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Amendment to the Buildings Act 1984

Proposal to require Local Authorities to keep Registers of Building Control Information.

1. You are invited to comment on Communities and Local Government's proposals set out in this document:

- on the level and type of information to be kept by local authorities (LAs)
- how information should be stored
- the level of information which can be disclosed

The object of the consultation is to obtain views on the Department's proposals for the making of regulations by the Secretary of State under section 91A of the Building Act 1984. Section 91A of the Building Act 1984 was inserted by section 7 of the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004 (SSBA) to replace the existing requirement for local authorities to keep and maintain a publicly accessible register of building control information under section 56 of the Building Act 1984. This register will contain prescribed information and documents connected to LAs' building control functions, powers and duties. At present, LAs are required under section 56 of the Building Act 1984 to keep a publicly accessible register of information relating to the building control activities of Approved Inspectors, but not relating to the LAs' own building control activities or documents issued by competent persons.

Whilst other organisations and third parties may be affected by these proposals, it will most likely be LAs who will be most affected by them. The main aim of the consultation package is therefore intended for LAs, but it is also acknowledged that other interested groups and organisations may have an interest and are welcome to make their views known.

The deadline for receiving responses to this consultation is 15 June 2007.

The consultation package

2. The consultation package consists of the following documents, which are bound together with this letter:

- A list of organisations who have been consulted: if there are any others that you think should receive a copy of this document, please let Yvonne Jackson know as soon as possible (tel:020 7944 5755, e-mail: enquiries.br@communities.gsi.gov.uk).
- **A list of six criteria that written consultations should comply with under the Government Code of Practice on Consultation.**
- **A response form** which is commended to consultees as an effective way of expressing opinions on the proposals. An electronic version of the response form may be downloaded from our web site (<http://www.communities.gov.uk>). The web site also contains this consultation document.
- The proposals (including supplementary information at Annex B& C)
- An initial Regulatory Impact Assessment (Annex A).

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