



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Luke Hall MP**

*Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing*

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Cllr Paul Clark  
North Hertfordshire District Council  
PO Box 10613  
Nottingham  
Nottinghamshire  
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Dear Cllr Clark,

Thank you for your letter dated 5 June to the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP about the North Hertfordshire Local Plan examination. I appreciate how important this matter is to you and I am grateful to you for contacting this department with your concerns. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Secretary of State.

I fully understand your frustration about the continued delays associated with this Local Plan examination and your pressing need to progress the examination as quickly as possible. Clearly, the programme has been delayed by the unavoidable need to postpone the March hearings due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

You are right, however, to suggest that the Planning Inspectorate are using South Oxfordshire as the pilot Authority for virtual Local Plan hearings and I understand that the Inspector for your examination is currently exploring dates for possible virtual hearings to take place.

We do consider it a priority for your Local Plan to progress as quickly as possible and my officials are in contact with the Planning Inspectorate to make that view known to ensure your examination is taken forward in a timely manner.

Once again, I appreciate how important this matter is to you and I am grateful to writing in with your concerns.

**LUKE HALL MP**