

*Please see OD020 for Mr Gordon Bell's letter*

Regulation 18 concerns the notification that the local planning authority proposes to prepare a plan and would thus not appear directly relevant to the present situation in which the plan has already been in preparation for some time and for which examination has already commenced.

Nonetheless, it is important that adequate consultation takes place in respect of the modifications, and if there are concerns about the scope of consultation, the persons or bodies who are being consulted and the matter of sustainability appraisal, you should raise them first with the local planning authority. If, having discussed the matter with the authority, you remain concerned about matters of procedural soundness, it is open to you to make representations in the usual way during the consultation stage. As I have indicated, my active involvement will commence when the proposed modifications and the representations concerning them have been submitted and the examination has been reconvened.