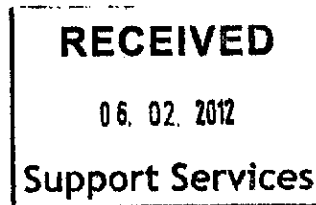


Ms Katie Rodgers  
Team Leader, Development Management (South)  
Rochford District Council  
South Street  
Rochford  
Essex  
SS4 1BW



February 2012

Dear Ms Rodgers

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (CONSULTATION) (ENGLAND)  
DIRECTION 2009  
OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR RESEIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT,  
NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT, LAND WEST OF  
OAK ROAD, ROCHFORD, ESSEX  
APPLICATION NUMBER 10/00234/OUT**

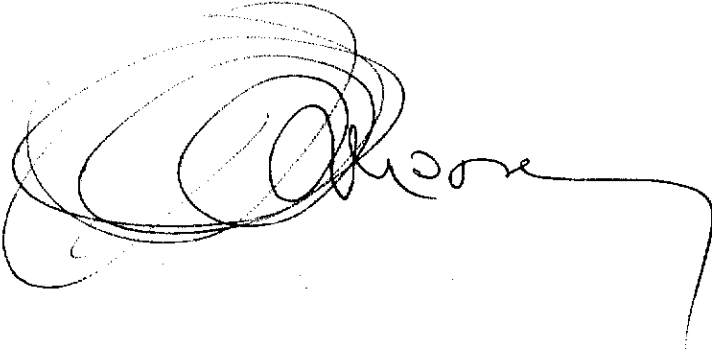
I refer to your letter of 26 January 2012.

The Secretary of State has carefully considered this case against call-in policy, as set out in the 1999 Caborn Statement. The policy makes it clear that the power to call in a case will only be used very selectively. The Government is committed to give more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues, and believes planning decisions should be made at the local level wherever possible. The Secretary of State has carefully considered the impact of the proposal, and the key policy issues which this case raises. In his opinion, the proposals do not: involve a conflict with national policies on important matters; have significant effects beyond their immediate locality; give rise to substantial regional or national controversy; raise significant architectural and urban design issues; or involve the interests of national security or of Foreign Governments. Nor does he consider that there is any other sufficient reason to call the application in for his own determination. He has therefore decided the application should be determined at local level, and has not called it in.

In considering whether to exercise the discretion to call in this application, the Secretary of State has not considered the matter of whether this application is EIA Development for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011. The local planning authority responsible for determining this application remains the relevant authority responsible for

considering whether these Regulations apply to this proposed development and, if so, for ensuring that the requirements of the Regulations are complied with.

Yours sincerely



Dave Moseley  
**SENIOR PLANNING MANAGER**