



Ms J Ayres and Mr G Wildgoose  
The Planning Inspectorate  
C/o Charlotte Glancy,  
Local Plan Programme Officer

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Tuesday 30 September 2025

Dear Ms Ayres and Mr Wildgoose,

**Examination of the Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041 – Response to Initial Question 3 and follow up Questions in IN02**

Thank you for your follow up letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

I write in response to your initial question in your letter of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025 regarding housing supply and also in response to your further questions in your follow up letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025. I am also able to provide an update on the progress of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) that were expected to be signed by the end of September.

**Housing Supply**

**Q3.** *For the examination to be effective we require the calculation of housing figures that underpin the Plan to be as up-to-date as possible and have a consistent base date. As such we would be grateful if the Council could please prepare and submit to us an up-to-date set of tables including housing completions and extant permissions for the most recent financial year where that evidence is available. The tables should also include an updated 'residual' position (i.e. the delivery surplus or deficit, and five-year housing land supply calculation) relative to and with a base date that is consistent with the 10-year targets for net housing completions / borough benchmarks set out in the London Plan 2021 (Tables 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3).*

*With regard to the above, we also ask for the Council's views on whether this evidence is capable of being produced to take into account the 2024/25 financial year, and how long this may take to prepare those updates to the Hounslow Background Explanatory Note 2025 (document EBSC1).*

**LBH Response:**

The Council has prepared an updated Housing Background Explanatory Note which includes the information you have requested. The note sets out an updated five year housing land supply position with a base date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. For reference, this examination document is called **[EX7 – Housing Background Explanatory Note Update, September 2025](#)** and has been added to the Examination Library.

On a related matter, in paragraph 2 of your follow up letter (IN02) dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, you asked:



*In respect of your response to our initial questions Q3 and Q4, we note that the data required to provide more up-to-date commencement and completions evidence will not be confirmed until after it has been published by MHCLG later in the Autumn. However, following the publication of that data it would assist the examination if the Council would then provide up-to-date figures for the 2024/25 financial year. We appreciate that this may take some time to collate. However, it would seem reasonable that the updated evidence could be provided in sufficient time prior to the opening of the examination hearings to enable ourselves and other interested parties to take them into account.*

## **LBH Response:**

I can confirm that the Council will provide a more up-to-date position to include completions from the 2024/25 financial year in relation to your initial questions Q3 (Housing supply) and Q4 (Employment). In order to take a pragmatic approach and avoid any unnecessary delay, I can advise that our approach will be to prepare this updated evidence once the Housing Flow Return data and non-residential commencements and completions data has been checked by the GLA and submitted to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Any differences between that stage and publication of the data by MHCLG are low in probability and usually negligible. Should there be a noticeable difference in the publication version of the data, the Council will endeavour to undertake further updates to reflect this ahead of the opening of the examination hearings to enable you and other interested parties to take them into account.

## **Duty to Cooperate**

I am pleased to confirm that the following SoCGs have now been completed and have been added to the examination library:

- [EX5c – Statement of Common Ground between LB Hounslow and LB Richmond upon Thames \(September 2025\)](#)
- [EX5d – Statement of Common Ground between LB Hounslow and LB Hammersmith and Fulham \(September 2025\)](#)

In relation to LB Hounslow's SoCG with the Mayor of London, I am aware that in my letter of 29<sup>th</sup> August I provided an indicative completion timeframe of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Please accept our apologies that you have not yet been provided with a copy of this SoCG. The SoCG has progressed significantly, however it is still undergoing final sign off procedures. Subject to internal sign off processes at the Greater London Authority, we expect to be able to provide you with a copy of the SoCG within the next few weeks.

## **Follow up question in paragraph 3 of the Inspectors' letter of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

*In addition to the above, referring back to our initial letter dated 17 July 2025, it would assist us if the Council could supplement the responses in their previous letter with specific clarification of the approach taken with respect to the Duty to Cooperate prescribed bodies<sup>1</sup> where it is not intended to provide an up-to-date and signed Statement of Common Ground. We would be grateful if this information could be provided by not later than 17 October 2025. Following the Council submission of the documents in accordance with the dates indicated in*

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<sup>1</sup> As identified in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2021



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*the letter of 29 August 2025 and this requested information, we may have further questions prior to publishing our Matters, Issues and Questions for the examination hearings.*

### **LBH Response:**

Your request is duly noted and I can confirm that the Council will supplement the responses in my previous letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025 with specific clarification of the approach taken with respect to the Duty to Cooperate prescribed bodies<sup>2</sup> where it is not intended to provide an up-to-date and signed Statement of Common Ground. As requested, this supplementary information will be provided by 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

As set out in my letter of 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025, you will receive further correspondence from the Council in October in response to your initial questions, including Q4. Employment, Q5. Energy and Carbon Reduction, and ongoing Duty to Cooperate updates.

We also welcome the discussion in relation to potential hearings dates and will continue this through the Programme Officer.

Should you require any further clarification in relation to LBH's responses provided within this letter and the accompanying examination documents, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

*Chris Kirk*

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**Spatial Planning**  
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**London Borough of Hounslow Council**

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<sup>2</sup> As identified in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2021