From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Dr Daniel Jones
Managing Director
Advanced Invasives
The Studio
8 Museum Place
Cardiff. CF10 3BG

9 September 2019

Dear Daniel Jones,

Japanese knotweed and the built environment

Thank you for your contribution so far to my Committee’s work on Japanese knotweed and the built environment. On 6 September we published the Government’s response to that Report and I would be grateful for your views on one aspect of the response.

My Committee recommended that new guidance on resolving disputes between neighbours on Japanese knotweed be produced:

[...] We recommend that, in consultation with the Civil Mediation Council, the Government produce additional guidance on dealing with such disputes, recommending that mediation via an accredited mediator be normally used, subject to the agreement of the parties involved, as the initial route to resolution of the dispute if it offers value for money, while explaining that this would not prevent an aggrieved party from having recourse to litigation if efforts to achieve a mediated settlement do not succeed. (Paragraph 93)

The Government did not accept this recommendation, explaining that:

There is already a route to resolution for home buyers whose sale is affected by Japanese knotweed through the relevant ombudsman - the Property Ombudsman and Property Redress Scheme. Therefore, the Government does not see a specific need to produce additional guidance.

As you provided evidence on this issue, we would be grateful for your assessment of the Government response and whether there is anything on this issue that we should further pursue with the Government or another body.

I would be grateful for your response to this letter as soon as possible. I will be publishing this letter on my Committee’s website today.

Yours,

[Signature]

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair
Dear Dorothea Antzoulatos,

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Chair
From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Simon Davis
President
The Law Society
113 Chancery Lane
London. WC2A 1PL

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