

17 June 2010

Dr Richard Tyler
Co-ordinator
National HMO Lobby

Dear Richard,

Houses in multiple occupation: consultation on changes to planning rules

I write to invite you, on behalf of Grant Shapps, the Minister of State for Housing, to take part in an informal consultation on amending the planning rules for houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

In a written statement to Parliament today the Minister announced his intention to replace the current blanket requirement to submit planning applications for material changes of use from family houses to small HMOs with a system which allows those areas experiencing problems with HMO development to take local action.

We believe it is important to get the new rules in place as soon as possible and we therefore like to work through the detail of the proposals with key interested partners rather than undertake a full public consultation.

We would value your input into the development of these proposals to ensure that they work effectively for local people without placing any unnecessary burdens on those who are unaffected by HMO development.

I attached a brief note on the proposals and a list of consultation questions. Copies of the draft legislation will follow in the next few days. Our aim is to lay the necessary legislation before Parliament by the beginning of September, with the new rules coming into effect on 1 October 2010. With this in mind we would appreciate your written comments on the proposals by **Friday 9 July**.

It may be helpful to discuss the proposals face to face and we therefore intend to set up meetings in the week commencing 5 July. We will be in touch shortly to discuss the arrangements with you.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that your organisation is willing to take part in the consultation and provide contact details for the person who will be dealing with this matter. Confirmation should be sent by e-mail to theresa.donohue@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Turner
Planning – Development Management