



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
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*Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
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10 October 2019

Mark Stone
Chief Executive
South Oxfordshire District Council
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Oxon
OX14 4SB

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State dated 10 October.

You are correct that a holding direction made pursuant to s.21A of the 2004 Act requires the Secretary of State to be considering whether to give a direction under s.21 of that Act. As your Cabinet have stated they wish to withdraw the plan, the Secretary of State is considering whether to give a direction under s.21(4) of the 2004 Act for the plan (or any part of it) to be submitted to him for his approval instead of the Council.

In summary, this was not an attempt to issue a 'general' holding direction but to allow time for the Secretary of State to consider whether to give a direction under s21(4) of the 2004 Act.

I hope this has clarified the situation for you.

Regards,

Emran Mian

Director General, Decentralisation and Growth
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government