



Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Chair, HA Committee
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Department for Communities and Local Government

Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
E-Mail: eric.pickles@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.communities.gov.uk

**HOME AFFAIRS AND REDUCING REGULATION COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE –
REPEAL OF CERTAIN FIRE PROTECTION PROVISIONS SET OUT IN LOCAL ACTS**

I am writing to Home Affairs Committee and Reducing Regulation Committee seeking clearance to take forward a repeal of certain fire protection provisions set out in local Acts.

Please can you ensure that you have provided your response by midday [tbc]

I wrote to you on 21 June 2010 seeking clearance to announce the direction of travel for a range of proposals to consolidate, revoke and repeal secondary legislation. You replied in July confirming clearance to proceed and since then, much progress has been made. I am now writing to seek final clearance to take forward one of the remaining proposals which is to repeal certain fire protection measures that are contained in Local Acts that apply in certain parts of England and Wales.

On 18 August my Department wrote to interested parties asking for comments on the proposed repeals. There were 45 responses plus another 5 that had no comments. In broad terms, 21 respondents supported the repeals and 17 objected, a further 7 respondents were neutral or gave a mixed response.

Broadly, those that supported repeal did so because Local Acts imposed unnecessary bureaucratic and cost burdens on business. Most Fire and Rescue Services opposed repeal, as did the Fire Brigades Union. The most significant reasons put forward for not repealing the Local Acts was the potential impact on fire-fighter safety. However, there are adequate provisions in national Building Regulations and there has been no case made as to why fire-fighters in some areas covered by local Acts should be better protected than in others.

Previously, the Treasury raised a potential concern that reduction in fire protection measures for industrial buildings could result in a risk of economic disruption should a fire occur in a very large premises. However, the provisions of national Building Regulations, along with the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations mean that this risk is not likely to occur.

I am satisfied that these provisions are either unnecessary or duplicate national provisions for fire protection contained elsewhere and as such they can be repealed without adversely affecting public safety. The regulatory savings are estimated to be in the order of £1.8m per year, a small but important contribution to economic growth. We intend to produce the necessary statutory instrument as soon as possible once I receive your clearance.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of the Home Affairs Committee, members of the Reducing Regulation Committee and Sir Gus O'Donnell.

RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP

cc Prime Minister
Cabinet Secretary
Home Affairs Committee
Reducing Regulation Committee
Members Home Affairs Committee
Members Reducing Regulation Committee

Drafter's Name Richard Harral

Checker's Name Anthony Burd

MSU case Ref N/A

Style

- Have you used the correct template?
- Have you used the Ministers preferred style?
- Is the formatting correct? (inc space for signature, hand written salutations, e.g. Dear, Yours sincerely)
- Is the spelling & grammar correct?

Accuracy of Content

- Is the delivery address correct?
- Is the correspondents address correct?
- Is the correspondents/constituents name correct throughout the letter?
- Is the correct MSU reference recorded?
- Is the correspondent's reference recorded?
- If applicable, are the hyperlinks correct and working?
- Does this draft need a contribution from other parts of CLG/OGDs?

Intro Paragraph

- Mentions name of person letter was addressed to initially?
- Is the date of the letter correct?
- Have you recorded the relevant subject?
- If applicable, indicated why it has been passed to another Minister for reply?

Policy

- Is the Policy up to date?
- Does the letter answer the question raised?
- Have Ministers mentioned this policy in recent speeches?

Please mark the following questions with an X if answer is Yes and leave blank if No

- Is this a redraft? (Minister's comments taken into account) ☐
- Is this a standard letter that the Minister has already used? ☐
- Is a covering submission attached for this case in MINCOM? ☐
- Are there any attachments required and if so are they attached? ☐
- If applicable, does the draft contain any cc instructions? ☐
- If applicable, please tick this box if you have co-ordinated this response from other policy areas and it contains contributions from other policy teams ☐

BY PLACING AN X IN THIS BOX YOU ARE CONFIRMING THAT THE DRAFT HAS BEEN CHECKED AND IS FIT TO BE PASSED DIRECT TO MINISTERS FOR

SIGNATURE ☐