



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP
Minister of State for Housing

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Dear Mr. Hawthorne,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP regarding planning reforms. I am replying as Minister of State for Housing.

The proposals generated enormous interest – around 44,000 replies in total – and we are continuing to review the comments received before deciding on our next steps, including the timing of any legislation which may be needed.


The White Paper proposed significant changes to both the focus and processes of planning, with important benefits in mind: to secure better outcomes in terms of land in the right places, more beautiful development and improved environmental outcomes; as well as processes which give more certainty, better engagement and swifter outcomes for communities, councils and developers.

These reforms will leave an inheritance of environmental improvement with environmental assets protected, more green spaces provided, more sustainable development supported, new homes that are much more energy efficient and new places that can become the heritage of the future, built closer to where people want to live and work to reduce our reliance on carbon-intensive modes of transport.

The planning system is only one of the tools that we need to use to mitigate and adapt to climate change, but we know that planning reform is key to supporting the development sector meeting the commitment to net-zero by 2050, and this is why we are bringing forward these proposals for reform now. We will make sure that the NPPF addresses climate change at all opportunities within the reformed planning system, to enshrine key principles and expectations within the sector.

There have been many views aired on different aspects of the reforms, which is why we have sought inputs from a wide range of interests as part of our further work. The White Paper represents only the start of an exciting period of reform, and we will reflect very carefully on the views received in considering how best to take its vision forward.

Once again, I am grateful to you for writing to me about this. We will publish a full Government response to the White Paper, setting out our proposed way forward.

Yours Sincerely


RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP