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Our Ref: NB/NB/006846/14
Your Ref: SP7758

27 MAR 2014

Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2014, enclosing a letter of 24 February 2014 from Cllr Hillary Cole of West Berkshire Council concerning the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

I understand my officials are due to meet with representatives from West Berkshire on 13 May 2014 to discuss the concerns they have raised on the levy. The Government is absolutely committed to supporting anyone who wants to build their own home and wants to double the size of the self-build housing sector to make it a mainstream housing option. The levy can act as significant barrier for self-builders with many projects being held back due to their viability. The exemption will therefore help give this sector a much needed boost and give more people the chance to build their own home.

The exemption is temporary for three years and is designed to exempt all forms of self and custom build housing, whether such homes are built on single unit infill plots, multi-unit serviced plots offered by builders on larger housing sites or community-led self-build projects. To qualify for the exemption self-builders will need to complete a simple form at the start and end of their project and provide evidence that their project is a genuine self-build.

Our published guidance on the levy sets out further details on the application of the exemption, including its application on larger multi-unit sites. It also makes clear that the chargeable amount (i.e. the levy that would have been payable if the exemption had not been granted) will be registered as a 'local land charge' on the property for three years from completion. This enables charging authorities to claw back levy charges where a property is sold within three years of the completion of the property. The guidance can be found at: [www.http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/?s=Community+Infrastructure+Levy&post_type=guidance](http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/?s=Community+Infrastructure+Levy&post_type=guidance).

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