



Rt Hon Tom Pursglove MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Date: 29th September 2021
Our Ref: JS/RG

Dear Tom

Further to your open letter to Rob Bridge dated 20th September 2021 regarding Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in Corby, requesting the Council to consider introducing an 'Article 4 Direction', I'm pleased to respond as the Leader of the Council. Please accept this as my open response to you.

HMOs and their permissions are a key concern to residents. The Council is fully aware of residents' concerns over the increasing numbers of HMOs in Corby and other towns and areas in North Northamptonshire. Therefore, in July, the Council's Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) received a briefing at its meeting, which set out the situation, what an Article 4 Direction covers, and the process the Council would need to follow to introduce one.

The Panel discussed the situation and options and agreed that officers investigate the possible use of Article 4 Directions for HMOs in North Northamptonshire with regular reports to be brought back to them. My councillor colleagues were very supportive of undertaking the work to look at an Article 4 Direction.

It was also noted that the Secretary of State had recently announced that Article 4's should only apply to the smallest area possible, whilst supporting the Government's wish to deliver this type of housing through national permitted development rights.

As the work progresses through the EAP, I would be happy to provide you with updates. My Chief Executive and I would be delighted to meet with you and discuss further if needed.

I hope this reassures you that the Council recognises these concerns, listens to our residents, and proactively looks at options to address these.

Warmest Regards

Councillor Jason Smithers
Leader of North Northamptonshire Council