

Mr Richard Henderson
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Your ref:
Our ref: 2015/0031665
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Mr Henderson

Thank you for your letter of 10 September following your meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights on 9 September 2015.

As was noted at the meeting, it would be inappropriate for Scottish Ministers to comment on the merits or otherwise of any specific planning applications or the City of Edinburgh Local Development Plan, in case this is seen as pre-empting or pre-judging any later decision.

Your letter raises the wider issue of timing and synchronisation between Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and Local Development Plans (LDPs). We are aware of this matter and expect it will be explored as part of the review of Scotland's planning system which was announced earlier this year. The Cabinet Secretary recently appointed an independent panel to undertake that strategic level review, which will include:

- Consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of the current planning system;
- Exploring game changing ideas to improve planning in six key areas: development planning; housing delivery; planning for infrastructure; streamlining development management; leadership, resources and skills; and public engagement.

The panel will provide an independent report with recommendations which will be used to inform the development of a future Scottish Government programme of further planning reform. Stakeholder views from all sectors informed the Cabinet Secretary's decision to undertake the review and you may wish to note that the review questions include several relating to aspects of development planning and development management which will be of interest to you. The panel will be relying on input from stakeholders to inform their work and a call for written evidence was launched on 20 October, closing on 1 December. Further information on the review is available at the website below.

www.gov.scot/planningreview



In the meantime, SESplan remains in place and it is not our intention to either suspend repeat applications or Policy 7. You will be aware that SESplan is currently being reviewed and there are opportunities throughout its preparation to contribute to that review. The Development Plan Scheme for SESplan includes a statement of when interested parties are able to get involved. A link to that document is below.

<http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/assets/images/HNDA/DPS%207%20Final%20April.pdf>

I would encourage you to engage fully with the review of both the SDP and the planning system when the opportunities arise.

Your sincerely,

Carrie Thomson
Principal Planner