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Climate Change and Resource Efficiency Team  
GO East  
Eastbrook  
Shaftesbury Road  
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CB2 8DF

5<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Dear Sandy

### Low Carbon Housing

Thank you for meeting us yesterday and giving us the opportunity to comment on the GO's guidance leaflet for planners. As we explained the HBF is committed to the continued improvement in the environmental performance of new homes in line with the Government's objective of delivering carbon neutral housing by 2016. As discussed, this is best achieved by working in partnership given the challenging nature of the task before us.

Having had the opportunity to consider the contents of your guidance leaflet we are surprised and disappointed at both its contents and the approach it takes in light of Government policy and the approach set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes. As Ruth Kelly stated in a speech only yesterday, the development industry needs certainty regarding future standards in order to be able to innovate and invest, and there is a need to deliver the homes that local people so desperately need. She also made it clear that these matters must be taken forward through the statutory local development framework process and subject to proper scrutiny and testing.

The content of the leaflet displays the inherent flaws drawn to your attention by Paul Cronk in his letters with regard to the Low Carbon Housing Partnership strategy and discussed at our meeting. The approach taken in the leaflet demonstrates little commitment to genuine engagement and team working with the development industry. Given the significance of this document for a number of Government objectives in relation to development and growth we are incredulous that there appears to have been no formal intent to engage the HBF in its production. We would also take this opportunity to raise our concerns as to the role the GO appears to be taking in promoting guidance which is at odds with policies contained in the emerging RSS and national strategies previously agreed with the industry.



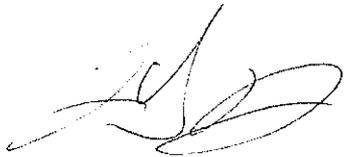
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We have concerns regarding the timing of publication of this document in advance of finalising the RSS and the supplement to PPS1. It would seem far more logical to launch guidance on the back of the adoption of these policies. This would enable the GO to bring clarity and certainty to a highly complex and constantly changing arena. As such, if the guidance were to be published in its current form it is the HBF's belief that it would seriously hinder the delivery of the Region's growth agenda and frustrate our common objective of achieving low carbon housing.

In light of the above and the imminent publication of the leaflet we consider there is a need to meet with Brian Hackland, Alex Plant and yourself to chart a more productive way forward on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Butler-Finbow', written in a cursive style.

Simon Butler-Finbow  
Eastern Regional Planning Chairman  
Home Builders Federation

cc. Brian Hackland – GO East  
Andrea Young – GO East  
Alex Plant – GO East  
John Williamson – GO East  
Michael Hargreaves – GO East