



Brent Civic Centre
Engineers Way
Wembley
HA9 0FJ

Tel : (020) 8937 1764
Email : Lorraine.langham@brent.gov.uk
Web : www.brent.gov.uk

Janis Denselow
QPARA Chair
30 Montrose Ave
Queens Park
London
NW6 6LB

21st April 2106

Dear Mrs Denselow,

Thank you for your letter to the Chief Executive, Carolyn Downs, dated 16 April 2016 which has been passed to me for reply.

I am sorry to hear that you feel you have not received a satisfactory service from the Planning team and that you are concerned about the loss of knowledge and expertise following the departure of Andy Bates (last year) and Stephen Weeks (at the end of March).

We recognise that the team has been in transition and under pressure, and staff have been working very hard to minimise the impact on services to residents, professionals and developers.

We have been actively recruiting additional staff to shore up the service and ensure that reasonable standards can be delivered. You will be pleased to learn that we have successfully recruited a very experienced interim Head of Planning, Transport and Licensing, Mike Kiely, who will join us full time from 16 May (he is currently working one day a week). Mike has a very strong track record spanning 40 years in planning and is one of the highest profile and respected planners in the UK. He has managed all aspects of the service in similarly complex environments and I am confident that he will provide the leadership and senior managerial capacity the service needs at this stage.

We have also recruited a third Senior Planner, Adrian Harding, who started this week. He will share the workload of Angus Saunders, who took over as the Area Planning Manager South when Andy Bates left, and his counterpart, David Glover, Area Planning Manager North. This additional senior capacity will assist in clearing any backlogs and dealing with the most complex casework. We have also successfully recruited permanent and temporary planners.

If you were willing, I think an early meeting with Mike Kiely would be really beneficial to his understanding of your neighbourhood and requirements. If you would find this helpful, my PA Hani Al-Mousawi (020 89374260) can set this up for you.

Once again, my apologies for any drop in service during transition. I hope you will continue to bear with us as we put the right team in place.

Thank you for taking the trouble to write to us.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lorraine Langham', written in a cursive style.

Lorraine Langham
Interim Strategic Director
Regeneration and Environment

Cc: Richard Johnson (QPARA Planning Lead), QP Councillors (Denselow, Nerva, Southwood), Carolyn Downs (Chief Executive Brent Council), Aktar Choudhury (Operational Director Regeneration)