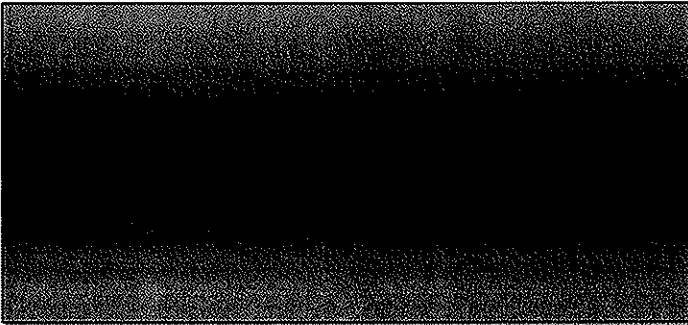


Thank you [REDACTED] I will incorporate your suggestions and hold fire on including Horse Guards until we get word.

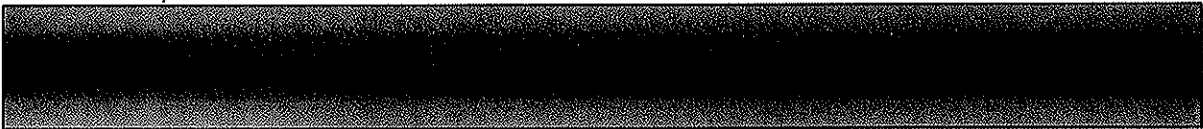
[REDACTED] has contacted [REDACTED] at Westminster Council for guidance on the planning permission issue and I will also await the outcome of this before submitting the letter to our Minister.

Regards



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 May 2009 14:49



Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

I have a few comments:

1. Your letter needs to make clear that planning consent from the relevant local authority is required in order to fly anything other than a national flag. I suggest you include something along these lines:

- We would ask that you make the appropriate arrangements for raising and lowering the flag on 22nd June 2009. You should contact your local Planning Authority and enquire about any relevant planning permission's required.

2. Flag flying protocol advises that when flying any other flag, the Union Flag should be flown alongside in the superior position. This means that only buildings with more than one flagpole will be able to flag the AFD flag.

I would suggest the following lines:

- We would also ask that when flying the Armed Forces Day flag that you please observe the Government's flag flying guidance. The Union Flag must be flown alongside the Armed Forces Day flag, and the Union Flag must be flown in the superior position on the building. If your building only has one flag pole you are required to fly the Union Flag, and unfortunately would not be able to fly the Armed Forces Day flag. The flag flying guidance can be found on the DCMS website at <http://www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying/default.htm>

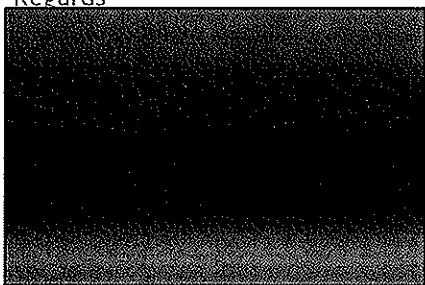
Similar advice was given to those overseeing the flying of the Olympic handover flag last August. It is important that government departments are seen to follow the rules and regulations that have been established, so as to avoid any future problems or issues.

3. Your letter states that you will be flying the AFD flag from HorseGuards Building. We are still awaiting confirmation of your flag flying requirements of us before we seek permission from the Palace. You should omit this in your letter until we have sought and obtained the permission. When will we receive official notice from the MOD in regards to these requirements?

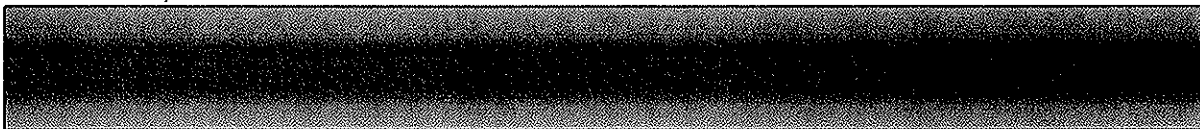
4. In order to encourage as many government departments within the Whitehall area, you may wish to consider seeking planning consent on behalf of all. This was the approach taken by those who organised the Olympic Handover event.

I hope this helps. Happy to discuss.

Regards



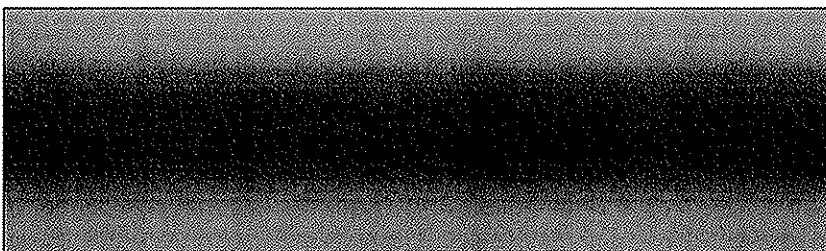
Sent: 15 May 2009 13:30



Attached is a copy of the draft I am preparing for USofS to send to colleagues in other government departments about the AFD flag. I assume that MSU will provide the list of appropriate Ministers.

Providing you and cc addresses have no comments or concerns, I will submit it formally to your office on Monday.

Rgds



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