



# Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1P 3JA

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Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
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Department for Communities and Local Government  
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## **Consultation on proposed changes to national planning policy**

The Committee has discussed your Department's announcement on 7 December of the consultation on proposed changes to national planning policy, and I am writing to express our concern over its timetable.

This consultation is important both because it covers the first changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, and because many of the proposals listed in it affect significant issues of public policy, which should be the subject of informed debate. We are therefore concerned that the consultation was launched without warning and the period envisaged for responding to it will largely be taken up by the Christmas and New Year holidays. In addition, many of the stakeholders who will be expected to respond have been deeply engaged in the Committee stage of the Housing and Planning Bill and may not therefore have the resources to produce a considered submission to the consultation.

The Committee therefore believes that, to address the concerns I have set out, the consultation period should be extended by a month and I should be grateful if you could let me know as soon as possible whether you think this is feasible. In any event, the Committee plans to announce a short inquiry into the issues covered by the consultation, and I believe it would be an unnecessary distraction if we also had to canvass opinions on its conduct and timetable.

**Clive Betts MP**  
**Chair, Communities and Local Government Committee**