



cc BG  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT  
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

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OUR REF: R/PSO/3922/86

The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON SW1

22 April 1986

MSA  
Dear Kenneth

DEREGULATION : CONSULTATION UNDER ARTICLE 15 OF THE GDO

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 4 April to David Young about your proposals for improving consultations under Article 15 of the GDO. *WILL REQUEST IF REQUIRED*

From the highways standpoint, your proposals should work satisfactorily. To a limited extent pre-application discussions already take place between highway authorities, including my own regional engineers, and prospective developers. Your proposals would extend existing practice. I would be glad to write to all concerned to encourage this further if there is general agreement to your proposal. You may however think that a more general circular to local authorities would be appropriate.

I have only two points of detail on your certification proposal. First, I assume that you have in mind to make it a requirement that consultees should issue a certificate reasonably promptly following the satisfactory completion of discussions. If consultees drag their feet, the benefits from your proposal might be lost. Secondly, it must be for local planning authorities to ensure that the proposals covered by a certificate match those in the planning application since, in these cases, you are proposing to dispense with the formal post-application consultation.

Copies of this letter go to David Young, Peter Walker, Michael Jopling, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, Richard Luce, and, for information, Malcolm Rifkind.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Nicholas*

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

