

# The Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE



*Government Whips Office*

*House of Lords*

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Baroness Whitaker  
House of Lords  
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16 November 2010

*Dear Lady Whitaker,*

I am writing in response to your contribution to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Debate on the Public Bodies Bill, which took place on 9 November. I thank you for participating in the extensive debate on the Bill and look forward to continuing these discussions in the coming weeks.

During the debate, you asked a specific question regarding the future of the Homes and Communities Agency. I can confirm that good design will remain within the objectives of the Homes and Communities Agency. The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently considering the options available around the various design standards with a view to making them more local, more efficient and less bureaucratic.

In addition, you asked whether the Government would be implementing the Temple Review in full. Last month David Willetts, the Minister for Universities and Science, wrote to Lord Bichard the Chair of the Design Council to confirm that the Government accepted the recommendations in Martin Temple's review. The recommendation that the Design Council should remain as a Royal Charter charity, but not as a non departmental public body, was included in the Government's announcement on the reform of public bodies on 14 October. The Design Council is not named within the Public Bodies Bill, as it is a non-statutory body.

Officials at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are working closely with the Design Council on the implementation of the review recommendations, working towards moving the Design Council out of the public sector by the end of March 2011. The level of funding for the Design Council, in return for the specific delivery of design policy, advice and services, will be confirmed as soon as possible.

I am copying my response to my colleagues Grant Shapps MP, Minister for Housing, and David Willetts MP, Minister for Universities and Science. I am also placing a copy of this letter in the House of Lords Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Taylor', written in a cursive style.

**LORD TAYLOR OF HOLBEACH**