

4 NPPG19 : RADIO TELECOMMUNICATIONS (AN343-2005)

The Committee will be aware that the Council has raised concerns with COSLA relative to a potential lack of clarity in NPPG19 regarding the eligibility of health matters as material considerations in the determination of planning applications. Following a letter from COSLA to the relevant Minister, the Convener and Director met with Scottish Executive officers to explain the concerns that COSLA's constituent member Councils have in implementing the current guidance.

As a result of this meeting, the Minister has written to COSLA seeking to clarify these issues. Her letter, firstly, advises that she intends to fully review NPPG19 in late 2006 in order to remove any confusion regarding the handling of concerns about radio frequency emissions. Secondly, the Minister's letter goes on to explain that it is the Executive's view that there is no evidence to justify planning authorities treating radio frequency emissions as a material consideration.

On this basis, the Director of Planning and Transportation intends to continue to advise the Committee that they should not take into account any possible health matters relating to radio frequency emissions when considering planning applications for radio telecommunication masts.