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Dear Ian,

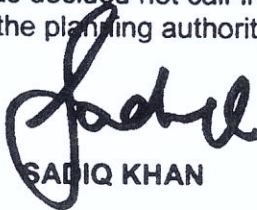
**PLANNING PROPOSAL ON SITE AT
HAMPTON COURT STATION**

Thank you for your letter of 30th October to Hazel Blears expressing your view that the decision on whether or not to grant planning permission for the planning application submitted to Elmbridge Borough Council for the redevelopment of the Hampton Court Station and Jolly Boatman Site, East Molesey, Surrey, should be left to the Council as local planning authority.

The Government's policy on call-in is to be very selective. It is right that in almost all cases the initial decision on whether the application should proceed should be taken by the local planning authority and, in general, planning applications are only called-in if planning issues of more than local importance are involved.

The Secretary of State has indicated that there are occasions, however, when it is right for her to decide the issue, normally following a public inquiry. We have given as examples of the sort of case which may be called-in, those which give rise to substantial regional or national controversy or which may conflict with national policy on important matters.

In this case the Secretary of State has decided not call-in the application and I enclose a copy of the letter which has gone to the planning authority.


SADIQ KHAN