



**Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government**

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
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[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

Our Ref: 3679132  
Your Ref:

Date: **9 March 2018**

Dear Mr Richardson,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, regarding the planning application fee increase. Your letter has been passed to this Division as it has responsibility for planning fee policy, and I have been asked to reply.

We welcome your views on planning applications and the proposal set out for the inclusion of retrospective planning applications in the planning application fee increase

I am pleased to read that Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has welcomed the increase to the national planning application fees by 20%, but understand that you feel that the fee increase should also apply to retrospective planning applications.

Planning fees relate to the cost for a local planning authority to process a planning application. A higher fee is not charged for retrospective planning applications as the cost to process these applications is not considered to significantly differ to justify a higher charge.

Although I cannot reply in any further detail to the points you have raised I would like to assure you that they have been noted. It is views like this that help to shape the way future government policy is developed.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Department.

Yours Sincerely,

**Muraad Chaudhry**