

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

18th September 2023

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders

Unfortunately I was unable to answer your Written Senedd Question (ref WQ88854) on the issue of fast tracking or green-lighting housing developments along with the other questions which were answered on 31st August. As a result, I am writing to you to set out the Government's position on the matter.

You specifically asked me what consideration the Welsh Government has given to introducing a fast-track or green-light system for housing developments. The delivery of 20,000 social homes for rent is a key commitment of this government and the planning system must do everything possible to facilitate the building of these homes. I expect planning applications for housing to be dealt with in a timely fashion. However, new housing must be sustainable and exhibit good quality placemaking credentials. Planning applications cannot be green-lit as this could deny communities the opportunity to have their say and remove democratic accountability from the decision making process. The most expedient and transparent way for housing developments to progress through the planning system is to ensure that there is an up to date Local Development Plan in place, where issues of sustainability and placemaking can be considered fully.

Yours sincerely

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.