



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Stephen Irvine  
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Management  
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By email

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**Your ref:** Saddleworth School

**Our ref:** PCU/CONS/W4223/3224120

**Date:** 8 May 2019

Dear Stephen Irvine

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009  
Proposed new Saddleworth School at former WH Shaw Pallet Works,  
Huddersfield Road, Diggle OL3 5NX  
Application no's: PA/337931/15, LB/337929/15, PA/337301/15 & PA/337930/15**

I refer to your email of 5 March 2019 referring to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government ("The Secretary of State") applications PA/337301/15 and PA/337930/15 for planning permission for the above development. The proposals have also been the subject of third party requests to call in for determination by the Secretary of State. The application for Listed Building Consent is dealt with in a separate letter.

The Secretary of State has carefully considered the proposals against call-in policy, as set out in the Written Ministerial Statement by Nick Boles on 26 October 2012. The policy makes it clear that the power to call in a case will only be used very selectively.

The Government is committed to give more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues, and believes planning decisions should be made at the local level wherever possible.

In deciding whether to call in these applications, the Secretary of State has considered his policy on calling in planning applications. This policy gives examples of the types of issues which may lead him to conclude, in his opinion that the applications should be called in. The Secretary of State has decided not to call in these applications. He is content that they should be determined by the local planning authority.

In considering whether to exercise the discretion to call in the applications, the Secretary of State has not considered the matter of whether the applications are EIA Development for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The local planning authority responsible for determining these applications remains the relevant authority responsible for considering whether these Regulations apply to these proposed developments and, if so, for ensuring that the requirements of the Regulations are complied with.

Yours sincerely

*M Hale*

**Mike Hale**  
**Senior Planning Manager**