



THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

The letter shown below was emailed to Cllr Timothy Coleridge, Greg Hands MP, Malcolm Rifkind MP on Monday 16th February 2015 by Damian Greenish.

Subject: Short-term lets; Deregulation of section 25

Dear Sirs,

I know that some of you have been in email correspondence with Michael Bach (on behalf of the Kensington Society) on the issue of the proposal by the government to introduce deregulation which will allow residential lettings of less than 90 days without the need for a planning consent.

Michael has set out clearly the reasons why this proposal is not supported by the Kensington Society; the Chelsea Society agrees with the concerns that have been expressed.

If this relaxation is introduced it will be corrosive to existing established communities. It will further encourage transient occupiers and add nothing to the sense of community.

There is widespread opposition to this proposal from the stakeholders in our communities. Estate owners, the British Property Federation, the City of Westminster, Amenity Societies and Residents Associations have all expressed widespread and united opposition. Indeed, it is difficult to find very much support for it at all.

The response of RBK&C however has been wholly out of line with the general sentiment. The current proposals have been described as "sensible and balanced" by the Executive Director of Planning and the Head of Forward Planning has stated: "I fail to see what all the fuss is about."

I would ask you all please to address the concerns which have been so eloquently expressed by the BPF, Westminster City Council, the Kensington Society and others and understand the strong feelings that there that this deregulation should be opposed. I hope you will do all you can to ensure that the government's proposal is defeated.

Kind regards,

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