



The London Green Belt Council

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London W1

9th May 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

My predecessor as Chairman of the London Green Belt Council, Peter York, wrote you in October 2015 about his concern on the erosion of the Metropolitan (London) Green Belt. He particularly mentioned the disconnect between the expressed intentions, for the Green Belt as stated by your government, when compared with reality.

In his reply, Brandon Lewis, on behalf of DCLG, said that he was happy to confirm that maintaining strong protection for Green Belt is a national policy and that local authorities are required to observe this. He went on to say that this was reinforced in 2014 with additional guidance which reminds local authorities (and planning inspectors) that in planning to meet local housing and other needs a local authority must have regard to national policy on the protection of the Green Belt.

Last year you announced that the protection of the Green Belt was paramount and reiterated the Conservative Party's manifesto.

Recently figures were issued on the planning permissions given in the last year. For the Metropolitan (London) Green Belt the figure was 117,208, an increase of 35% in one year. Added to this there is now the threat of small sites in the Green Belt for "starter homes" which will probably be unaffordable due to the value of the land.

I am sure you will understand our concern at this new threat to our precious Green Belt and would appreciate an explanation as to why the Government's policy as set out in the Conservative manifesto is not being upheld. We trust that you will be able to stand by your commitment to protect this valuable asset.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Knox-Johnston
Chairman
The London Green Belt Council