

Dear Commissioner

I was unaware of the review of the Act until I accessed the IPC website today for another purpose.

This brief submission is beyond the closing time however it would be appreciated if my comments could be taken into account if still timely.

As town planning consultants we are sometimes confronted with "non proactive" attitudes in local government contrary to the spirit of the legislation.

There is one issue which frequently recurs in our experience. That is the status of copyright in architectural plans and other similar material purporting to carry copyright. Many Councils claim that such documents have copyright and therefore cannot be copied. Others do not mention it and freely provide copies of plans for our legitimate research purposes in the course of our work.

My request is simple: Can you provide in the GIPA Act, that copyright is waived in respect of any plans and supporting information in development applications and planning proposals (which are public documents) for the purposes of fair dealing in connection with those applications? This would enable the taking of copies of such material without argument, which in my view would be in the interests of promoting access to information.

Regards

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