



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU

11<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Dear Eric,

I enclose a copy of an email I received last night from Councillor David Watts who is a Liberal Democrat member of Broxtowe Borough Council and portfolio holder for Economy and Regeneration.

Councillor Watts's email is self explanatory; I am sending a copy of it and a copy of this letter to the leader of Rushcliffe Borough Councillor, Neil Clarke.

In a separate letter to Councillor Clarke, I have urged him to respond to those parts of Councillor Watts's letter as he is able to.

It is my understanding that Planning Inspectors are currently operating under the RSS. I recall the Conservative manifesto pledge to abolish the RSS and I understand that the Government is in the process of achieving that. However, I also appreciate that you are somewhat hampered by that process in what you can say.

I would be most grateful for some sort of time table as to the future of the RSSs. I would also be grateful if you could confirm that in the event of the RSSs being abolished, local authorities will be free to determine their own housing requirements. I would also be grateful if you could explain the status of the NPPF and the clear guidance within it that Green Belt land should not be built on except in exceptional circumstances.

*Anna Soubry*

*Anna*

**Anna Soubry MP**

cc. Councillor Neil Clarke  
Councillor David Watts

*Anna Soubry, Member of Parliament for Broxtowe*  
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