



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Simon Gallagher
Director of Planning

Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

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2 Marsham Street
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www.gov.uk/dluhc

27 July 2022

Uttlesford District Council
[Via Email]

Dear Chief Executive,

Local planning authority designation under section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

I am writing to you to let you know the latest statistics on the quality of decisions with which planning applications for major and non-major development have been determined over the two years to March 2021 were published on 21 July. They are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/mut3zxd2>.

The 2021 threshold for designation is **over 10%** of an authority's decisions on applications for major and non-major development made during the assessment period, including those arising from a 'deemed refusal', being overturned at appeal. This is set out within the updated designation criteria that were laid before Parliament in December 2020 (available here: <https://tinyurl.com/97kvdsvk>).

The statistics show that your authority had 17.1 per cent of decisions on applications overturned at appeal for major development. As such, the Local Planning Authority continues to exceed the 10% threshold for decisions on applications for major development made during the assessment period.

I would be grateful if you could inform us whether any adjustments are required to correct any errors or omissions in the published data. Please use the attached spreadsheet to record the corrections. Clear evidence with supporting justification should be provided in respect of any proposed corrections submitted.

On 8 February 2022, the Secretary of State exercised the powers conferred by section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to designate Uttlesford District Council in respect of applications for planning permission for major development. This designation had effect from 8 February and remains in force until revoked. As the current designation remains in force, we will be taking no further action.

I welcome the work that Uttlesford District Council has already undertaken with Government Officials and the Planning Advisory Service to review the planning service and implement actions for performance improvement. The Council is required to formally submit a Performance Improvement Action Plan to the Department for approval and I would request that this is provided as a matter of priority.

Any material in response to these points should be directed to Fionnuala Wolff (0303 444 2134/ fionnuala.wolff@levellingup.gov.uk) or Stephen Gee (0303 444 0013/ stephen.gee@levellingup.gov.uk) and arrive no later than 11 August 2022.

I am copying this letter to your Chief Planner.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.J. Gallagher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Gallagher