

Dear
Second Request to HED

Thank you for your response of today to our email of 8th April.

Unfortunately it does not address the crux of our query and seems to have misunderstood our request as being for information on the decision making process of the Council.

With apologies for any lack of clarity in our email, we would like to make it clear that we are seeking to understand and see documentary evidence of the process whereby the position of concern expressed by HED in 2009 moved to a position of having no objections (April 3rd 2017) as quoted above.

Clearly this would have affected the Council's consideration of the application but for now, we are only interested in how HED reached and documented their change of position.

It is our understanding that Council members are as much in the dark as anyone else as to how the new HED position was reached.

We hope you understand our wish to have this matter clarified through the documentation of your decision making process as soon as possible and now formally make a second request to HED for what we first requested on April 8th 2021 as quoted below :

"We would like to respectfully request a copy of the minutes of the meeting or decision-making process by which that conclusion of "no objections" was reached" .

Kind regards,

Dear Sir/Madam

Date: 9 June 2021

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I wish to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 21 May 2021.

You asked for “an explanation and to see documentary evidence of the process whereby the position of concern expressed by HED in 2009 moved to a position of having no objections (April 3rd 2017)”. You added “for now we are we are only interested in how HED reached and documented their change of position”.

With regard to planning application P/2009/1336/F, HED (Historic Monuments) originally issued a response to the planning authority (dated 14/12/2009) advising that we had no objection to the principle of development at this location. HED (Historic Monuments) recommended to the planning authority that the buildings fronting on to Shore Road should draw upon details of the Victorian character of the area and reflect detail from the Great Northern Hotel which formerly occupied the site. HED (Historic Monuments) also recommended retention of the brick chimney within the site. Both recommendations were made to aid integration of the scheme into the surrounding historic landscape. HED (Historic Monuments) did not at any time object to the application or advise that the scheme was contrary to PPS 6 archaeological policy requirements.

On 05/04/2017 HED (Historic Monuments) issued a further response to the planning authority on planning application P/2009/1336/F advising that we were content the scheme met policy requirements and welcomed retention of the brick chimney within the scheme. While the recommended design changes were not addressed, the scheme had partially reduced in size and the brick chimney was to be retained.

Therefore our fundamental position on this application remained consistent between 2009 and 2017 in that HED (Historic Monuments) did not at any time advise the scheme was contrary to PPS 6 archaeological policy requirements.

If you are dissatisfied with this response and wish to request a review of our decision or make a complaint about how your request has been handled, you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. You should write to the Information Access Manager, Department for Communities, Level 5, Nine Lanyon Place, BELFAST, BT1 3LP, or send an email to foi@communities-ni.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of our original decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours