

Rt Hon Alok Sharma, MP for Reading West

1st June 2020

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about planning permissions during the outbreak of Covid-19.

I understand your concern about the effect of planning permissions lapsing and I agree that clarity for communities is important at this time. I have ensured that my Ministerial colleagues are aware of the situation and I am told they are considering whether or not to introduce an extension for those permissions that are in danger of lapsing.

It has also been emphasised that local authorities should continue to focus on decision-making during the outbreak and seek to use all options available to them to facilitate this. This includes the use of technology where appropriate.

Amendments to existing regulations are also temporarily supplementing publicity requirements to put up site notices, issue neighbour notification letters and place newspaper advertisements. Planning authorities can instead publicise planning applications through social media and other online services.

We in Parliament need to remain open minded about how we can keep the planning system functioning well at this time.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Alok Sharma MP

Follow Alok on Twitter: @AlokSharma_RDG

**Please reply to: The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
e: alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk w: www.aloksharma.co.uk t: 0118 941 3803**