



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

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**Kit Malthouse MP**  
Minister of State for Housing

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
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19 December 2018

Dear Mr Raw,

Thank you for your letter of 12 November to the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP on behalf of Brighton and Hove City Council regarding concerns about the proposed planning reforms for shale gas development. I am replying as the Minister of State for Housing.

The consultations on permitted development for shale gas exploration development, and the BEIS consultation on the inclusion of shale production projects into the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime, are now closed. The Government is in the process of considering the responses to the consultations and will publish its responses in due course.

The Government remains fully committed to making planning decisions faster and fairer for all those affected by new development, and to ensure that local communities are fully involved in planning decisions that affect them. That is why the consultation on the principle of a permitted development right for shale gas exploration development sought views on the conditions any permitted development right would be subject to. Conditions can include local consideration of particular planning impacts, and public engagement.

Further to this, we have published a separate consultation on whether developers should be required to conduct pre-application community consultation prior to submitting a planning application for shale gas development, and the process of community consultation that could be required. The consultation opened on 31 October 2018 and runs for a period of 10 weeks, ending on 7 January 2019.

I hope this is helpful, I would further encourage the council to participate in the consultation, which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/compulsory-community-pre-application-consultation-for-shale-gas-development>.

**KIT MALTHOUSE MP**

