

Rep Ref 884
Dr + Mrs Richardson

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Representor reference: 884

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Dear Mr Yuille

SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the effect of abolition of regional spatial strategies on the above core strategy. Given that one of the main objectives of the CS is to allocate housing development to areas of greatest need and most appropriate sites, we have to assess whether this would best be achieved by the RSS or by the County Council's own decisions.

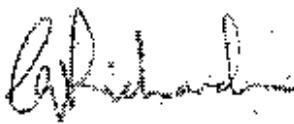
In the case of the RSS, there has always been a danger that housing targets dictated centrally may simply be proportions of the Government's perceived national need and not based on knowledge of local conditions. This can lead to the 'cart being put before the horse' so that houses are built on a pro-rata basis, then jobs have to be created locally to fill them.

To that extent, the County Council is likely to have a better perception of areas where development should, and should not be undertaken. The Council will also be better placed to promote the use of unoccupied accommodation and brownfield sites, using greenfield only as a last resort.

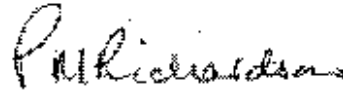
However, setting the point of decision-making more locally has its own attendant dangers. For example, landowners and developers might be able to exert influence more easily on the Council, promoting a pattern of development that would favour their sites.

So, while we tend to favour the Government's proposal to abolish the RSS, we feel that the strategic planning process needs to incorporate adequate precautions to protect communities from profit-motivated exploitation. We hope you will find these comments helpful.

Yours sincerely



Dr Graham Richardson



Mrs Patricia Mary Richardson