



**Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government**

Clive Betts MP
Chair
Housing, Communities and Local Government
Committee
House of Commons
London
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Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**
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29 October 2018

Dear Clive,

Further to the hearing that took place with the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee on 9 July 2018 regarding priorities for my Department, I am writing to provide some additional information to the Committee.

Sustainable development definition

During my appearance before the Committee, I was asked about my approach to defining sustainable development for planning purposes. The revised National Planning Policy Framework was published on 24 July, and makes clear at the outset that contributing to the achievement of sustainable development is the core purpose of the planning system. Chapter 2 of the new Framework refers to the high-level definition of sustainable development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and sets out what this means in terms of the overarching objectives that the planning system should pursue. These relate to economic, social and environmental matters equally, which is then carried through the more specific policies that follow in the rest of the Framework.

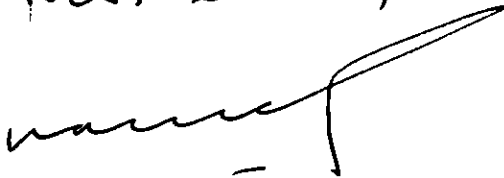
The presumption in favour of sustainable development, which is also contained in this opening chapter of the Framework, is designed to ensure that these objectives are pursued in a positive way through the operation of the planning system. Plans should identify and seek to accommodate the full range of each area's development needs, while ensuring that areas and assets of particular importance are given an appropriate degree of protection. And planning applications should be treated positively when assessed against those plans or, where plans are out of date, should be decided taking into consideration the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

NHBC policy for New Capital Quay

I understand from my officials that you would welcome further information on the terms under which NHBC is making a payment to settle the claim by Galliard Homes for the cost of the remedial scheme at New Capital Quay in Greenwich.

As with many insurance policies, the specific terms can vary from one policy to another and we do not have any details of any terms related to this case. However, the NHBC and Galliard Homes have assured my officials that the payment of the warranty claims will protect leaseholders from bearing any of the cost. We are continuing to urge the NHBC and other warranty providers to make decisions on warranty claims swiftly.

More widely, I have written to building owners who have not yet committed to remediate unsafe ACM cladding and to protect leaseholders. I reinforced in clear terms my expectation that they should do the right thing and follow the example of companies such as Barratt Developments, Mace Group and Taylor Wimpey.

Yours ever,


RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP