



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: SO473

23 February 2021

Dear Robert,

**Re: Homebase site, 84 Manor Road, Richmond, TW9 1YB – GLA case no: 4795**

Thank you for your letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> January, informing me of your decision not to call in the Homebase site application.

In your letter you state “The Government’s position is that these matters are generally best determined locally, by local councils that know their own area best, rather than by central Government.” That being the case, would you explain to me why you did not uphold Richmond Council’s decision to refuse permission, as that is the local council?

By upholding Mayor Khan’s intention to approve the scheme, you have overridden the local council’s decision, which is contrary to your stated aims. In your words, you have emphasised the importance of local decision-making, but in your actions, you have supported the ascendancy of the regional level, the GLA, over the local level, Richmond Council. Such an approach is inconsistent, so I would be grateful if you would let me know whether you may reconsider your decision to uphold Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan’s views on this application and instead make your own decision to refuse, which would be compatible with that of the local council?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Olney  
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park

Cc: Elizabeth Green