



# ENGLISH HERITAGE

from the Chief Executive  
Dr Simon Thurley

Mr Eric Ollerenshaw MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

29 November 2010

*Dear Mr Ollerenshaw,*

I am writing to provide information in response to the Parliamentary Question below which you tabled on 19 November 2010.

*To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, how many submissions each regional office of English Heritage has made to local planning authorities at planning application stage in each of the last five years.[26036]*

English Heritage does not make submissions to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) but in its role as the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment it is consulted by the LPAs in certain specific circumstances (see appendix 1) and provides advice. The number of applications on which English Heritage has been consulted in the last five years, broken down by region, is set out in the table below:

Total Listed Building Consent (LBC) and Planning Applications on which English Heritage was consulted 2005/06 – 2009/10, by region

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
North East	552	595	474	550	464
North West	1,072	1,059	1,259	1,070	946
Yorkshire and the Humber	912	956	944	1,048	974
East of England	1,306	1,411	1,501	1,444	1,288
East Midlands	940	981	1,042	1,009	1,118
South West	2,170	2,301	2,370	2,450	2,237
West Midlands	1,098	1,031	1,032	970	988
London	2,994	3,189	2,983	3,239	3,052
South East	2,284	2,271	2,172	1,742	1,656
Total	13,328	13,794	13,777	13,522	12,723

English Heritage is consulted on approximately 20% of the total number of Listed Building Consent cases and on around 1% of all planning applications per year. In responding to requests for advice English Heritage

- offers no comment in around 62% of Listed Building Consent cases and 53% of planning applications;
- offers general advice in around 18% of LBC cases and 21% of planning applications; and
- provides substantive comments in around 10% of LBC cases and 16% of planning applications.

There is a percentage (around 10%) of applications on which there are no grounds for the LPA to consult English Heritage. In total, English Heritage offers substantive advice on less than 2.5% of all Listed Building Consent applications and 0.2% of planning applications submitted.

English Heritage is also consulted on Conservation Area Consent applications in London only and handles approximately 350 of these a year, around 12% of the total number of this type of consent application. It also provides advice on other applications for consent to undertake works. These include Scheduled Monument Consent, Ecclesiastical Exemption and Listed Building Consent Referrals. Advice is provided to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, to the Exempt Denominations and to Government Offices respectively. The total number of consent cases English Heritage considers each year averages approximately 16,000. If you would like to know more about English Heritage's role in the planning system, please contact Edward Impey, English Heritage Director of Heritage Protection and Planning on 01793 414951.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Simon Thurley.*

cc Public Engagement & Recognition Unit, DCMS

## Appendix I

### Circumstances in which Local Planning Authorities are Required to Consult English Heritage

Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Areas Act 1990 as interpreted by Circular 01/01

Applications for Planning Permission
Development which in the opinion of the local planning authority affects the setting of a grade I or II* listed building.
Development which in the opinion of the local planning authority affects the character or appearance of a conservation area and which involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The erection of a new building or the extension of an existing building where the area of land in respect of which the application is made is more than 1,000 square metres; or</li><li>• The material change of use of any building where the area of land in respect of which the application is made is more than 1,000 square metres; or</li><li>• The construction of any building more than 20 metres in height above ground level.</li></ul>
Development likely to affect any grade I or II* historic park or garden.
Development likely to affect the site of a scheduled monument.
In addition, in Greater London, English Heritage has the following powers:
Development within the curtilage of a grade II listed building which in the opinion of the local planning authority affects the setting of the listed building.
Development which in the opinion of the local planning authority affects the setting of a grade II listed building and which involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The provision of more than 1,000 square metres of gross floor space (measured externally); or</li><li>• The construction of any building more than 20 metres in height above ground level.</li></ul>
Development of land involving the demolition, in whole or part, or the material alteration of a listed building.
Applications for Listed Building Consent
For works in respect of any grade I or II* listed building;
For works for the demolition of a principal grade II listed building.
For works for the alteration of any grade II listed building which comprise or include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The demolition of a principal external wall of the principal building; or</li><li>• The demolition of all or a substantial part of the interior of the principal building.</li></ul>
In addition, in Greater London, English Heritage has the following powers:
For works in respect of any principal grade II listed building which is a railway station (including underground railway station), theatre, cinema or bridge across the Thames.
For works in respect of any curtilage building to a principal grade II building which is a railway station (including an underground railway station).
For works in respect of any grade II listed building which is owned by a local planning authority in its area and where the application is made by a person other than the authority.

