently met with key stakeholders (see list below) to gauge their views on how the changes are bedding in. We propose to undertake similar reviews at intervals in the future, including a more in-depth review with a broader range of stakeholders one year from now.

In addition, we have regular, on-going stakeholder engagement which allows us to continue to gather evidence. We have also asked those organisations that have written to my Department in support of the amendment to provide evidence on the effectiveness of the new planning policy on sustainable drainage and the ease with which the changes are bedding in.

Initial stakeholder meetings have been held with:

- Local Authority SuDS Officer's Organisation (LASSO)
- Local Government Association (LGA)
- Representatives of Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs)
- The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT)
- The National Flood Forum (NFF)
- Water UK
- Home Builders Federation (HBF)
- Home Builders Association (HBA)

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House Library.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Williams of Trafford".

BARONESS WILLIAMS OF TRAFFORD