Appendix A: Regulation 7 Direction dated 9th February 2018



Alan Beckett
Senior Planner, Leicester City Council
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

Please Simon Heydecker-Dent

ask for:

Tel: 0303 444 8162

Email: Simon. Heydecker-

Dent@communities.gsl.gov.uk

Your ref: n/a

Our ref: PCU/AdRegs/W2465/78326

Date: 9 February 2018

Dear Mr Beckett,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2007: ("the Regulations") REGULATION 7: DIRECTION RESTRICTING DEEMED CONSENT

- 1. I am directed by the Secretary of State to refer to the request made by Leicester City Council ("the Council") on 24 June 2016 for a Direction that deemed consent for the display of to-let boards relating to the letting of premises, which are advertisements under Class 3A of Schedule 3 to the Regulations, should be withdrawn from certain areas in Leicester.
- 2. Taking into account a site visit and representations made in response to the Council's initial announcement to seek the Direction, the Inspector considers that there are compelling reasons as to why deemed consent for the display of to-let boards should be withdrawn from certain specified areas. However the Inspector also considers that the level of display of to-let boards in certain specified areas does not amount to such an adverse effect on public amenity as to warrant a Regulation 7 Direction.
- 3. In paragraph 30 of her report, the Inspector notes that the quantity and concentration of to-let boards varies significantly between the various specified areas. The Inspector considers that, in those areas with significantly fewer to-let boards, those boards cannot be said to cause harm to the character and appearance of the areas such that a Regulation 7 Direction would be warranted.
- 4. In concluding, the Inspector recommends that the Direction be made only in respect of areas 2a, 2b, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c and 4d as shown on the attached maps and listed below. The Inspector recommends that the Direction should apply for a period of five

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Planning Casework Unit Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 5 St Philips Place Birmingham B3 2PW years. The Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector's appraisal set out in paragraphs 20-46 of her report. He agrees with her conclusions at paragraph 47 that in areas 1a, 1b, 2c, 4a and 4e there have been relatively small numbers of letting boards displayed over the years and he shares the Inspector's view that this level of display does not amount to such an adverse effect on public amenity as to warrant a Regulation 7 Direction and that control in these areas under the Advertisement Regulations is adequate. The Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector's conclusion at paragraph 48 that a Regulation 7 Direction is justified in certain areas because normal controls are inadequate. He agrees that this is the case in respect of areas 2a, 2b, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c and 4d. The Secretary of State shares the Inspectors view that the visual harm identified in these areas could only be overcome by removing deemed consent rights for the display of letting boards.

Formal Decision

- 5. Accordingly for the reasons given above, the Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector's recommendation. He is satisfied that a Direction should be made to control the display of advertisements relating to the letting of premises within the areas of Leicester identified below and on the maps submitted by the Council for a period of five years.
- The Direction would cover the following areas in Leicester, as shown on the attached maps, namely:
- Area 2a Windermere
- Area 2b Hazel
- Area 3b Clarendon Park
- Area 3c Greenhill
- Area 4b West End
- Area 4c Ashleigh Road
- Area 4d West End Conservation Area
- 7. A formal Direction is attached. The Council's attention is drawn to the provisions of Regulation 7(7), which specify the procedure for publishing the effect and date of operation of the Direction.
- 8. When this Direction is brought into effect, the display of boards in respect of the letting of premises may only be undertaken lawfully in the areas specified in paragraph 6 above, when the Council have granted express consent for their display. In order not to prejudice the interests of persons wishing to display advertisements for property lettings, the Council are invited to ensure that any such applications for express consent are decided within the period specified in Regulation 14(1) of the Regulations.
- In line with the Inspector's comments in paragraph 48 of her report, the Secretary of State suggests that the Council attaches details of the addresses of the properties in

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Planning Casework Unit Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 5 St Philips Place Birmingham B3 2PW all the streets within the areas to which the Direction applies when publishing the Direction.

Right of Appeal against the Decision

10. The decision of the Secretary of State may be challenged by way of an application to the High Court and a separate note is attached to this letter setting out the circumstances in which such an application may be made.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Moseley

Dave Moseley Senior Planning Casework Manager

Tel: 0303 444 8050 E-mail: pcu@communities.qsi.qov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2007 REGULATION 7: DIRECTION RESTRICTING DEEMED CONSENT

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government ('the Secretary of State') is satisfied, upon a proposal made to him by Leicester City Council, as the local planning authority, that the display of advertisements relating to the letting of premises as specified in Class 3A of Schedule 3, Part 1, to the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 (the 'Regulations') should not be undertaken without express consent in parts of Leicester.

The Direction would cover the following areas in Leicester, as shown on the attached maps, namely:

- Area 2a Windermere
- Area 2b Hazel
- Area 3b Clarendon Park
- Area 3c Greenhill
- Area 4b West End
- Area 4c Ashleigh Road
- Area 4d West End Conservation Area

The proposal has been the subject of a site visit, having been publicly advertised and representations made to the Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

The areas to be included in the Direction are specified in the Schedule to this Direction.

This Direction shall have effect for a period of five years from the date on which it comes into force in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

Schedule

This Direction relates to the display of advertisements relating to the letting of premises as specified under Class 3A of Part 1 of Schedule 3 to the Regulations in the following areas in Leicester, namely:

- Area 2a Windermere
- Area 2b Hazel
- Area 3b Clarendon Park
- Area 3c Greenhill
- Area 4b West End
- Area 4c Ashleigh Road
- Area 4d West End Conservation Area

The reasons for the Secretary of State's decision are set out in his letter of 9 February 2018 to the Council, a copy of which is attached.

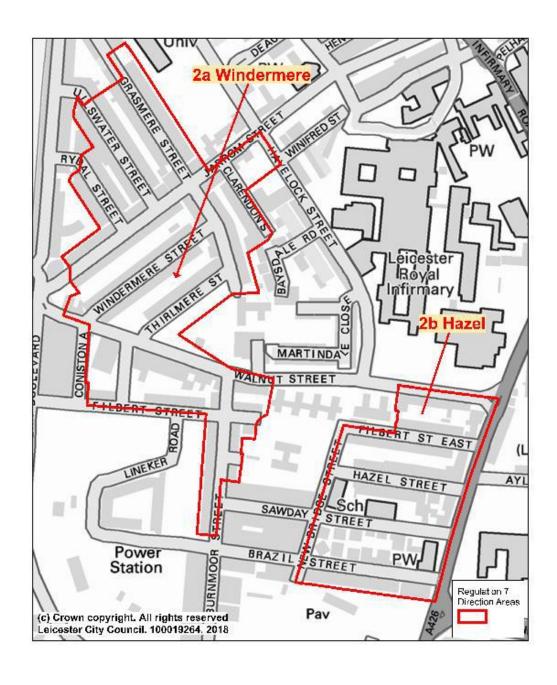
Dave Moseley

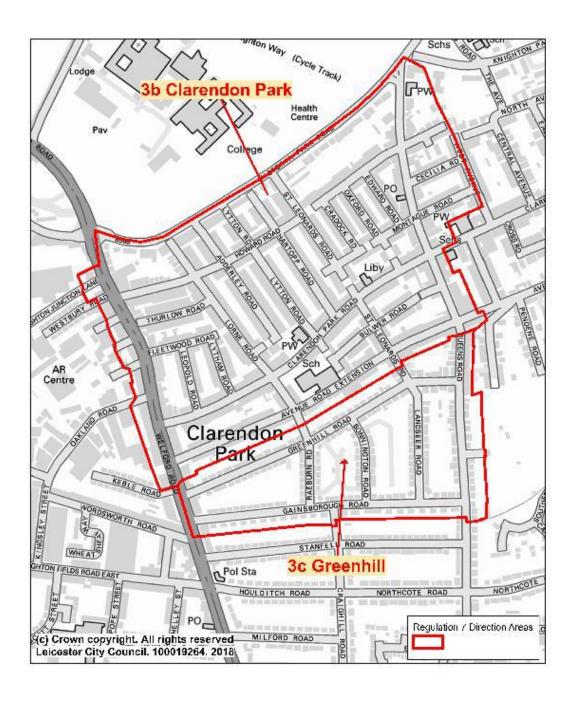
Dave Moseley Senior Planning Casework Manager

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Authorised by the Secretary of State to sign on that behalf

Appendix B: Maps of Areas Affected by Regulation 7 Direction

2a - Windermere 2b - Hazel

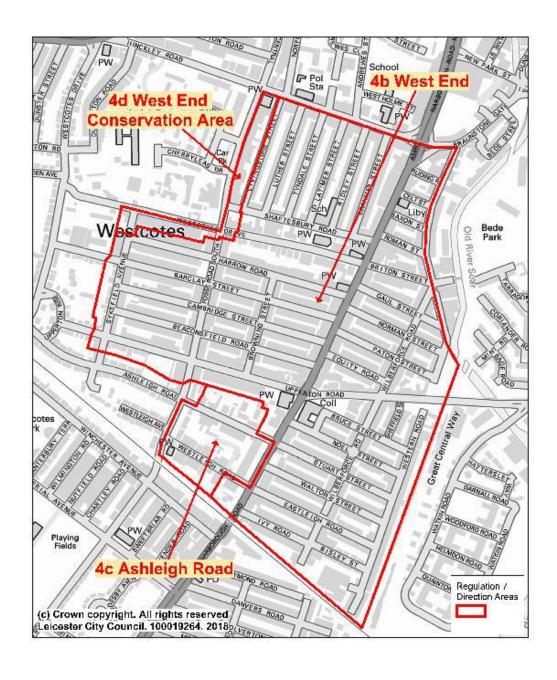




4b - West End

4c - Ashleigh Road

4d - West End Conservation Area



Appendix C: HMO Article 4 Direction

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995 AS AMENDED

DIRECTION MADE UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 5 APPLIES

WHEREAS Leicester City Council being the appropriate local planning authority within the meaning of article 4(4) of the GPDO, are satisfied that it is expedient that development of the description(s) set out in the FIRST SCHEDULE below should not be carried out on the land described in the SECOND SCHEDULE below unless planning permission is granted on an application made under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended,

NOW THEREFORE the said Council in pursuance of the power conferred on them by article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 hereby direct that the permission granted by article 3 of the said Order shall not apply to development on the said land of the description(s) set out in the Schedule below:

FIRST SCHEDULE

Development consisting of a change of use of a building to a use falling within Class C4 (houses in multiple occupation) of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 from a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses), being development comprised within Class I (b) of Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and not being development comprised in any other Class.

SECOND SCHEDULE

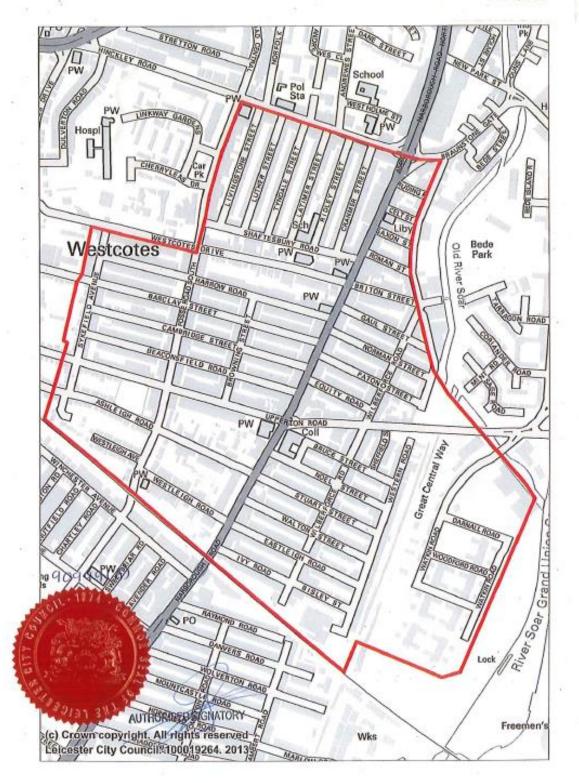
Description of land to which this Direction relates:-

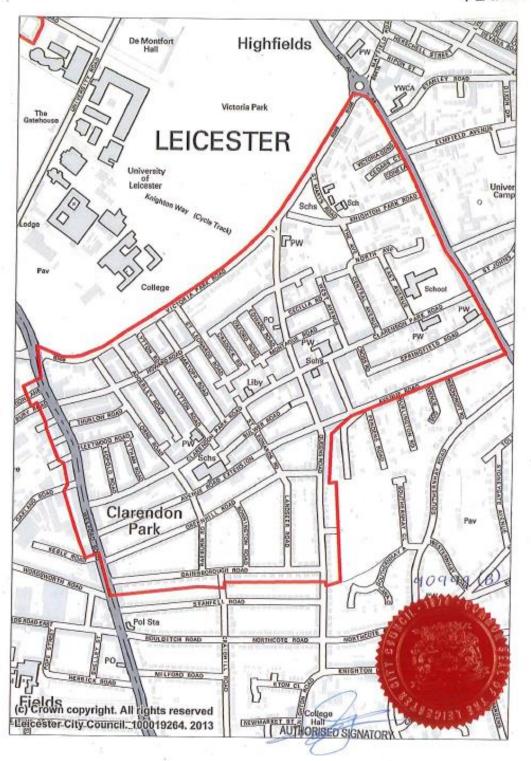
All properties located within the areas edged red on Plan 1, Plan 2 and Plan 3 attached AND listed below:-

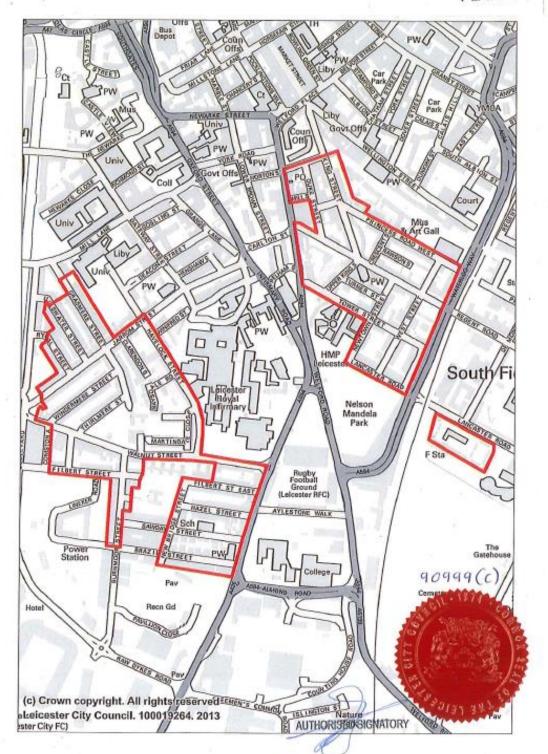
	Even	Odd		Even	Odd
Street	Numbers	Numbers	Street	Numbers	Numbers
Aylestone Road		65-99	Hinckley Road	16-84	
Baysdale Road	2-26	1-11	Ivy Road	2-62	1-59
Brazil Street	12-56	9-33	Latimer Street	2-60	1-93
Burnmoor Street	10-36	7-87 Livingstone Street		2-104	33-51
Buttermere Street		17	Luther Street	2-102	1-103
Clarendon Street	94-134		Narborough Road	4-210	1-203
Farndale Close	2-8		Noel Street	2-68	1-85
Filbert Street	104-112	103-181	Norman Street	4-84	3-71
Filbert Street East	2-54	1-31	Paton Street	2-72	3-69
Grasmere Street	0-158	41-137	Quainton Road	2-16	1-15
Grisedale Close	2-14	1-13	Ridley Street	2-106	1-63
Havelock Street	2-44		Roman Street	4-24	13-29
Hazel Street	2-38	1-43	Ruding Road		1-17
Jarrom Street	102-214	93-167	Ruding Terrace	2	1
Martindale Close	2-46	1-45	Saxon Street	2-20	1-23
New Bridge Street	48-64		Shaftesbury Road	2-66	1-55
Rydal Street	2-38	3-33	Sheffield Street	12-34	3-23
Sawday Street	2-28	1	Stuart Street	2-96	5-109
Swindale Close	2	1-3	Sykefield Aveue	2-46	1-57
Thirlmere Street		1-45	Tyndale Street	4-96	1-97
Ullswater Street	2-58	1-67	Upperton Road	6-106	1-173
Walnut Street	2-142	95-217	Walton Street	10-92	1-97
			Watkin Road	118-240	17-115
Windermere Street	2-62	1-83	Westcotes Drive	4-136	1-49
Adderley Road	4-102	1-87	Western Road	186-368	1-251
Avenue Road		1-141	Westleigh Avenue	2-20	1-19
Avenue Road Extension	94-274	3-315	Westleigh Road	6-40	1-33
Bonnington Road	2-36	1-33	Wilberforce Road	2-188	1-139
Brookland Road	2-4		Woodford Road	2-16	1-7
Bulwer Road	2-74	1-75			
Cecilia Road	2-36	1-31	Duke Street	8 1-3	
Cedars Court	2	1-33	King Street	24-52	35-69
Central Avenue	0-30	1-23	Lancaster Road	2-42	
Clarendon Park Road	2-294	71-325	Lower Hastings St		19-43
Cone Lane	2-4	1	Marquis Street	2-6	
Cradock Road	2-42	1-45	Newtown Street	2-42	1-11
Cross Road	2-12	1-3	Princess Road West	10	61
Dukes Drive	2-36	1-35	Rawson Street	20	3-17
East Avenue		1-37	Regent Road	46-52	61-95
Edward Road	4-40	1-41	Tower Street	2-72	1-23
Fleetwood Court	2-18	1-17	Turner Street	2-16	1-5
Fleetwood Road	2-18	1-49	Upper King Street	4-8	11-29
Gainsborough Road	4-102	3-93	Welford Road	42-112	101210
Greenhill Road	2-106	1-121	West Street	6-48	1-51
Hartopp Road	34-122	1-121	CONTRACTOR DESCRIPTION	SON COLUMN	Same and
Howard Road	2-192	1-175	Ashleigh Rd Ashleigh C		15-75
Knighton Park Road	0-26	1-15	Barclay Street	4-148	3-163
Landseer Road	2-58	1-63	Beaconsfield Road	2-132	1-131

Leopold Road	2-38	1-51	Bisley Street	2-36	1-33
London Road		183-273	Blue Fox Close	2-24	1-23
Lorne Road	2-138	1-117	Braunstone Gate	66-70	
Lytham Road	2-28	1-39	Briton Street	14-38	3-43
Lytton Road	2-142	1-83	Browning Street	2-52	1-55
Montague Road	2-98	1-101	Bruce Street	30-66	1-69
North Avenue	0-24	1-25	Cambridge Street	4-138	5-133
Orlando Road	2-6	1-13	Celt Street	4-22	1-17
Oxford Road	4-38	1-43	Cranmer Street	4-102	3-99
Portland Road	20-44	1-35	Darnall Road	2-8	5-23
Queens Road	16-252	43-217	Eastleigh Road	2-86	1-115
Raeburn Road	2-28	1-29	Equity Road	2-40	1-41
Seymour Road	2-14	1-11	Fosse Road South	4-228	101-245
Springfield Road	2-48	1-55	Gaul Street	2-48	3-73
St Leonards Road	0-156	23-157	Hardwick Court	2-12	1-13
St Marys Road	2-10				
Thurlow Road	2-50	1-41			
Victoria Park Road	2-366				
Welford Road	170-334	201-347			
West Avenue Clarendon C	a -36	7-63			
Westbury Road	2				
Lancaster Place		151			
Harrow Road	4-170	1-183			
Hattersley Way	2-28	1-25			
Helmdon Road	2-16	1-15			

	90999
1.To be completed when making the article 4 Direction. Made under the Common Seal of Leicester City Council this Athan day of August 2013 The Common Seal of the Council was affixed to this Direction in the presence of Authorised Signatory	S (131) S (13
	quine







What is the Code of Practice?

The Code of Practice is a set of rules which determines how 'To Let' boards for residential lettings are displayed in specified streets of the City of Leicester.

Code of Practice

- Only one residential lettings 'To Let' board per building will be permitted.
- Each board shall have a white background and will conform to the following layout: 34cm x 48cm or 48cm x 34cm.
- One company logo per board will be permitted providing that the logo does not exceed one third of the overall size of the advertising board.
- Boards marked with 'Let by', 'Let', 'More Wanted' or similar wording are prohibited.
- No more than one board shall be permitted per landlord/agent per street.
- a) Boards shall be mounted flush to the wall above/around the front door, or if that is not possible, flush to the wall on the street frontage elevation. In either instance, no part of a board shall be higher than first-floor window sill level;

or,

- alternatively, boards shall be displayed internally in a ground floor window facing the street frontage, but not in addition to a board displayed externally.
- Boards shall only be allowed on properties immediately available 'To Let,' unless they are for the following academic year, when they shall not be put up until 1st January of that year.
- Letting boards shall be removed not later than 14 days after the granting of a tenancy for the room, house or flat to which it relates.
- No 'To Let' boards shall be displayed between 1st October to 31st December inclusive.

Revised May 2018

Appendix E: Street Surveys

2a - Windermere					
Street	Even	Odd	Number of Boards		
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct
Burnmoor Street	10-36	1-87	-	0	0
Buttermere Street	-	17 only	-	0	0
Clarendon Street	94-134	-	-	0	0
Filbert Street	104-112	103-181	-	0	0
Grasmere Street	28-158	41-137	31	1	0
Jarrom Street	102-214	93-167	21	2	1
Rydal Street	2-38	3-35	8	0	1
Thirlmere Street	-	1-45	5	0	0
Ullswater Street	2-58	1-67	11	1	0
Walnut Street	110-170	177-217	0	0	0
Windermere Street	2-62	1-83	12	0	0
Number of streets:			88	4	2
<mark>7 4</mark>				0	0

Totals:	In 2013: 88	In 2022: 6

2b - Hazel					
Street	Even	Odd	Number of Boards		
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct
Aylestone Road	-	65-115	-	2	0
Brazil Street	12-56	9-33	-	0	0
Filbert Street East	2-54	1-31	-	0	0
Hazel Street	2-38	1-43	-	0	0
New Bridge Street	48-64	-	-	0	0
Sawday Street	2-28	1 only	-	0	0
Walnut Street	2-36	-	2	0	0
Number of streets:			2	0	0
<mark>1 6</mark>			_	2	0

Totals:	In 2013: 2	In 2022: 2

3b - Clarendon Park					
Street	Even	Odd		Number of E	Boards
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct
Adderley Road	4-102	1-87	-	0	0
Avenue Road Ext	94-274	3-315	13	3	0
Brookland Road	2-6	-	-	0	0
Bulwer Road	2-74	1-75	-	0	0
Cecilia Road	2-36	1-31	-	0	0
Clarendon Park Road	78-296	107-325	10	0	0

Cradock Road	2-42	1-45	-	0	0
Edward Road	2-40	1-41	1	0	0
Fleetwood Court	2-18	1-17	-	0	0
Fleetwood Road	2-18	1-49	1	0	1
Hartopp Road	34-122	1-121	6	0	0
Howard Road	26-192	1-175	7	0	0
Knighton Park Road	26 only	-	-	0	0
Landseer Road	4-58	9-63	-	0	0
Leopold Road	2-38	1-51	1	0	0
Lorne Road	2-138	1-117	-	0	0
Lytham Road	2-28	1-39	4	0	0
Lytton Road	2-142	1-83	-	1	0
Montague Road	2-98	1-101	5	0	0
Oakland Road	2 only	-	-	0	0
Orlando Road	2-6	1-13	-	0	0
Oxford Road	4-38	1-43	6	0	1
Queens Road	16-252	43-217	0	0	0
Seymour Road	2-14	1-11	0	0	0
St Leonards Road	52-156 & Park House	23-157	4	0	0
Thurlow Road	2-50	1-41	-	0	0
Victoria Park Road	128-366	-	-	0	0
Welford Road	170-334	201-351	10	0	0
West Avenue	all of Clarendon Court	7-61	-	0	0
Westbury Road	2, 2A & 2B only	-	-	0	0
Number of streets:		<u>I</u>	68	3	2
<mark>14 16</mark>			•	1	0

Totals:	In 2013: 68	In 2022: 6

3c - Greenhill					
Street	Even	Odd	Number of Boards		
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct
Bonnington Road	2-36	1-33	3	0	0
Gainsborough Road	4-102	3-93	-	0	0
Greenhill Road	2-110	1-121	4	0	0
Queens Road	134-252	153-217	1	0	0
Raeburn Road	2-28	1-29	-	0	0
Welford Road	316	334	0	0	0
Number of streets:			8	0	0
<mark>4 2</mark>				0	0

Totals:	In 2013: 8	In 2022: 0

Street	Even	ven Odd	Number of Boards			
	Numbers	Numbers	2013	2022	2022	
			survey	Sep	Oct	
Barclay Street	2-148	3-163	25	2	0	
Beaconsfield Road	2-132	1-131	23	1	0	
Bisley Street	2-36	1-33	2	0	0	
Blue Fox Close	2-24	1-23	-	0	0	
Braunstone Gate	58-68	-	-	0	0	
Briton Street	14-38	3-43	-	0	0	
Browning Street	2-52	1-55	-	0	0	
Bruce Street	30-66	1-69	3	0	0	
Cambridge Street	4-138	5-133	14	3	0	
Celt Street	4-22	1-17	4	0	0	
Cranmer Street	2-102	3-99	3	0	0	
Eastleigh Road	2-86	1-115	10	3	0	
Equity Road	2-40	1-41	7	0	0	
Fosse Road South	106-202	101-191	22	0	0	
Gaul Street	2-48	1-73	10	0	0	
Harrow Road	2-170	1-183	18	1	0	
Hinckley Road	2-86	-	-	0	0	
Ivy Road	2-62	1-59	1	0	0	
Latimer Street	2-60	1-93	1	0	0	
Livingstone Street	2-104	-	2	0	0	
Luther Street	2-102	1-103	12	0	0	
Narborough Road	2-210	1-203	-	0	0	
Noel Street	2-68	1-85	8	0	0	
Norman Street	4-84	1-71	18	0	0	
Paton Street	2-72	3-71	9	0	0	
Ridley Street	2-106	1-63	8	0	0	
Roman Street	4-24	1-29	3	0	0	
Ruding Road	-	1-17	-	0	0	
Ruding Terrace	2 only	1 only	-	0	0	
Saxon Street	2-20	1-23	-	0	0	
Shaftesbury Road	2-34	1-55	-	0	0	
Sheffield Street	10-34	1-23	3	0	0	
Stuart Street	2-96	1-109	11	0	0	
Sykefield Avenue	6-46	1-55	-	0	0	
Tyndale Street	4-96	1-97	8	0	0	
Upperton Road	6-106	1-173	9	0	0	
Walton Street	10-92	1-99	12	0	0	
Westcotes Drive	2-52	1-49	-	0	0	
Western Road	118-378	1-251	14	1	0	
Wilberforce Road	2-190	1-139	24	0	0	
Number of streets:			284	<mark>11</mark>	0	
<mark>28 12</mark>				0	<mark>0</mark>	

Totals:	In 2013: 284	In 2022: 11

4c - Ashleigh Road						
Street	Even	Odd	Number of Boards			
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct	
Ashleigh Gardens	All properties	All properties	-	0	0	
Ashleigh Road	2-28	15-27	-	0	0	
Fosse Road South	220-228	-	0	0	0	
Narborough Road	-	171-195	-	0	0	
Westleigh Road	6-40	1-35	-	1	0	
Number of streets:			0	0	0	
<u>1</u> 4				1	<u> </u>	

Totals: In 2013: 0	In 2022: 1
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Street	Even	Odd	ı	Number of Boards		
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct	
Fosse Road South	2-90	-	0	0	0	
Livingstone Street	-	33-51	2	0	0	
Shaftesbury Road	60-66	-	-	0	0	
Sykefield Avenue	2-4	-	-	0	0	
Westcotes Drive	52-136	-	-	0	0	
Number of streets:			2	0	0	
2 3			-	0	0	

Totals:	In 2013: 2	In 2022: 0

Streets: 101 streets (54 from original surveys, 47 more included in the Direction). (Fosse Road South, Welford Road, Queens Road are stated twice, split by

area into different zones)

Boards:

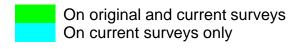
2013: Total **452**

2022: September <u>October</u>

> Total 23 Total 3

Grand Total: 26

<u>Key</u>



To Your Residential Lettings Team,

As you are aware, in February 2018, the Secretary of State, in pursuance of powers conferred on him by Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007, agreed to a Direction that the display of advertisements specified in Class 3A of Schedule 3, Part 1 (residential 'to let' boards) should not be undertaken in some streets in the following areas: Windermere, Hazel, Clarendon Park, Greenhill, West End, Ashleigh Road and West End Conservation Area. The Direction came into effect on 2nd July 2018 and lasts for five years. To view the details of the existing Direction visit https://www.leicester.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-applications/do-i-need-permission/to-let-boards-control/#.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your co-operation in ensuring compliance with the legislation.

The Council are currently preparing an application for a renewal of the Direction. As part of this process, should you wish to do so, you can forward your views as to the success of the scheme or any comments you would wish to make. As part of the formal process, the application will be advertised in the local and national press, and you will have an opportunity to comment formally but we would like to give you the opportunity to express your views on a more informal basis beforehand should you wish to do so.

It is not our intention to withdraw the Code of Practice that runs alongside the Direction at the present time because it appears to be working successfully. It would be appreciated, however, if you could ensure that your staff adhere to the restrictions of the regulations in relation to residential letting boards across the town, including the siting of boards on properties and time restrictions in respect of the display.

Should you have any comments on renewal of the Direction, please submit them via the online consultation page https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/communications/regulation-7-public-consultation-to-let-boards/.

In case of any difficulty with submitting comments online you may write to me at:

Leicester City Council Planning 2nd Floor 115 Charles Street Leicester LE1 1FZ

or e mail me at planning.enforcement@leicester.gov.uk.

Any comments should be received by 5th April 2023.

I look forward to your continued co-operation.



Overview

Leicester City Council received a number of complaints during the early and mid 2010s in relation to the display of 'to let' boards and their effect on the character and appearance of residential areas.

The council understands the need to advertise properties that are available to rent but was concerned about the large number of 'to let' boards for residential properties in some areas and looked at more effective ways of controlling them.

The display of 'to let' boards is controlled by national legislation and boards that are on display within the limits of the legislation have 'deemed consent'.

In 2016, LCC applied to the government to issue a Direction under Regulation 7 of The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 to remove this 'deemed consent 'for to let' boards for residential properties in some areas of the city.

The Direction was issued on 9th February 2018 and covers some streets in the Castle, Knighton, Saffron and Westcotes wards. It was implemented on 2nd July 2018 and runs alongside an advisory Code of Practice which gives localised guidance on acceptable alternative advertisement.

Since the Direction was implemented, there has been a significant reduction in illegally displayed 'to let' boards which has led to an improvement in the appearance of the affected areas.

The council considers the removal of 'deemed consent' coupled with localised guidance on acceptable alternative advertisement to have been successful.

The Direction is due to expire on 1st July 2023 and the council wishes to apply to renew and retain the removal of 'deemed consent' in those areas, allowing the council to keep the existing level of control.

Before we do this, we would welcome your views on the renewal of Direction Regulation 7.

Give us your views

Online Survey >

Closes 5 Apr 2023

Opened 8 Mar 2023

Contact

Jacki Skinner

(Planning Enforcement Officer)

Planning Compliance and Monitoring Team

planning,enforcement@leicester.g ov.uk

Areas

Castle Knighton Saffron Westcotes

Audiences

Working-age people Older people All residents Carers Full-time and part-time workers Disabled people Local businesses Local schools Local charitable organisations, including faith communities Households within the scheme boundary Parents Volunteers Landowners Women Customers / service users Licensed premises Landlords Private tenants Leicester City Council tenants Older households (65+) Single people Families with children, including lone parents Couples All households Faith groups Sports clubs Youth clubs Carers' network Trade unions Voluntary organisations Community organisations Self-help groups User groups Third sector infrastructure groups All Voluntary and Community Organisations Advocacy organisation Drug and Alcohol services Health services Early years providers (child minders, nurseries, etc) Taxi operators Schools Businesses All Public and Private Organisations Service providers Partner agencies Service users Care home residents and their next of kin Allotment holders Walking groups Taxi / HCV / PHV drivers Support providers Floating support providers Landlords

Interests

Housing Public health Revenues and Benefits Adult social care Planning Highways Climate change Parks and green spaces Refuse collection and disposal Environmental health Allotments Community cohesion Local government Transport Parking



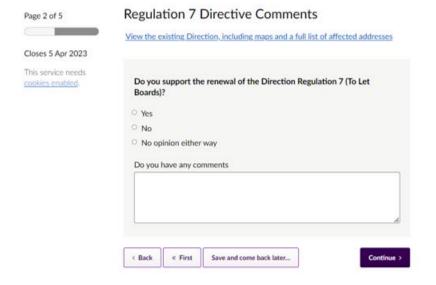


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About You Page 1 of 5 Closes 5 Apr 2023 Are you responding as (please tick as many options as apply) This service needs ☐ Owner/occupier cookies enabled. ☐ Student Letting agent □ Landlord ☐ Tenant (Private/Council) □ Other If other, please state What is your home/work postcode? (as appropriate) Please note: we collect postcode data to gain a better understanding of which parts of the city / county respond to our consultations. We cannot identify individual properties or addresses from this information.

Save and come back later...





Citizen Space from Delib

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Regulation 7 Public Consultation (To Let Boards)

Page 3 of 5

Closes 5 Apr 2023

This service needs cookies enabled.

Equality monitoring

The information you provide in this final section of the questionnaire will be kept in accordance with terms of current Data Protection legislation and will only be used for the purpose of monitoring. Your details will not be passed on to any other individual, organisation or group. Leicester City Council is the data controller for the information on this form for the purposes of current Data Protection legislation.

Ethnic background:

- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background
- O Black or Black British: African
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black or Black British: Somali
- O Black or Black British: Any other Black background
- Chinese
- O Chinese: Any other Chinese background
- Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Asian
- Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Black African
- Oual/Multiple Heritage: White & Black Caribbean
- Oual/Multiple Heritage: Any other heritage background
- White: British
- White: European
- White: Irish
- White: Any other White background
- Other ethnic group: Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller
- Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

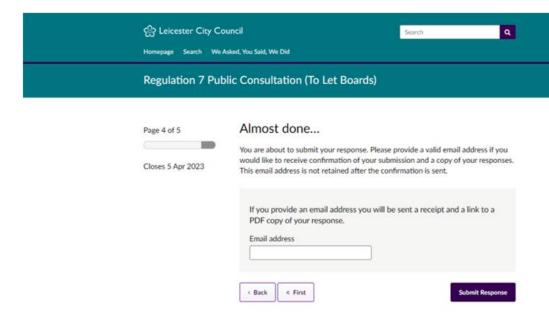
If you said your ethnic group was one of the 'Other' categories, please tell us what this is:

Age:

- o under 18
- 0 18 25
- 0 26 35
- 0 36 45
- 0 46 55
- 0 56 65
- 0 66+
- Prefer not to say

)	Bisexual
0	Gay / lesbian
0	Heterosexual / straight
0	Prefer not to say
0	Other (please specify)
D	isability
m al la	the Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or idental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their bility to carry out normal day-to-day activities and has lasted or is likely to st for at least 12 months. People with HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis (MS) and severe disfigurement are also covered by the Equality Act.
D	o you consider yourself to be a disabled person?
0	A mental health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
0	A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
0	A social / communication impairment such as a speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome / other autistic spectrum disorder
0	A specific learning difficulty or disability such as Down's syndrome, dyslexia dyspraxia or $AD(H)D$
0	Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
0	Deaf or have a hearing impairment
	An impairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed above (specify if you wish)
-	Prefer not to say
u)	Other
	Other

	ould you define your religion or belief?	
Atheis		
Bahai		
Buddh		
Christ		
Hindu		
Jain		
Jewish		
Muslin		
Sikh		
No rel	ligion	
	not to say	
Other	Account to the second of the s	
f Other,	, please specify	
What is	your sex?	
vviiat is	your sex:	
Femal	e	
Male		
Prefer	not to say	
le vour o	gender identity the same as your sex registered at birth?	
	ee Select 🕶	
11003	e server	
	hat term do you use to identify your gender? (leave blank if prefer	not
If No, w		
If No, wi		
	10 004 76 2	



Citizen Space from Delib

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Appendix H: Analysis of Online Responses

Regulation 7 Public Consultation (To Let Boards): Summary report

This report was created on Thursday 06 April 2023 at 07:48 and includes 18 responses.

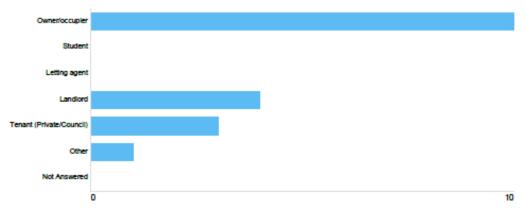
The activity ran from 08/03/2023 to 05/04/2023.

Contents

Are you responding as (please tick as many options as apply)	1
Are you responding as (please tick as many options as apply)	1
If other, please state	2
What is your home/work postcode? (as appropriate)	2
Postcode	2
Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7 (To Let Boards)?	2
Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7?	2
Reg 7 comments	2
Ethnic background:	3
Ethnicity	3
If you said your ethnic group was one of the 'Other' categories, please tell us what this is:	4
Age:	4
Age	4
Sexual orientation. Do you consider yourself to be	5
sexuality	5
Other sex	5
Disability	5
Q7	5
Disability detail	6
Other disability	6
How would you define your religion or belief?	7
religion	7
other religion	7
What is your sex?	8
SEX .	8
gender same as birth	8
Other gender	8

Are you responding as (please tick as many options as apply)

Are you responding as (please tick as many options as apply)



Option	Total	Percent
Owner/occupier	10	55.56%
Student	0	0.00%
Letting agent	0	0.00%
Landlord	4	22.22%
Tenant (Private/Council)	3	16.67%
Other	1	5.56%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If other, please state

There were 3 responses to this part of the question.

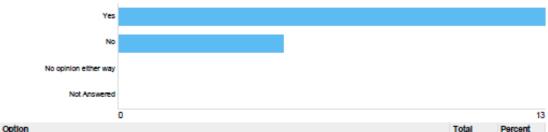
What is your home/work postcode? (as appropriate)

Postcode

There were 18 responses to this part of the question.

Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7 (To Let Boards)?

Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	13	72.22%
No	5	27.78%
No opinion either way	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Reg 7 comments

There were 15 responses to this part of the question.

Ethnic background:

Ethnicity



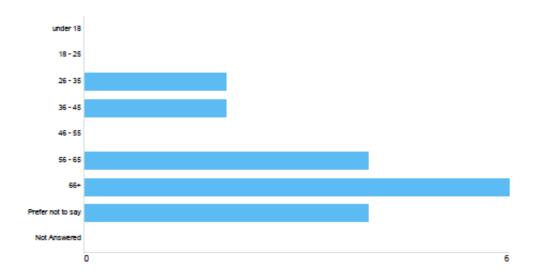
Option	Total	Percent
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	2	11.11%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background	0	0.00%
Black or Black British: African	1	5.56%
Black or Black British: Caribbean	0	0.00%
Black or Black British: Somali	0	0.00%
Black or Black British: Any other Black background	0	0.00%
Chinese	0	0.00%
Chinese: Any other Chinese background	0	0.00%
Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Asian	0	0.00%
Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Black African	0	0.00%
Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Black Caribbean	0	0.00%
Dual/Multiple Heritage: Any other heritage background	0	0.00%
White: British	8	44.44%
White: European	0	0.00%
White: Irish	0	0.00%
White: Any other White background	1	5.56%
Other ethnic group: Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller	0	0.00%
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	5	27.78%
Not Answered	1	5.56%

If you said your ethnic group was one of the 'Other' categories, please tell us what this is:

There was 1 response to this part of the question.

Age:

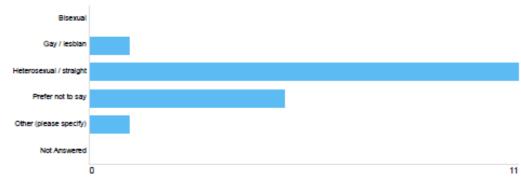
Age



Option	Te	otal	Percent
under 18	0		0.00%
18 - 25	0		0.00%
26 - 35	2		11.11%
36 - 45	2		11.11%
46 - 55	0		0.00%
56 - 65	4		22.22%
66+	6		33.33%
Prefer not to say	4		22.22%
Not Answered	0		0.00%

Sexual orientation. Do you consider yourself to be ...

sexuality



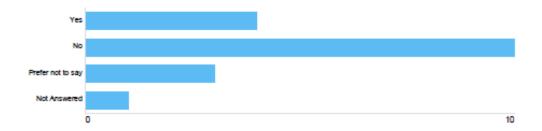
Option	Total	Percent
Bisexual	0	0.00%
Gay / lesblan	1	5.56%
Heterosexual / straight	11	61.11%
Prefer not to say	5	27.78%
Other (please specify)	1	5.56%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Other sex

There were 0 responses to this part of the question.

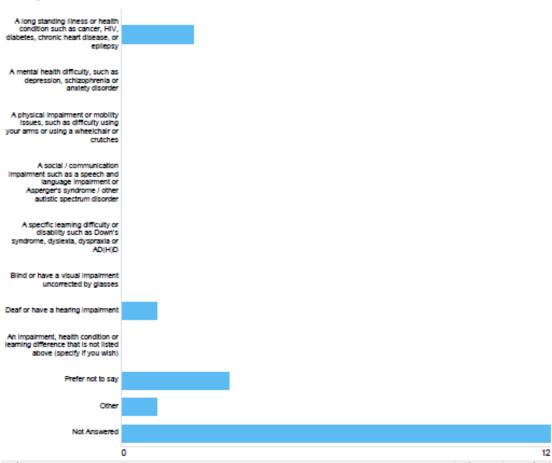
Disability

Q7



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	4	22.22%
No	10	55.56%
Prefer not to say	3	16.67%
Not Answered	1	5.56%

Disability detail



_		
Option	Total	Percent
A long standing liness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy	2	11.11%
A mental health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder	0	0.00%
A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches	0	0.00%
A social / communication impairment such as a speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome / other autistic spectrum disorder	0	0.00%
A specific learning difficulty or disability such as Down's syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D	0	0.00%
Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses	0	0.00%
Deaf or have a hearing impairment	1	5.56%
An impairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed above (specify if you wish)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	3	16.67%
Other	1	5.56%
Not Answered	12	66.67%

Other disability

There were 2 responses to this part of the question.

How would you define your religion or belief?

religion



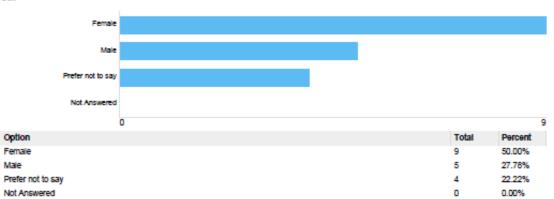
Option	Total	Percent
Atheist	1	5.56%
Bahal	0	0.00%
Buddhist	0	0.00%
Christian	2	11.11%
Hindu	2	11.11%
Jain	0	0.00%
Jewish	1	5.56%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Sikh	0	0.00%
No religion	4	22.22%
Prefer not to say	7	38.89%
Other	1	5.56%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

other religion

There was 1 response to this part of the question.

What is your sex?

sex



gender same as birth



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	11	61.11%
No	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	1	5.56%
Not Answered	6	33.33%

Other gender

There were 0 responses to this part of the question.

Online Consultation

Comments where answer was 'yes':

- 'It's made a MASSIVE positive difference to the look and feel of affected neighbourhoods.'
- 'Recently I have noticed that the number of boards on display seem to be increasing again.'
- 'Allowing the regulation to lapse would be an awful choice. PLEASE...'
- 'The introduction of the ban has had a significant effect in my area. Previously many boards were left up for all or most of the year cluttering the look of the street and giving out the wrong message in terms of the strong, friendly community that exists here. I think the ban should be continued and also extended to other parts of the city.'
- 'They are an eye sore that has improved so carry on I say'
- 'This has been a really successful control policy. There have been few abuses, and its dramatically improved the local environment in the terraced streets of Clarendon Park. Please renew it!'
- 'The streets are a lot less cluttered and no longer an eyesore.'
- 'The number of boards were becoming a huge problem they were often left even though the house/flat was occupied. The area is now calmer visually. Thank you. (Sadly most people will not realize the difference as it is now the 'norm')'
- 'Should also include "Let By" boards which in some cases stay up for months'
- 'I am most familiar with the impact of this direction in the Clarendon Park area. It has considerably improved its appearance as I'm sure it has in the other areas affected.'
- 'The Direction 7 Regulation (To Let Boards) has been very successful in controlling the display of To Let boards in the 3b Clarendon Park and the 3c Greenhill areas of Castle and Knighton Wards. Only a few To Let boards have been displayed where they shouldn't be and these have been quickly removed when reported to Leicester City Council. Control of the display of To Let boards has had a positive effect on the character and appearance of our area and we support the renewal and retention of these controls.'

Comments where answer was 'no':

'We stopped letting our property in 2020 in Clarendon Park due to all the new regulations by the government. We have been trying g to sell it ever since. Again due to new mortgage regs. new EPC regs we have been unable to sell. On top of that we

are now subject to Leicester city council tax, which we have always been happy to pay when empty, but due to Covid as well, we are now in our second year of trying to sell and we think unfairly being charged double council tax! Having written to Leic Council about this they haven't had the decency to reply. [REDACTED]

'Just an excuse to make the council money, typical of a labour run council'

'Since this ban has come into place, we do not know which property is up for let and which isn't, prior to this ban at least you would know what house is up for let and what isn't. Not allowing this we can't see if we have new neighbours or not.'

'Are then going to penalize the private buyers as well.'

By E-mail

'Not surprisingly, I very much welcome the renewal of this direction. Thank you for letting me know.'

'Thanks for your email, but neither of our properties (Both on [REDACTED]) are located in the areas you have listed so this does not apply to us.'

'Wonderful thanks for letting me know.'

Leicester Mercury Website

'Does the ban also apply to "Office space to let" signs plastered all over the town centre?'

'KEEP THE BAN, some areas were looking like Cannery Row'

'A money making scheme mayor needing more money and who does he think will be paying not the landlord, the tenant!'

'some of the boards in Highfields and Evington are there for a long long time'

Tweets

None.

Jackie Skinner

From: Rose Forman <roseforman@propertymark.co.uk>

Sent: 06 April 2023 16:28 planning.enforcement To:

Subject: Regulation 7 Public Consultation (To Let Boards)

Attachments: LCC Consultation Response from Propertymark (April 2023).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon,

Please find attached response to the consultation: Regulation 7 Public Consultation (To Let Boards).

Propertymark is the UK's leading professional body of property agents, with over 17,000 members. We represent the voice of the private property sector across the UK. We have members in Leicester City, some of whom I spoke to in order to formulate this response.

I have outlined our objections to the proposed direction and made suggestions of alternative courses of action, where appropriate.

Please let me know if you have any queries or need anything clarifying,

Best wishes

Rose

Rose Forman Policy and Campaigns Officer 01926 496 800 roseforman@propertymark.co.uk

arla naea nava propertymark

01926 496800

propertymark.co.uk



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propertymark

<u>Leicester City Council: Regulation 7 Public Consultation (To Let Boards)</u> <u>Consultation response from Propertymark</u> <u>April 2023</u>

Background

Propertymark is the UK's leading professional body of property agents, with over 17,000
members. We are member-led with a Board which is made up of practicing agents and we
work closely with our members to set professional standards through regulation, accredited
and recognised qualifications, an industry leading training programme and mandatory
Continuing Professional Development.

Overview

- Leicester City Council is looking to extend the Direction under Regulations 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 to remove 'deemed consent' for to let boards in certain areas of the city. The city originally implemented restrictions in July 2018 which were in place for five years and are now due for renewal.
- 3. Under the Town and Country Planning Regulations, property agents' boards are categorised as requiring 'deemed consent'. This means that explicit planning permissions is not required as long as the criteria and conditions outlined in the regulations are met. However, the Regulations give local authorities planning enforcement powers to restrict the use of deemed consent where it feels appropriate and necessary. Usually these necessities are for public safety concerns. Public safety can also factor in the likelihood of an advertisement board obscuring or hindering the visibility of traffic signs or other navigation aids, or if the advertisement will hinder the operation of any security or surveillance device or device for measuring vehicle speed.
- The Town and Country Planning Regulations standards conditions include that an advertisement board should be kept clean and tidy and should be in a condition which does not endanger the public.
- 5. The concerns outlined by Leicester City Council, and the reasoning for implementing the Regulation 7 Direction, are the negative impact on the visual aspects of neighbourhoods and the local environment due to a high number of to let boards in the areas specified. The council states that it attempted to implement a voluntary Code of Practice in order to tackle the issue, but this was unsuccessful in reducing the number of boards on display.

Response

Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7 (To Let Boards)?

6. Propertymark does not agree that a renewal of the Direction Regulation 7 is required. This is for three reasons, firstly the parameters of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 should be sufficient to control advertising boards in the area. Secondly, the direction is no longer necessary or appropriate. The lettings market has changed significantly since the direction was first implemented and therefore it is no longer relevant. Thirdly, the direction could negatively impact the promotion and awareness of local (law-abiding) letting agencies in the area, thus affecting their business unfairly.

1

¹ To Let boards control (leicester.gov.uk)

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Adequate powers under existing legislation

- 7. The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 (hereby referred to as the regulations) sets out the rules for advertising boards, including property sales and lettings boards. The regulations stipulate what is acceptable and what is not when advertising a property for sale or let. Agents' advertising boards come under the category of 'deemed consent', which means that explicit planning permission is not required as long as the criteria and conditions outlined in the regulations are met.
- 8. The standard conditions under the regulations state:
 - Advertisements cannot be displayed without permission of the owner of the site.
 - Advertisements, and any site used for the display of advertisements, should be kept clean and tidy.
 - Advertisements, and any site used for the display of advertisements, should be in a condition that does not endanger the public.
 - If the advertisement is required to be removed under the Regulations, the site should be left in a condition which does not endanger the public.
- 9. The powers of the local planning authority should be sufficient to control any advertising which falls outside of the standard conditions. The council has the power to enforce the conditions and issue a Discontinuance Notice under Regulation 8 of the legislation. Reasons for taking discontinuance action may include if the authority believes that there is risk of substantial injury to the amenity of the locality or a danger to members of the public. However, the planning authority must consider whether there is an option to modify the display instead of taking discontinuance action. If the owner of the advertising board does not comply with a discontinuance notice then the planning authority can escalate this under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 10. Propertymark recognises that these powers may have been insufficient in 2018 when the direction was first implemented, due to a high propensity of boards in the locality. However, following a period of five years where to let advertisement boards have been banned, agents in the local area have adhered to the regulations and a further extension of the ban seems disproportionate when there are sufficient powers in place to control any potential future breaches.

No longer necessary

- 11. Propertymark appreciates that a voluntary Code of Practice was introduced in 2013, which Leicester City Council states was not well adhered to. It should be noted, however, that the lettings market is significantly different now to how it was in 2013. One local Propertymark member stated that the turnaround of properties is so quick now due to such high demand in the lettings market that boards are swiftly put up and taken down (in areas not under the direction). The areas affected by the direction are predominantly student lettings, which are in very high demand as the student population of Leicester's two universities continues to climb.
- Alongside the current direction is a Code of Practice which many agents are unaware of.
 Propertymark suggests that instead of imposing restrictions under a direction, a better

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publicised Code of Practice and adequate enforcement could be used to regulate the improper use of advertising boards.

Impact on lettings business

- 13. When asked, our agents said that the enforcement of the direction had a negative impact on their business. Advertisement boards are used to locate what properties are available in an area, show the local lettings businesses and to make the public aware of their brand. Visibility is key to any brand's success and by inhibiting the use of advertising boards this can impact on the local agents. One agency that we spoke to said that their office is based in one of the areas of restriction and not being able to advertise around this area affected their business because it inevitably drew in less customers.
- 14. Letting agents, like any other business, want to maintain a respectable reputation. This can be achieved by using advertising boards effectively, showing their prominence in an area and thus giving the public (and any potential customers) confidence that they are a well-used and trusted organisation. It would not be in the best interest of a reputable lettings agency to leave boards up looking tatty and unsightly. Agents who are members of organisations such as Propertymark are regulated under our internal principles, they are therefore kept informed of their obligations and legal requirements such as those under the Town and Country Planning Regulations. Agents who are not aware or not a member of a professional body should be educated rather than chastised.

Conclusion

15. Propertymark agrees that excessive use of advertising boards can be labelled an 'eyesore'. But we believe that restrictions on their use, over and above the current legislation, is unnecessary and a hinderance to local businesses. The solution would be for the planning authority to use enforcement powers already within its remit to ensure that boards adhere to the standard conditions. The direction may have been required when it was first proposed in 2015, but the lettings market has changed dramatically since then as demand outstrips supply. This suggests that letting agents' attitudes to advertising boards will have changed and there is no longer an issue which needs to be controlled.

Appendix K: Report to Director



22nd June 2023

REPORT TO DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A DIRECTION UNDER REGULATION 7 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS) REGULATIONS 2007 TO RETAIN REMOVAL OF 'DEEMED CONSENT' RIGHTS FOR THE DISPLAY OF RESIDENTIAL 'TO LET' BOARDS WITHIN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the results of recent public consultation in respect of the above and seeks authorization from the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation to submit an application to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the renewal of an existing Regulation 7 Direction as detailed above subject to briefing the Transport and Planning Board ('TPB') and the Planning and Development Control Committee ('PDCC').
- 1.2 The existing Direction made under Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 was approved on 9th February 2018 by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, implemented on 2nd July 2018 and is due to expire on 1st July 2023. The Direction removes 'deemed consent' rights for the display of residential 'To Let' boards within specific areas of the City, as set out in Paragraph 1.3 below.
- 1.3 The current areas of control are Windermere, Hazel, Clarendon Park, Greenhill, West End, Ashleigh Road, West End Conservation Area.
- 1.4 The proposal was presented to the TPB on 31st May 2023 and the PDCC on 21st June 2023, which was supported.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation considers that through the public consultation exercise, from those that responded, a clear majority supported an application to renew the Regulation 7 Direction.

- 2.2 That the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation authorises submission of the application be made to renew the Regulation 7 Direction.
- 2.3 That this report be read in conjunction with that submitted to the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation on 27th February 2023, a copy of which is attached hereto at **Appendix A**.

3.0 REASONS

- 3.1 To continue the success of the current management of residential 'to let' boards in the interests of the amenity of the areas concerned and prevent the return of the visual clutter caused by the proliferation of residential 'to let' boards that formerly existed in those areas.
- 3.2 To ensure that the requirements of the Regulation 7 Direction are realised.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 On 27th February 2023, the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation gave approval to consult on the renewal of the Regulation 7 Direction to control the display of residential letting boards.

5.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

On 8th March 2023, the Council launched a public consultation, which ended on 5th April 2023. Information was displayed on lamp posts in the affected areas and letters/e-mails were sent to estate agents and publicised on the Council's website and the local press. The letter and publicity on the Council's website is attached at **Appendix B** and **Appendix C** respectively and the consultation is attached at **Appendix D**.

5.2 **Response to Consultation**

- 5.2.1 The consultation asked, 'Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7?' 21 formal responses were received: 18 to the online survey and three via e-mail. A further e-mail response was received the day after the consultation ended and some informal comments were made on the Leicester Mercury Website.
- 5.2.2 Of the 18 online responses, 13 (72.22%) said 'yes' and 5 (27.78%) said 'no'. A full analysis of the 18 responses to the online consultation is attached at **Appendix E**. Of the three e-mail responses, one said 'yes' and two had 'no opinion either way'.
- 5.2.3 Of the 21 formal responses, 66.67% of respondents supported renewal of the Regulation 7 Direction, 23.81% did not support renewal, and 9.52% had no opinion either way.

- 5.2.4 The online consultation included a space where respondents could comment.

 15 of the 18 respondents made comments (11 in support, 4 not in support). All comments (both online and e-mail) are attached at **Appendix F**.
- 5.2.5 A professional body of property agents sent an e-mail on the last day of the consultation stating they were planning on responding to the consultation but due to deadlines and the Easter Holidays, did not think they would be able to respond by that afternoon and hoped to do so by the following week. They were notified by e-mail that day that their response would need to be submitted that day as if it were received afterwards, it may not be taken into consideration. Their representation, which is attached at **Appendix G** for information purposes, was received the following day, after the consultation ended. They objected to the renewal and argued that adequate powers exist under existing legislation to take action against advertisements; the restriction is no longer necessary; and it would have impact on letting businesses.
- 5.2.6 The reduction in unauthorised advertisements indicates a change in the attitude of letting agents. The representation has not been taken into consideration as it was received outside the consultation period. Even if the response was received in time, the fact remains that the overall response is of support for renewal of the Regulation 7 Direction rather than not.
- 5.2.7 The Council considers the use of letting boards unnecessary. They are often left in place for long periods or indefinitely, not to indicate vacant accommodation but to advertise the letting company. Most people looking for rented accommodation are likely to search agents' websites or property portals rather than walk or drive around an area looking for 'to let' boards.
- 5.2.8 It is not proposed at this time to extend the area covered by the Regulation 7 Direction as the existing control seems to be working. The restriction in the areas covered by the Regulation 7 Direction may have had a 'knock-on' effect for other areas as reports of unauthorised displays have dropped dramatically across the City.

5.3 Current Planning Powers

5.3.1 A Direction made under Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 on 9th February 2018, implemented on 2nd July 2018, removed 'deemed consent' rights for the display of residential 'To Let' boards at some addresses in some areas of the City, namely Windermere, Hazel, Clarendon Park, Greenhill, West End, Ashleigh Road and West End Conservation Area.

6.0 PROCESS OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL

6.1 To renew the Direction, the Council will be required to submit a detailed submission document to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to renew the Direction under Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 by virtue of Regulation 29.

6.2 If the application to renew the Direction is approved by the Government, the status quo will remain, which is that 'deemed consent' rights will remain removed in the streets already affected.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Analysis of the consultation results shows overall support from the public for the Council to apply to renew the Regulation 7 Direction.
- 7.2 Once the application has been made, stakeholders will have 21 days to submit objections directly to the Secretary of State, who will then consider the application. There is no set timescale for a decision and previous applications have taken up to 12 months to be considered, particularly if the Secretary of State takes the option of calling a Public Inquiry. If approved, the Direction would be publicised and implemented appropriately.
- 7.3 Other Local Authorities such as Nottingham, Leeds, Newcastle and Charnwood have been successful with applications for renewal of Regulation 7 Directions in relation to residential 'To Let' boards. Like some of these authorities, the City Council has adopted guidance setting out a scheme of advertisement that should be followed. However, it is considered that the restriction to display 'to let' boards remains justified in the context of the impact and evidence. Internal advertisements in individual properties would be sufficient to supplement extensive online advertisements, shop displays and websites used by agents.
- 7.4 The Director of Planning, Development and Transportation is requested to authorise the submission of the application to renew the Regulation 7 Direction.

8.0 REPORT AUTHOR

Jackie Skinner, Planning, Transportation & Economic Development

27th February 2023



REPORT TO DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

CONSULTATION FOR RENEWAL OF A DIRECTION UNDER REGULATION 7 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS) REGULATIONS 2007 TO RETAIN REMOVAL OF 'DEEMED CONSENT' RIGHTS FOR THE DISPLAY OF RESIDENTIAL 'TO LET' BOARDS WITHIN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.0 This report is to seek authorisation from the Director of Planning, Transportation and Development that the Council undertakes consultation to renew a Direction made under Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007. The existing Direction was approved on 9th February 2018 by the Secretary of State, implemented on 2nd July 2018 and is due to expire on 1st July 2023. The Direction removes 'deemed consent' rights for the display of residential 'To Let' boards within specific areas of the City, as set out in Paragraph 1.2 below.
- 1.1 The current areas of control are Windermere, Hazel, Clarendon Park, Greenhill, West End, Ashleigh Road, West End Conservation Area, as shown on the maps contained within Appendix 1.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation authorises consultation be carried out to inform renewal of the Regulation 7 Direction
- 2.2 That a report back of the results of consultation be considered before application to renew the Direction is made

3.0 REASONS

3.1 To continue the success of the current management of residential 'To Let' boards in the interests of the amenity of the areas concerned and prevent the return of the visual clutter caused by the proliferation of residential 'To Let' boards that formerly existed in those areas.

3.2 To ensure that the requirements of the Direction are realised.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The City Council received numerous reports from local residents during the early and mid-2010s about the high numbers of 'To Let' boards that were displayed on properties near to Leicester University, De Montfort University and Leicester Royal Infirmary, and the apparent permanence of those displays. The Council conducted two public consultations to assess the scale and extent of the issue.
- 4.2 The outcome of the first supported introduction of a voluntary Code of Practice to seek to control the advertising, which was trialled with letting agents in the areas affected however the aims of the Code of Practice were largely ignored.
- 4.3 The outcome of the second consultation showed that the majority of respondents felt it appropriate for the Council to have more formal control over these advertisements.
- 4.4 In February 2016, the Planning Committee authorised the Council to apply for the Direction and granted delegated powers to the then Director of Planning, Transportation and Economic Development (now Director of Planning, Development and Transportation) and the Head of Planning to take all necessary steps for the Direction to take effect and operate in the designated areas of the City.
- 4.5 The application was submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2016. The Direction was made on 9th February 2018, subject to amendments and removal of some areas on the recommendation of an Inspector appointed to assess the merits of the application.
- 4.6 The Direction was implemented on 2nd July 2018, accompanied by an advisory Code of Practice giving localised guidance on acceptable alternative advertisement. The Direction is due to expire on 1st July 2023.

5.0 CONTEXT

- 5.1 Leicester is home to two major Universities, the University of Leicester and De Montfort University.
- 5.1.1 Policy commentary from latest evidence on housing need:

In 2019 there were 8,389 'student exempt properties' which do not have to pay council tax because of being all-student households in the Leicester. At the time of the 2011 Census there were 5,604 private sector dwellings occupied by all student households in Leicester, at an average occupancy of 2.5 students per dwellings. On this basis, there has been a very significant growth in the number of students occupying private sector dwellings in Leicester, which will have increased the pressure on the housing stock of the city particularly as there has also been a growth in households in receipt of housing benefit in the private rented sector and a growth in households renting privately.

Between 2015 and 2019 the Council granted planning permission for nearly 4,000 student bedspaces. However, the Council's planning team is now reporting a trend towards student accommodation developers seeking to change student developments to general residential. This may indicate a falling in demand for new student accommodation. The impact of COVID 19, and Brexit is still not clear for the university sector, but if these effects limit the growth of student numbers in Leicester, then fewer student bedspaces will be required. Therefore, the case for additional student bedspaces in Leicester is now less pressing than was found in the 2019 LHNA.

The study also notes that in areas with large student population like Leicester, many recent graduates will not form their own household immediately but will instead share properties with other young adults.

- 5.1.2 In the designated areas, whilst there has been a fall in the number of houses occupied by students as they move to purpose-built blocks, a high percentage of properties are still occupied as houses in multiple occupation ('HMOs') with an associated transient population. This was evidenced by analysis in 2021 relating to the maintenance and extension of the existing Article 4 areas to restrict the development of new HMOs which coincide with the regulation 7 areas.
- 5.3 Since the Direction was implemented, there has been a significant reduction in illegally displayed 'to let' boards which has led to a substantial and ongoing improvement in the appearance of the affected areas. The Council considers the removal of 'deemed consent' coupled with localised guidance on acceptable alternative advertisement to have been successful.
- 5.4 There is no compelling evidence to support that the area covered by the Direction should be expanded as reports of illegal displays of 'to let' boards has dropped across the City overall and informal monitoring has shown that no further areas of the City have become problematic in terms of illegal displays as set out below.

Effect of Direction

- 5.5 In surveys undertaken in 2013 that preceded the application to the Secretary of State, more than 600 boards were found to be on display. After the Direction was implemented, such displays have significantly reduced, as below.
- 5.6 The Direction affects 101 streets in the City, in the Castle, Knighton, Saffron and Westcotes Wards. Some resistance to the Direction's implementation was initially received from one or two letting agents but after a 'settling in' period, illegal displays have significantly reduced. Immediately after the Direction was implemented in 2018, 11 boards were found on display July-December, via a combination of reports received and street surveys. In 2019, the first full year of the Direction, 70 boards were found on display via a combination of reports received and street surveys. In 2020, nine boards were found to be on display and in 2021, only seven, all of which during those two years were reported only by third parties. Formal street surveys were not carried out. In 2022 overall,

- 29 boards were found on display, three of which were reported to the Council and 26 found via street surveys. See Appendix 2 'Street Surveys'.
- 5.7 The effect of introduction of the Direction and the advisory Code of Practice is that if landlords display residential 'To Let' boards at the affected addresses in accordance with the Code of Practice, it would not be considered expedient to take prosecution action. If alternatives are required, an application must be made for advertisement consent, however, only those matching the requirements of the Code of Practice would be likely to be considered acceptable.
- 5.8 No applications have been received and it has not proven necessary to undertake any prosecutions.
- 5.9 It appears that letting agents are effectively policing themselves, as most of the reports of illegal displays have been received from competitor letting agents.

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.1 Paragraph 136 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 states that the quality and character of places can suffer when advertisements are poorly sited and designed. A separate consent process within the planning system controls the display of advertisements, which should be operated in a way which is simple, efficient and effective. Advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts.
- 6.2 Policy CS03 of the Leicester Core Strategy adopted in 2010 states that the Council will require high quality, well designed developments that contribute positively to the character and appearance of the local natural and built environment. The policy sets out design objectives for urban form, connections and access, public spaces, the historic environment, and 'Building for Life'.
- 6.3 Student Housing SPD Section 3 of the Student Housing SPD contains a commitment to investigate options available through the planning process to deal with to let boards.

Underlying Legislative Planning Powers

- 6.4 The display of to let boards is controlled by Schedule 3, Part 1, Class 3A of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 which states that adverts relating to the sale or letting of a property can be displayed subject to the following conditions:
 - (1) Not more than one advertisement, consisting of a single board or two joined boards, is permitted; and where more than one advertisement is displayed, the first to be displayed shall be taken to be the one permitted.
 - (2) No advertisement may be displayed indicating that land or premises have been sold or let, other than by the addition to an existing advertisement of a statement that a sale or letting has been agreed, or that the land or premises have been sold or let, subject to contract.

- (3) The advertisement shall be removed within 14 days after the completion of a sale or the grant of a tenancy.
- (4) No advertisement may exceed in area—
 - (a) where the advertisement relates to residential use or development, 0.5 square metres or, in the case of two joined boards, 0.6 square metre in aggregate;
 - (b) where the advertisement relates to any other use or development, 2 square metres or, in the case of two joined boards, 2.3 square metres in aggregate.
- (5) Where the advertisement is displayed on a building, the maximum projection permitted from the face of the building is 1 metre.
- (6) Illumination is not permitted.
- (7) No character or symbol on the advertisement may be more than 0.75 metre in height, or 0.3 metre in an area of special control.
- (8) No part of the advertisement may be higher above ground level than 4.6 metres, or 3.6 metres in an area of special control or, in the case of a sale or letting of part only of a building, the lowest level of that part of the building on which display is reasonably practicable.
- 6.5 The issue that the Council faced with dealing with the legislation has been where signs are left on display for more than 14 days as it has proved difficult to establish the date of a grant of tenancy- this means that a Regulation 7 Direction is desirable to allow for effective enforcement of unauthorised signs.

Current Planning Powers

6.6 A Direction made under Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 on 9th February 2018, implemented on 2nd July 2018, removed 'deemed consent' rights for the display of residential 'To Let' boards at some addresses in some areas of the City, namely Windermere, Hazel, Clarendon Park, Greenhill, West End, Ashleigh Road and West End Conservation Area.

Process of Submission of Application for Renewal

- 6.7 To renew the Direction, the Council will be required to submit a detailed submission document to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to renew the Direction under Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007.
- 6.8 If the application to renew the Direction is approved by the Government, the status quo will remain, which is that 'deemed consent' rights will remain removed in the streets already affected.

Conclusions and Next Steps

- 6.9 It is proposed that the Council applies to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to renew the Direction.
- 6.10 Before the application is made, as part of the consultation process, site notices will be displayed in the affected streets and letting agents will be invited to make comments within 28 days from the start date of consultation. A press release will be sent to the local paper.
- 6.11 Councillors of the Castle, Knighton, Saffron and Westcotes Wards, members and the Chair of the Planning and Development Control Committee will be briefed by e-mail about the consultation process. Comments received during consultation will be taken into account to inform the decision whether to submit an application to renew the direction or not.
- 6.12 Once the application has been made, stakeholders will have 21 days to submit objections directly to the Secretary of State, who will then consider the application. There is no set timescale for a decision and previous applications have taken up to 12 months to be considered particularly if the Secretary of State takes the option of calling a Public Inquiry. If approved, the Direction would be publicised and implemented appropriately.
- 6.13 Other Local Authorities such as Nottingham, Leeds, Newcastle and Charnwood have been successful with applications for renewal of Regulation 7 Directions in relation to residential 'To Let' boards. Like some of these authorities, the City Council has adopted guidance setting out a scheme of advertisement that should be followed. However, it is considered that the restriction to display 'To Let' boards remains justified in the context of the impact and evidence. Internal advertisements in individual properties would be sufficient to supplement extensive online advertisements, shop displays and websites used by agents.
- 6.14 It is therefore recommended that authorisation be given for public consultation to be commenced as soon as practicable.

7.0 FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial Implications

7.1.2 Renewal of the Direction will involve advertising costs and possibly costs of an inquiry. If the renewal is approved then it will continue to be the case that some applications to display signs will be exempt from a planning application fee. Costs will be covered within existing budgets.

David Hall, Accountant, CDN Finance.

7.2 Legal Implications

7.2.1 The Council is entitled to restrict the deemed consent proposed to seek the removal of the display of adverts of any class shall not be permitted in the

- specified areas as referred to in paragraph 2.1 without express consent from the Council.
- 7.2.2 Regulation 29 Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 ("2007 Regulations") provides "any power conferred by these regulations to give a direction includes a power to cancel or vary the direction by a subsequent direction". External advice has been sought and we have been advised that the procedure for renewal is the same as making a new application under Regulation 7.
- 7.2.3 Regulation 7 of the 2007 Regulations enables the Council to ask the Secretary of State to direct that express consent is required before advertisements for which deemed consent would otherwise be available may be displayed. The Council will have to undertake a full consultation process on the proposed direction restricting deemed consent that could result in representations and objections to the proposed direction which the Secretary of State will have to take into consideration when determining whether the deemed consent for the display of adverts shall not apply to the specified area for a specified period or indefinitely.
- 7.2.3 The Secretary of State will not make a direction until the consultation period has expired. In determining whether to make a direction the Secretary of State will consider any representations to the proposed direction. If any of the representations are objections to the proposed direction the Secretary of State will give them an opportunity to attend a hearing and make their representations in person to the Secretary of State or their representative. The Council will be given a reasonable opportunity to respond to any representations.
- 7.2.4 The Secretary of State when determining whether to restrict the deemed consent for the display of adverts can make a direction as proposed by the Council or they can modify the proposal and the area that it will apply to for a specified period or indefinitely.
- 7.2.5 Where the Secretary of State makes a direction it will be confirmed in writing to the Council with a statement of their reasons for making the direction and a copy will be sent to everyone who made a representation. The Council will publish the direction and Notice of making the direction on all the owners and occupiers in the area affected by the direction. The direction will come into force on the date that all the all the owners and occupiers in the area affected have been served with the direction. There is no right of appeal or challenge against the Secretary of State's direction.

Ageel Adnan, Solicitor, Legal Services

7.3 Climate Change Implications

7.3.1 There are no significant climate emergency implications associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer.

7.4 Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk	Likelihood	Severity Impact	Control Actions
	L/M/H	L/M/H	(if necessary/appropriate)
Judicial Review	L	L	Ensure decision to make
			Regulation 7 direction is
			lawful, rational, reasonable
			and procedural fair.

7.5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph references within the report
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	Yes	6.1
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	
Corporate Parenting	No	
Health Inequalities Impact	No	

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Student Housing SPD (Adopted June 2012); the existing Regulation 7 Direction

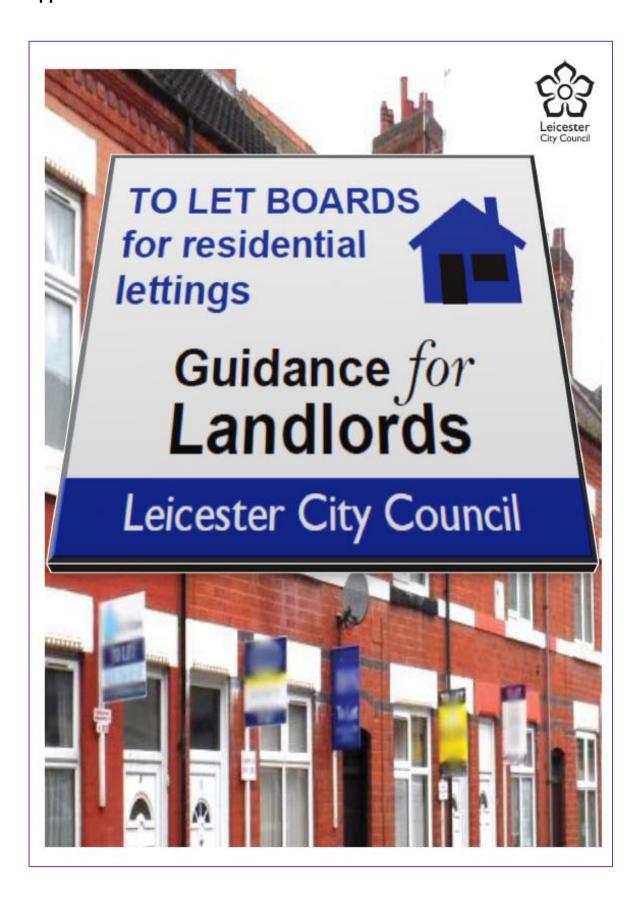
9.0 CONSULTATIONS

Consultations will be carried out as set out in this report.

10.0 REPORT AUTHOR

Jackie Skinner, Planning, Transportation & Economic Development

Appendix 1: Landlords Guidance Pack



Introduction

A Regulation 7 Direction was made by Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which creates allows Leicester City Council more control over the prevalence of 'To Let' boards for residential lettings in some streets in the Windermere, Hazel, Clarendon Park, Greenhill, West End, Ashleigh Road and West End Conservation Area parts of Leicester.

The number of letting boards on residential properties has become excessive in parts of the City, especially where there are high numbers of rented accommodation. This has a negative impact on visual aspects in neighbourhoods and local residents have raised concerns that the quality of the residential environment is declining as a result, which is impacting on the housing market. The law (Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Act 2007) already states that boards are to be removed three weeks after a property has been let, but this requirement is often ignored: some properties display them for long periods of time and some even have boards up all year round.

After a public consultation, a voluntary Code of Practice was introduced, however, it was largely ignored and the numbers of boards did not diminish.

In June 2016, the Council made an application to the Secretary of State for a Regulation 7 Direction and this was granted on 9th February 2018.

The Direction comes into effect on 2nd July 2018 and last for five years. It is accompanied by a revised Code of Practice. This means that while technically, advertising consent is required to display residential 'To Let' boards in the affected areas, boards that are displayed in accordance with the Code of Practice are unlikely to face prosecution.

See below for the Secretary of State's Direction, a Quick Guide to the affected streets and the addresses by area, including maps. Please note, the address list is correct at the time of printing, but if in doubt, it should be seen in conjunction with the maps.

What is the Code of Practice?

The Code of Practice is a set of rules which determines how 'To Let' boards for residential lettings are displayed in specified streets of the City of Leicester.

Code of Practice

- Only one residential lettings 'To Let' board per building will be permitted.
- Each board shall have a white background and will conform to the following layout: 34cm x 48cm or 48cm x 34cm.
- One company logo per board will be permitted providing that the logo does not exceed one third of the overall size of the advertising board.
- Boards marked with 'Let by', 'Let', 'More Wanted' or similar wording are prohibited.
- No more than one board shall be permitted per landlord/agent per street.
- a) Boards shall be mounted flush to the wall above/around the front door, or if that is not possible, flush to the wall on the street frontage elevation. In either instance, no part of a board shall be higher than first-floor window sill level;

or,

- alternatively, boards shall be displayed internally in a ground floor window facing the street frontage, but not in addition to a board displayed externally.
- Boards shall only be allowed on properties immediately available 'To Let,' unless they are for the following academic year, when they shall not be put up until 1st January of that year.
- Letting boards shall be removed not later than 14 days after the granting of a tenancy for the room, house or flat to which it relates.
- No 'To Let' boards shall be displayed between 1st October to 31st December inclusive.

Revised May 2018

Why do we want to control the display of boards?

The number of letting boards on residential properties has become excessive in parts of the City, especially where there are high numbers of rented accommodation. This has a negative impact on visual aspects in neighbourhoods and local residents have raised concerns that the quality of the residential environment is declining as a result, which is impacting on the housing market. The law (Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Act 2007) already states that boards are to be removed three weeks after a property has been let, but this requirement is often ignored: some properties display them for long periods of time and some even have boards up all year round.

The Council tried to tackle the issue by introducing a voluntary Code of Practice, but this was not successful in reducing the number of boards on display.

After a public consultation, the Council submitted an application to the Secretary of State, who has made a Regulation 7 Direction restricting 'deemed consent' rights for the display of residential boards. This comes into effect on 2nd July 2018 and will last initially for five years.

Which streets are affected by the Regulation 7 Direction?

To find out the affected addresses, click on the relevant area: Windermere, Hazel, Clarendon Park, Greenhill, West End, Ashleigh Road, West End Conservation Area.

What does this mean?

Normally, 'To Let' boards benefit from 'deemed consent' rights. However, the Regulation 7 Direction has removed these rights in specified streets.

Do I have to apply for advertisement consent?

In general, yes: advertisement consent is required to display a 'To Let' board and can be sought by submitting a planning application, along with a fee. However, in the interests of assisting landlords, the Council will not request planning applications for those boards which comply with the Code of Practice. Where applications for advertisement consent are submitted, only those that comply with the Code of Practice will be considered acceptable.

What if I don't apply?

It is a criminal offence to display 'To Let' boards without consent. You may be prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court. The maximum fine on conviction of an offence is presently £2,500, with an additional daily fine of £250 for a continuing offence.

How will the Direction be enforced?

Surveys of the area will be undertaken, however, breaches can be reported to our Compliance and Monitoring Team. Contact them:

by e-mail: planning@leicester.gov.uk

by telephone: 0116 454 1000 (Customer Service Centre)

by post: Planning Department, Leicester City Council, City Hall,

115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

Appendix 1: Copy Regulation 7 Direction



Alan Beckett
Senior Planner, Leicester City Council
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

Please Simon Heydecker-Dent ask for:

Tel: 0303 444 8162

Email: Simon Heydecker-Dent@communities.gst.gov.uk

Your ref: n/a

Our ref: PCU/AdRega/W2465/78326

Date: 9 February 2018

Dear Mr Beckett,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2007: ("the Regulations") REGULATION 7: DIRECTION RESTRICTING DEEMED CONSENT

- I am directed by the Secretary of State to refer to the request made by Leicester City Council ("the Council") on 24 June 2016 for a Direction that deemed consent for the display of to-let boards relating to the letting of premises, which are advertisements under Class 3A of Schedule 3 to the Regulations, should be withdrawn from certain areas in Leicester.
- 2. Taking into account a site visit and representations made in response to the Council's initial announcement to seek the Direction, the Inspector considers that there are compelling reasons as to why deemed consent for the display of to-let boards should be withdrawn from certain specified areas. However the Inspector also considers that the level of display of to-let boards in certain specified areas does not amount to such an adverse effect on public amenity as to warrant a Regulation 7 Direction.
- 3. In paragraph 30 of her report, the Inspector notes that the quantity and concentration of to-let boards varies significantly between the various specified areas. The Inspector considers that, in those areas with significantly fewer to-let boards, those boards cannot be said to cause harm to the character and appearance of the areas such that a Regulation 7 Direction would be warranted.
- 4. In concluding, the Inspector recommends that the Direction be made only in respect of areas 2a, 2b, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c and 4d as shown on the attached maps and listed below. The Inspector recommends that the Direction should apply for a period of five

Planning Casework Unit Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 5 St Philips Place Birmingham B3 JPW Tel: 0303 444 8050 E-mail: pou@communities.gsi.gov.uk years. The Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector's appraisal set out in paragraphs 20-46 of her report. He agrees with her conclusions at paragraph 47 that in areas 1a, 1b, 2c, 4a and 4e there have been relatively small numbers of letting boards displayed over the years and he shares the Inspector's view that this level of display does not amount to such an adverse effect on public amenity as to warrant a Regulation 7 Direction and that control in these areas under the Advertisement Regulations is adequate. The Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector's conclusion at paragraph 48 that a Regulation 7 Direction is justified in creain areas because normal controls are inadequate. He agrees that this is the case in respect of areas 2a, 2b, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c and 4d. The Secretary of State shares the Inspectors view that the visual harm identified in these areas could only be overcome by removing deemed consent rights for the display of letting boards.

Formal Decision

- 5. Accordingly for the reasons given above, the Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector's recommendation. He is satisfied that a Direction should be made to control the display of advertisements relating to the letting of premises within the areas of Leicester identified below and on the maps submitted by the Council for a period of five years.
- The Direction would cover the following areas in Leicester, as shown on the attached maps, namely:
- Area 2a Windermere
- Area 2b Hazel
- Area 3b Clarendon Park
- Area 3c Greenhill
- · Area 4b West End
- Area 4c Ashleigh Road
- Area 4d West End Conservation Area
- 7. A formal Direction is attached. The Council's attention is drawn to the provisions of Regulation 7(7), which specify the procedure for publishing the effect and date of operation of the Direction.
- 8. When this Direction is brought into effect, the display of boards in respect of the letting of premises may only be undertaken lawfully in the areas specified in paragraph 6 above, when the Council have granted express consent for their display. In order not to projudice the interests of persons wishing to display advertisements for property lettings, the Council are invited to ensure that any such applications for express consent are decided within the period specified in Regulation 14(1) of the Regulations.
- In line with the Inspector's comments in paragraph 48 of her report, the Secretary of State suggests that the Council attaches details of the addresses of the properties in

Planning Casework Unit Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 5 St Philips Place Birmingham 83.2PW Tet 0303 444 9050 E-mait peudloommunities asi govut all the streets within the areas to which the Direction applies when publishing the Direction.

Right of Appeal against the Decision

10. The decision of the Secretary of State may be challenged by way of an application to the High Court and a separate note is attached to this letter setting out the circumstances in which such an application may be made.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Moseley

Dave Moseley Senior Planning Casework Manager

Planning Casework Unit Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 6 St Philips Place Birmingham 53 2PW Tet: 0303 444 8050 E-mail: pou@communities.gsi.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2007 REGULATION 7: DIRECTION RESTRICTING DEEMED CONSENT

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government ('the Secretary of State') is satisfied, upon a proposal made to him by Leicester City Council, as the local planning authority, that the display of advertisements relating to the letting of premises as specified in Class 3A of Schedule 3, Part 1, to the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 (the 'Regulations') should not be undertaken without express consent in parts of Leicester.

The Direction would cover the following areas in Leicester, as shown on the attached maps, namely:

- Area 2a Windermere
- Area 2b Hazel
- Area 3b Clarendon Park
- Area 3c Greenhill
- Area 4b West End
- Area 4c Ashleigh Road
- Area 4d West End Conservation Area

The proposal has been the subject of a site visit, having been publicly advertised and representations made to the Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

The areas to be included in the Direction are specified in the Schedule to this Direction.

This Direction shall have effect for a period of five years from the date on which it comes into force in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

Schedule

This Direction relates to the display of advertisements relating to the letting of premises as specified under Class 3A of Part 1 of Schedule 3 to the Regulations in the following areas in Leicester, namely:

- Area 2a Windermere
- Area 2b Hazel
- Area 3b Clarendon Park
- Area 3c Greenhill
- Area 4b West End
- Area 4c Ashleigh Road
- Area 4d West End Conservation Area

The reasons for the Secretary of State's decision are set out in his letter of 9 February 2018 to the Council, a copy of which is attached.

Dave Moseley

Dave Moseley Senior Planning Casework Manager

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Authorised by the Secretary of State to sign on that behalf

Appendix 2: Quick Guide to Affected Streets

				A-Z (with area number	18)				
Adderley Road	3b	Cambridge Street	4b	Harrow Road	4b	Noel Street	4b	Stuart Street	4b
Ashleigh Gardens	4c	Cecilia Road	3b	Hartopp Road	3b	Norman Street	4b	Sykefield Avenue	4b 4d
Ashleigh Road	4c	Celt Street	4b	Hazel Street	2b	Oakland Road	3b	Thirimere Street	2a
Avenue Road Ext	3b	Clarendon Park Road	3b	Hinckley Road	4b	Orlando Road	3b	Thurlow Road	3b
Aylestone Road	2b	Clarendon Street	2a	Howard Road	3b	Oxford Road	3b	Tyndale Street	4b
Barday Street	4b	Cradock Road	3b	Ivy Road	4b	Paton Street	4b	Ullswater Street	2a
Beaconsfield Road	4b	Cranmer Street	4b	Knighton Park Road	3b	Queens Road	3b 3c	Upperton Road	4b
Bisley Street	4b	Eastleigh Road	4b	Jarrom Street	2a	Raeburn Road	3c	Victoria Park Road	3b
Blue Fox Close	4b	Edward Road	3b	Landseer Road	3b	Ridley Street	4b	Walnut Street	2a 2b
Bonnington Road	3c	Equity Road	4b	Latimer Street	4b	Roman Street	4b	Walton Street	4b
Braunstone Gate	4b	Filbert Street	2a	Leopold Road	3b	Ruding Road	4b	Welford Road	3b 3c
Brazil Street	2b	Filbert Street East	2b	Livingstone Street	4b 4d	Ruding Terrace	4b	Westcotes Drive	4b 4d
Briton Street	4b	Fleetwood Court	3b	Lome Road	3b	Rydal Street	2a	West Avenue	3b
Browning Street	4b	Fleetwood Road	3b	Luther Street	4b	Sawday Street	2b	Westbury Road	3b
Bruce Street	4b	Fosse Road South	4b 4c 4d	Lytham Road	3b	Saxon Street	4b	Western Road	4b
Brookland Road	3b	Gainsborough Road	3c	Lytton Road	3b	Seymour Road	3b	Westleigh Road	4c
Bulwer Road	3b	Gaul Street	4b	Montague Road	3b	Shaffesbury Road	4b 4d	Wilberforce Road	4b
Burnmoor Street	2a	Grasmere Street	2a	Narborough Road	4b 4c	Sheffield Street	4b	Windermere Street	2a
Buttermere Street	2a	Greenhill Road	3c	New Bridge Street	2b	St Leonards Road	3b		

If you have any queries, please contact us:

by e-mail: planning@leicester.gov.uk

by telephone: 0116 454 1000 (Customer Service Centre)

by post: Planning Department, Leicester City Council, City Hall,115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ



2b - Hazel



2a - Windermere		
Street	Even Numbers	Odd Numbers
Burnmoor Street	10-36	1-87
Buttermere Street	-	17 only
Clarendon Street	94-134	-
Filbert Street	104-112	103-181
Grasmere Street	28-158	41-137
Jarrom Street	102-214	93-167
Rydal Street	2-38	3-35
Thirimere Street	-	1-45
Ullswater Street	2-58	1-67
Walnut Street	110-170	177-217
Windermere Street	2-62	1-83

2b - Hazel		
Street	Even Numbers	Odd Numbers
Aylestone Road	-	65-115
Brazil Street	12-56	9-33
Filbert Street East	2-54	1-31
Hazel Street	2-38	1-43
New Bridge Street	48-64	-
Sawday Street	2-28	1 only
Walnut Street	2-36	-

3b – Clarendon Park

3c - Greenhill



3b - Clarendon Park		
Street	Even Numbers	Odd Numbers
Adderley Road	4-102	1-87
Avenue Road Ext	94-274	3-315
Brookland Road	2-6	•
Bulwer Road	2-74	1-75
Cecilia Road	2-36	1-31
Clarendon Park Road	78-296	107-325
Cradock Road	2-42	1-45
Edward Road	2-40	1-41
Fleetwood Court	2-18	1-17
Fleetwood Road	2-18	1-49
Hartopp Road	34-122	1-121
Howard Road	26-192	1-175
Knighton Park Road	26 only	
Landseer Road	4-58	9-63
Leopold Road	2-38	1-51

West Avenue all of 7-61			
Lorne Road 2-138 1-117 Lytham Road 2-28 1-39 Lytton Road 2-142 1-83 Montague Road 2-98 1-101 Oakland Road 2 only - Oriando Road 2-6 1-13 Oxford Road 4-38 1-43 Queens Road 16-252 43-217 Seymour Road 2-14 1-11 St Leonards Road 52-156 & Park House 23-157 Thurlow Road 2-50 1-41 Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue all of To-51 7-61	Street		
Lytham Road 2-28 1-39 Lytton Road 2-142 1-83 Montague Road 2-98 1-101 Oakland Road 2 only - Oriando Road 2-6 1-13 Oxford Road 4-38 1-43 Queens Road 16-252 43-217 Seymour Road 2-14 1-11 St Leonards Road 52-156 & Park House 23-157 Thurlow Road 2-50 1-41 Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue all of 7-61		Numbers	
Lytton Road 2-142 1-83 Montague Road 2-98 1-101 Oakland Road 2 only - Orlando Road 2-6 1-13 Oxford Road 4-38 1-43 Queens Road 16-252 43-217 Seymour Road 2-14 1-11 St Leonards Road 52-156 & Park House 23-157 Thurlow Road 2-50 1-41 Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue 198 1-101			
Montague Road 2-98 1-101 Oakland Road 2 only - Orlando Road 2-6 1-13 Oxford Road 4-38 1-43 Queens Road 16-252 43-217 Seymour Road 2-14 1-11 St Leonards Road 52-156 & Park House 23-157 Thurlow Road 2-50 1-41 Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue 107 7-51 Oxford Road 170-334 201-351 Oxford Road	Lytham Road	2-28	1-39
Oakland Road 2 only - Orlando Road 2-6 1-13 Oxford Road 4-38 1-43 Queens Road 16-252 43-217 Seymour Road 2-14 1-11 St Leonards Road 52-156 & Park House 23-157 Thurlow Road 2-50 1-41 Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue all of T-61	Lytton Road	2-142	1-83
Oriando Road 2-6 1-13 Oxford Road 4-38 1-43 Queens Road 16-252 43-217 Seymour Road 2-14 1-11 St Leonards Road 52-156 & Park House 23-157 Thurlow Road 2-50 1-41 Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue all of T-61	Montague Road	2-98	1-101
Oxford Road 4-38 1-43 Queens Road 16-252 43-217 Seymour Road 2-14 1-11 St Leonards Road 52-156 & Park House 23-157 Thurlow Road 2-50 1-41 Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue all of 7-51	Oakland Road	2 only	-
Queens Road 16-252 43-217 Seymour Road 2-14 1-11 St Leonards Road 52-156 & Park House 23-157 Thurlow Road 2-50 1-41 Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue all of Total Park Road 7-51	Orlando Road	2-6	1-13
Seymour Road 2-14 1-11 St Leonards Road 52-156 & 23-157 Thurlow Road 2-50 1-41 Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue	Oxford Road	4-38	1-43
St Leonards Road 52-156 & Park House 23-157	Queens Road	16-252	43-217
St Leonards Road Park House 23-157	Seymour Road		1-11
Victoria Park Road 128-366 - Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue all of 7-51	St Leonards Road		23-157
Welford Road 170-334 201-351 West Avenue all of 7-61	Thurlow Road	2-50	1-41
West Avenue all of 7-61		128-366	-
West Avenue all of 7-61	Welford Road	170-334	201-351
		all of Clarendon Court	7-61
Westbury Road 2, 2A & 2B - only	Westbury Road	_,	-

3c - Greenhill		
Street	Even Numbers	Odd Numbers
Bonnington Road	2-36	1-33
Gainsborough Road	4-102	3-93
Greenhill Road	2-110	1-121
Queens Road	134-252	153-217
Raebum Road	2-28	1-29
Welford Road	316	334

4b – West End 4c – Ashleigh Road 4d – West End Conservation Area



4b - West End		
Street	Even	Odd
Subst	Numbers	Numbers
Barday Street	2-148	3-163
Beaconsfield Road	2-132	1-131
Bisley Street	2-36	1-33
Blue Fox Close	2-24	1-23
Braunstone Gate	58-68	-
Briton Street	14-38	3-43
Browning Street	2-52	1-55
Bruce Street	30-66	1-69
Cambridge Street	4-138	5-133
Celt Street	4-22	1-17
Cranmer Street	2-102	3-99
Eastleigh Road	2-86	1-115
Equity Road	2-40	1-41
Fosse Road South	106-202	101-191
Gaul Street	2-48	1-73
Harrow Road	2-170	1-183
Hinckley Road	2-86	-
Ivy Road	2-62	1-59
Latimer Street	2-60	1-93
Livingstone Street	2-104	-

Street	Even	Odd
0.000	Numbers	Numbers
Luther Street	2-102	1-103
Narborough Road	2-210	1-203
Noel Street	2-68	1-85
Norman Street	4-84	1-71
Paton Street	2-72	3-71
Ridley Street	2-106	1-63
Roman Street	4-24	1-29
Ruding Road	-	1-17
Ruding Terrace	2 only	1 only
Saxon Street	2-20	1-23
Shaftesbury Road	2-34	1-55
Sheffleld Street	10-34	1-23
Stuart Street	2-96	1-109
Sykefield Avenue	6-46	1-55
Tyndale Street	4-96	1-97
Upperton Road	6-106	1-173
Walton Street	10-92	1-99
Westcotes Drive	2-52	1-49
Western Road	118-378	1-251
Wilberforce Road	2-190	1-139

4c - Ashleigh Road		
Street	Even Numbers	Odd Numbers
Ashleigh Gardens	All properties	All properties
Ashleigh Road	2-28	15-27
Fosse Road South	220-228	-
Narborough Road		171-195
Westleigh Road	6-40	1-35

4d - West End Conservation Area				
Fosse Road South	2-90	-		
Livingstone Street	-	33-51		
Shaffesbury Road	60-66	-		
Sykefield Avenue	2-4	-		
Westcotes Drive	52-136	-		





Appendix 2: Street Survey

2a - Windermere					
	Even	Odd	Number of Boards		
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct
Burnmoor Street	10-36	1-87	-	0	0
Buttermere Street	-	17 only	-	0	0
Clarendon Street	94-134	-	-	0	0
Filbert Street	104-112	103-181	-	0	0
Grasmere Street	28-158	41-137	31	1	0
Jarrom Street	102-214	93-167	21	<mark>2</mark>	1
Rydal Street	2-38	3-35	8	0	1
Thirlmere Street	-	1-45	5	0	0
Ullswater Street	2-58	1-67	11	1	0
Walnut Street	110-170	177-217	0	0	0
Windermere Street	2-62	1-83	12	0	0
Number of streets:		I	88	4	2
<mark>7 4</mark>				0	<u>0</u>

2a - Hazel						
Street	Even	Odd		Number of Boards		
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct	
Aylestone Road	-	65-115	-	2	0	
Brazil Street	12-56	9-33	-	0	0	
Filbert Street East	2-54	1-31	-	0	0	
Hazel Street	2-38	1-43	-	0	0	
New Bridge Street	48-64	-	-	0	0	
Sawday Street	2-28	1 only	-	0	0	
Walnut Street	2-36	-	2	0	0	
					_	
Number of streets:			2	0	0	
1 6				2	0	

Totals:	In 2013: 2	In 2022: 2

3b - Clarendon Park						
Street	Even	Odd	Number o		of Boards	
	Numbers Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct		
Adderley Road	4-102	1-87	-	0	0	
Avenue Road Ext	94-274	3-315	13	3	0	
Brookland Road	2-6	-	-	0	0	
Bulwer Road	2-74	1-75	-	0	0	
Cecilia Road	2-36	1-31	-	0	0	
Clarendon Park Road	78-296	107-325	10	0	0	
Cradock Road	2-42	1-45	-	0	0	
Edward Road	2-40	1-41	1	0	0	
Fleetwood Court	2-18	1-17	-	0	0	

Fleetwood Road	2-18	1-49	1	0	1
Hartopp Road	34-122	1-121	6	0	0
Howard Road	26-192	1-175	7	0	0
Knighton Park Road	26 only	-	-	0	0
Landseer Road	4-58	9-63	-	0	0
Leopold Road	2-38	1-51	1	0	0
Lorne Road	2-138	1-117	-	0	0
Lytham Road	2-28	1-39	4	0	0
Lytton Road	2-142	1-83	-	1	0
Montague Road	2-98	1-101	5	0	0
Oakland Road	2 only	-	-	0	0
Orlando Road	2-6	1-13	-	0	0
Oxford Road	4-38	1-43	6	0	1
Queens Road	16-252	43-217	0	0	0
Seymour Road	2-14	1-11	0	0	0
St Leonards Road	52-156 &	23-157	4	0	0
	Park House				
Thurlow Road	2-50	1-41	-	0	0
Victoria Park Road	128-366	-	-	0	0
Welford Road	170-334	201-351	10	0	0
West Avenue	all of Clarendon Court	7-61	-	0	0
Westbury Road	2, 2A & 2B	-	-	0	0
	only				
Number of streets:			<mark>68</mark>	3	2
<mark>14 16</mark>				1	0

Totals: In 2013: 68 In 2022: 6

Street Even Numb	Even	Odd	Number of Boards		
	Numbers		2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct
Bonnington Road	2-36	1-33	3	0	0
Gainsborough Road	4-102	3-93	-	0	0
Greenhill Road	2-110	1-121	4	0	0
Queens Road	134-252	153-217	1	0	0
Raeburn Road	2-28	1-29	-	0	0
Welford Road	316	334	0	0	0
Number of streets:			8	0	0
4 2				0	0

Street	Even	Odd	Number of Bo		oards
	Numbers Numbers	Numbers	2013	2022	2022
			survey	Sep	Oct
Barclay Street	2-148	3-163	25	2	0
Beaconsfield Road	2-132	1-131	23	1	0
Bisley Street	2-36	1-33	2	0	0
Blue Fox Close	2-24	1-23	-	0	0
Braunstone Gate	58-68	-	-	0	0
Briton Street	14-38	3-43	-	0	0
Browning Street	2-52	1-55	-	0	0
Bruce Street	30-66	1-69	3	0	0
Cambridge Street	4-138	5-133	14	3	0
Celt Street	4-22	1-17	4	0	0
Cranmer Street	2-102	3-99	3	0	0
Eastleigh Road	2-86	1-115	10	3	0
Equity Road	2-40	1-41	7	0	0
Fosse Road South	106-202	101-191	22	0	0
Gaul Street	2-48	1-73	10	0	0
Harrow Road	2-170	1-183	18	1	0
Hinckley Road	2-86	-	-	0	0
Ivy Road	2-62	1-59	1	0	0
Latimer Street	2-60	1-93	1	0	0
Livingstone Street	2-104	-	2	0	0
Luther Street	2-102	1-103	12	0	0
Narborough Road	2-210	1-203	-	0	0
Noel Street	2-68	1-85	8	0	0
Norman Street	4-84	1-71	18	0	0
Paton Street	2-72	3-71	9	0	0
Ridley Street	2-106	1-63	8	0	0
Roman Street	4-24	1-29	3	0	0
Ruding Road	-	1-17	-	0	0
Ruding Terrace	2 only	1 only	-	0	0
Saxon Street	2-20	1-23	-	0	0
Shaftesbury Road	2-34	1-55	-	0	0
Sheffield Street	10-34	1-23	3	0	0
Stuart Street	2-96	1-109	11	0	0
Sykefield Avenue	6-46	1-55	-	0	0
Tyndale Street	4-96	1-97	8	0	0
Upperton Road	6-106	1-173	9	0	0
Walton Street	10-92	1-99	12	0	0
Westcotes Drive	2-52	1-49	-	0	0
Western Road	118-378	1-251	14	1	0
Wilberforce Road	2-190	1-139	24	0	0
Number of streets:			284	<mark>11</mark>	0
<mark>28 12</mark>				0	0

Totals: In 2013: 284	In 2022: 11
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4c - Ashleigh Road					
Street	Even	Odd	Number of Boards		
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct
Ashleigh Gardens	All properties	All properties	-	0	0
Ashleigh Road	2-28	15-27	-	0	0
Fosse Road South	220-228	-	0	0	0
Narborough Road	-	171-195	-	0	0
Westleigh Road	6-40	1-35	-	1	0
Number of streets:			0	0 1	0

Totals:	In 2013: 0	In 2022: 1

Street	Even	Odd	Number of Boards		
	Numbers	Numbers	2013 survey	2022 Sep	2022 Oct
Fosse Road South	2-90	-	0	0	0
Livingstone Street	-	33-51	2	0	0
Shaftesbury Road	60-66	-	-	0	0
Sykefield Avenue	2-4	-	-	0	0
Westcotes Drive	52-136	-	-	0	0
Number of streets:			2	0	0
2 3				0	<mark>0</mark>

Totals:	In 2013: 2	In 2022: 0

Streets: 101 streets (54 from original surveys, 47 more included in the Direction). (Fosse Road South, Welford Road, Queens Road are stated twice, split by

area into different zones)

Boards:

2013: Total **452**

2022: September October

> Total 23 Total 3

Grand Total: 26

<u>Key</u>

On original and current surveys

On current surveys only

Appendix B - Correspondence to Agents

To Your Residential Lettings Team,

As you are aware, in February 2018, the Secretary of State, in pursuance of powers conferred on him by Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007, agreed to a Direction that the display of advertisements specified in Class 3A of Schedule 3, Part 1 (residential 'to let' boards) should not be undertaken in some streets in the following areas: Windermere, Hazel, Clarendon Park, Greenhill, West End, Ashleigh Road and West End Conservation Area. The Direction came into effect on 2nd July 2018 and lasts for five years. To view the details of the existing Direction visit https://www.leicester.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-applications/do-i-need-permission/to-let-boards-control/#.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your co-operation in ensuring compliance with the legislation.

The Council are currently preparing an application for a renewal of the Direction. As part of this process, should you wish to do so, you can forward your views as to the success of the scheme or any comments you would wish to make. As part of the formal process, the application will be advertised in the local and national press, and you will have an opportunity to comment formally but we would like to give you the opportunity to express your views on a more informal basis beforehand should you wish to do so.

It is not our intention to withdraw the Code of Practice that runs alongside the Direction at the present time because it appears to be working successfully. It would be appreciated, however, if you could ensure that your staff adhere to the restrictions of the regulations in relation to residential letting boards across the town, including the siting of boards on properties and time restrictions in respect of the display.

Should you have any comments on renewal of the Direction, please submit them via the online consultation page https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/communications/regulation-7-public-consultation-to-let-boards/.

In case of any difficulty with submitting comments online you may write to me at:

Leicester City Council Planning 2nd Floor 115 Charles Street Leicester LE1 1FZ

or e mail me at planning.enforcement@leicester.gov.uk.

Any comments should be received by 5th April 2023.

I look forward to your continued co-operation.

LEICESTER City Council is set to renew powers to stop landlords putting up boards advertising their properties in some parts of the city.

In summer 2018, the city council brought into effect a new Regulation 7 Direction which effectively banned the use of 'To Let' boards in some areas of the city, close to the University of Leicester and De Montfort University.

It means that landlords and agents now need to apply for planning consent to put up signs advertising properties for rent in parts of the Castle, Knighton, Saffron and Westcotes wards. If they fail to comply, they could face court action and be fined up to £2,500.

The ban covers some addresses in the Windermere, Hazel, Clarendon Park, Greenhill, West End, Ashleigh Road and West End conservation areas.

The existing legal direction is due to expire in July 2023, and the city council is planning to apply for this to renewed.

Before then, people are being invited to have their say of the effectiveness of the measure and whether they support a continuation of the ban on unauthorised 'To Let' boards in these parts of the city.

Deputy city mayor Cllr Piara Singh Clair, who leads on regulatory services, said: "Prior to bringing these new powers into effect, many people who lived close to the universities were concerned about the almost permanent proliferation of 'To Let' boards on their streets.

"Since the direction was implemented, there has been a significant reduction in illegally displayed 'To Let' boards which has led to an improvement in the appearance of the affected areas. We don't want to see the advertising boards becoming an eyesore in these areas again and hope to renew the legal powers which have helped us to successfully tackle the problem."

Councils can apply for powers to control the display of 'To Let' boards under Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007.

Leicester City Council submitted its bid for the Regulation 7 direction in October 2016, following a public consultation on the proposal. The successful bid was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in February 2018.

The powers first came into effect from 2nd July 2018 and last for five years.

To have your say on plans to renew the existing ban on To Let boards in certain parts of the city, visit <u>consultations.leicester.gov.uk</u>

Closing date for comments is Wednesday 5 April.

Appendix D - Consultation



Overview

Leicester City Council received a number of complaints during the early and mid 2010s in relation to the display of 'to let' boards and their effect on the character and appearance of residential areas.

The council understands the need to advertise properties that are available to rent but was concerned about the large number of 'to let' boards for residential properties in some areas and looked at more effective ways of controlling them.

The display of 'to let' boards is controlled by national legislation and boards that are on display within the limits of the legislation have 'deemed consent'.

In 2016, LCC applied to the government to issue a Direction under Regulation 7 of The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) [England). Regulations 2007 to remove this 'deemed consent 'for to let' boards for residential properties in some areas of the city.

The Direction was issued on 9th February 2018 and covers some streets in the Castle, Knighton, Saffron and Westcotes wards. It was implemented on 2nd July 2018 and runs alongside an advisory Code of Practice which gives localised guidance on acceptable alternative advertisement.

Since the Direction was implemented, there has been a significant reduction in illegally displayed 'to let' boards which has led to an improvement in the appearance of the affected areas.

The council considers the removal of 'deemed consent' coupled with localised guidance on acceptable alternative advertisement to have been successful.

The Direction is due to expire on 1st July 2023 and the council wishes to apply to renew and retain the removal of 'deemed consent' in those areas, allowing the council to keep the existing level of control.

Before we do this, we would welcome your views on the renewal of Direction Regulation 7,

Give us your views

Online Survey >

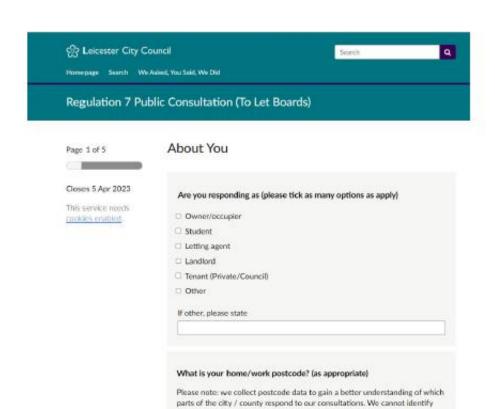
Closes 5 Apr 2023

Opened 8 Mar 2023

Contact

Jacki Skinner (Planning Enforcement Officer) Planning Compliance and Monitoring Team

planting arthrogerant Eleksoletic



individual properties or addresses from this information.

Save and come back later...



Page 1 at 5

Closes 5 Apr 2023

This service needs continue enabled.

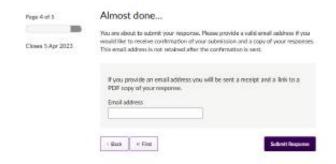
Equality monitoring

The information you provide in this final section of the questionnaire will be kept in accordance with terms of current Data Protection legislation and will only be used for the purpose of monitoring, Your details will not be passed on to any other individual, organisation or group. Leicester City Council is the data controller for the information on this form for the purposes of current Data Protection legislation.

Et	hnic background:
0	Aslan or Aslan Skitish: Bangladeshii
9	Asian or Asian British: Indian
9	Asian or Asian Skitish: Pakistani
0.	Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background
	Black or Black British: African
	Black or Black British: Caribbean
	Black or Black British: Someli
0	Black or Black British: Any other Black background
0	Chinese
0	Chinese: Any other Chinese background
	Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Asian
	Dual/Multiple Heritage: White S Black African
	Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Black Caribbean
	Dual/Multiple Heritage. Any other heritage background
	White: British
	White: European
b	White: Hish
	White: Any other White background
	Other ethnic group: Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller
Ē,	Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group
	Prefer not to say
	you said your ethnic group was one of the 'Other' categories, please tell us hat this is:
A	pr.
	under 18
	18 - 25
	26 - 35
	36 - 45
	46 - 55
	56 - 65
٥	66+
	Prefer not to key

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	rasewal / straight
	ir not to say
	r (please specify)
Dhubi	ltv
The Go rental shifty I last for	unity Act 2010 defines a person or disabled if they have a physical impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their or convious normal day-to-day activities and has lasted or is likely at least 12 months. People with 14V, consoir, multiple schools 14V was distanted as also covered to the Equality Act.
Do you	consider yourself to be a disabled person?
· Yet	
= No	
· Prek	er not to say
that :	have answered 'Yes' to the above, please state the type of impairs pplies to you. People may experience more than one type of ments, in which case you may need to this more than one box. If it categories apply, please tick 'Other' and state the type of impairs
	g standing lifews or health condition such as concer. Hilv. diabeter six heart disease, or epilepsy
Am doo	etal health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or assiety der
orus	ysical impairment or reobility touse, such as difficulty using your a sing a wheelchair or crutches
ins	stal / communication impairment such as a seesch and language imment or Aspenger's syndrome / other autistic spectrum disorder
thysp	actic learning difficulty or disability such as Down's sendrone, dys rasia or ADH(D
	or have a visual imprirment uncorrected by glasses
Ack	or have a hearing impolement repairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed e (specify if you wist).
	er not to say
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H-Othe	r, phane my
Howv	vould you define your religion or belief?
Athe	est.
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	er not to say
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Citizen Space From Delik Accessibility - Series of User - Coulons - Privacy - Help / Seeducks

Appendix E - Analysis

Regulation 7 Public Consultation (To Let Boards): Summary report

This report was created on Thursday 06 April 2023 at 07:48 and includes 18 responses.

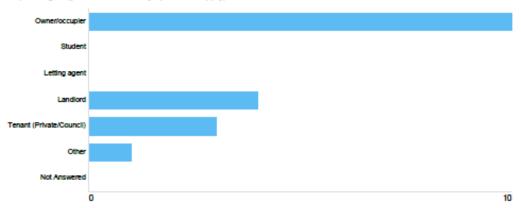
The activity ran from 08/03/2023 to 05/04/2023.

Contents

Are you responding as (please tick as many options as apply)	1
Are you responding as (please tick as many options as apply)	1
If other, please state	2
What is your home/work postcode? (as appropriate)	2
Postcode	2
Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7 (To Let Boards)?	2
Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7?	2
Reg 7 comments	2
Ethnic background:	3
Ethnicity	3
If you said your ethnic group was one of the 'Other' categories, please tell us what this is:	4
Age:	4
Age	4
Sexual orientation. Do you consider yourself to be	5
sexuality	5
Other sex	5
Disability	5
Q7	5
Disability detail	6
Other disability	6
How would you define your religion or belief?	7
religion	7
other religion	7
What is your sex?	8
SEX	8
gender same as birth	8
Other gender	8

Are you responding as (please tick as many options as apply)

Are you responding as (please tick as many options as apply)



Page 1

Option	Total	Percent
Owner/occupier	10	55.56%
Student	0	0.00%
Letting agent	0	0.00%
Landlord	4	22.22%
Tenant (Private/Council)	3	16.67%
Other	1	5.56%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If other, please state

There were 3 responses to this part of the question.

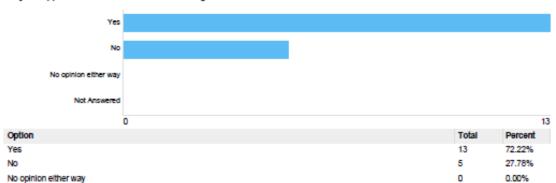
What is your home/work postcode? (as appropriate)

Postcode

There were 18 responses to this part of the question.

Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7 (To Let Boards)?

Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7?



Not Answered Reg 7 comments

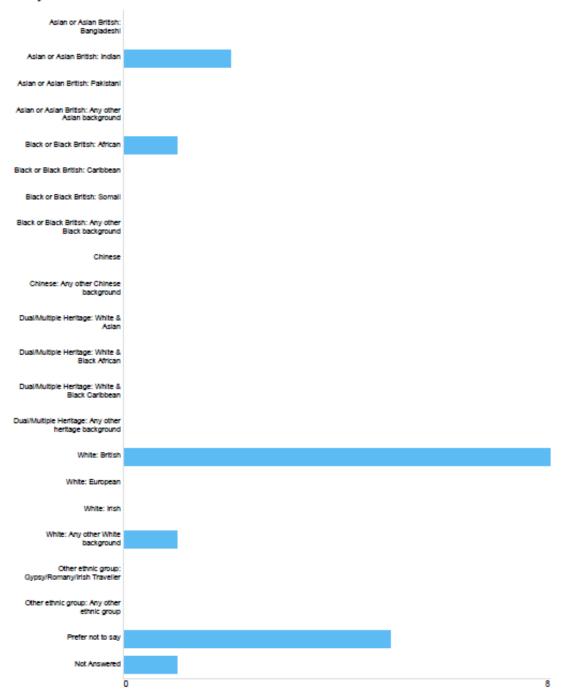
There were 15 responses to this part of the question.

0

0.00%

Ethnic background:

Ethnicity



Page 3

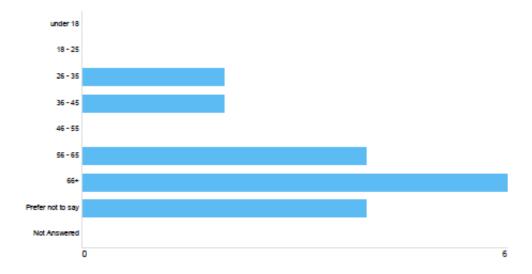
Option	Total	Percent
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	2	11.11%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background	0	0.00%
Black or Black British: African	1	5.56%
Black or Black British: Caribbean	0	0.00%
Black or Black British: Somali	0	0.00%
Black or Black British: Any other Black background	0	0.00%
Chinese	0	0.00%
Chinese: Any other Chinese background	0	0.00%
Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Asian	0	0.00%
Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Black African	0	0.00%
Dual/Multiple Heritage: White & Black Caribbean	0	0.00%
Dual/Multiple Heritage: Any other heritage background	0	0.00%
White: British	8	44.44%
White: European	0	0.00%
White: Irish	0	0.00%
White: Any other White background	1	5.56%
Other ethnic group: Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller	0	0.00%
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	5	27.78%
Not Answered	1	5.56%

If you said your ethnic group was one of the 'Other' categories, please tell us what this is:

There was 1 response to this part of the question.

Age:

Age

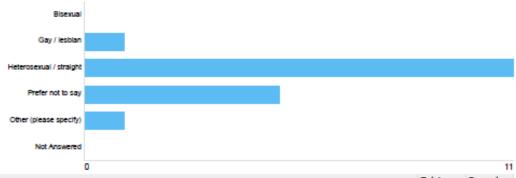


Page 4

Option	Total	Percent
under 18	0	0.00%
18 - 25	0	0.00%
26 - 35	2	11.11%
36 - 45	2	11.11%
46 - 55	0	0.00%
56 - 65	4	22.22%
66+	6	33.33%
Prefer not to say	4	22.22%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Sexual orientation. Do you consider yourself to be ...

sexuality



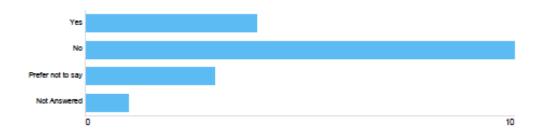
Option	Total	Percent
Bisexual	0	0.00%
Gay / lesbian	1	5.56%
Heterosexual / straight	11	61.11%
Prefer not to say	5	27.78%
Other (please specify)	1	5.56%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Other sex

There were 0 responses to this part of the question.

Disability

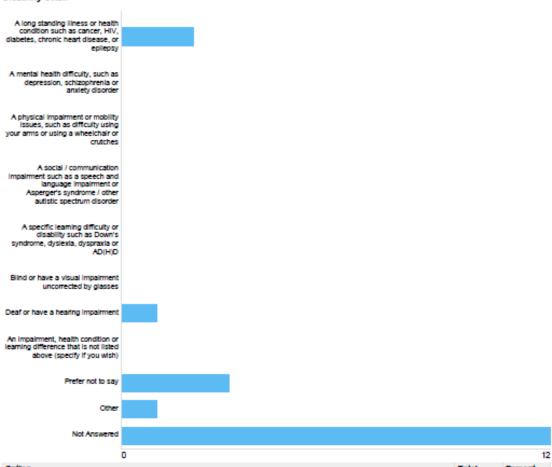
Q7



Page 5

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	4	22.22%
No	10	55.56%
Prefer not to say	3	16.67%
Not Answered	1	5.56%

Disability detail



•		
Option	Total	Percent
A long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy	2	11.11%
A mental health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder	0	0.00%
A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches	0	0.00%
A social / communication impairment such as a speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome / other autistic spectrum disorder	0	0.00%
A specific learning difficulty or disability such as Down's syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D	0	0.00%
Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses	0	0.00%
Deaf or have a hearing impairment	1	5.56%
An impairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed above (specify if you wish)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	3	16.67%
Other	1	5.56%
Not Answered	12	66.67%

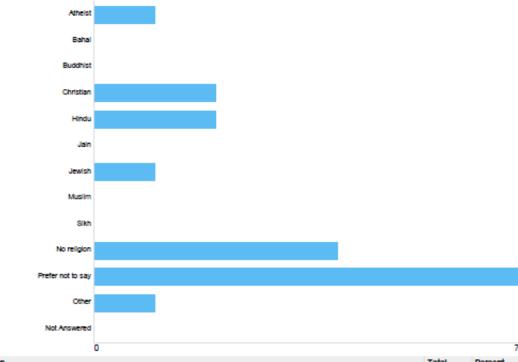
Other disability

There were 2 responses to this part of the question.

Page 6

How would you define your religion or belief?

religion



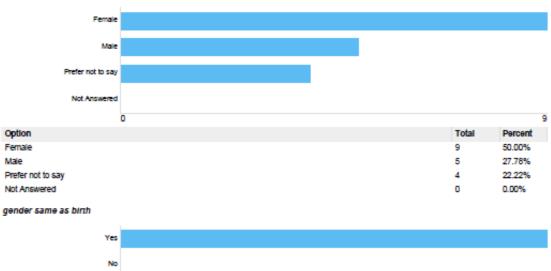
Option	Total	Percent
Atheist	1	5.56%
Bahai	0	0.00%
Buddhist	0	0.00%
Christian	2	11.11%
Hindu	2	11.11%
Jain	0	0.00%
Jewish	1	5.56%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Sikh	0	0.00%
No religion	4	22.22%
Prefer not to say	7	38.89%
Other	1	5.56%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

other religion

There was 1 response to this part of the question.

What is your sex?

sex





Option	Iotai	Percent
Yes	11	61.11%
No No	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	1	5.56%
Not Answered	6	33.33%

Other gender

There were 0 responses to this part of the question.

Appendix F - Comments Received

Online Consultation

Comments where answer was 'yes':

- 'It's made a MASSIVE positive difference to the look and feel of affected neighbourhoods.'
- 'Recently I have noticed that the number of boards on display seem to be increasing again.'
- 'Allowing the regulation to lapse would be an awful choice. PLEASE...'
- 'The introduction of the ban has had a significant effect in my area. Previously many boards were left up for all or most of the year cluttering the look of the street and giving out the wrong message in terms of the strong, friendly community that exists here. I think the ban should be continued and also extended to other parts of the city.'
- 'They are an eye sore that has improved so carry on I say'
- 'This has been a really successful control policy. There have been few abuses, and its dramatically improved the local environment in the terraced streets of Clarendon Park. Please renew it!'
- 'The streets are a lot less cluttered and no longer an eyesore.'
- 'The number of boards were becoming a huge problem they were often left even though the house/flat was occupied. The area is now calmer visually. Thank you. (Sadly most people will not realize the difference as it is now the 'norm')'
- 'Should also include "Let By" boards which in some cases stay up for months'
- 'I am most familiar with the impact of this direction in the Clarendon Park area. It has considerably improved its appearance as I'm sure it has in the other areas affected.'
- 'The Direction 7 Regulation (To Let Boards) has been very successful in controlling the display of To Let boards in the 3b Clarendon Park and the 3c Greenhill areas of Castle and Knighton Wards. Only a few To Let boards have been displayed where they shouldn't be and these have been quickly removed when reported to Leicester City Council. Control of the display of To Let boards has had a positive effect on the character and appearance of our area and we support the renewal and retention of these controls.'

Comments where answer was 'no':

'We stopped letting our property in 2020 in Clarendon Park due to all the new regulations by the government. We have been trying g to sell it ever since. Again due to new mortgage regs. new EPC regs we have been unable to sell. On top of that we are now subject to Leicester city council tax, which we have always been happy to pay when empty, but due to Covid as well, we are now in our second year of trying to sell

and we think unfairly being charged double council tax! Having written to Leic Council about this they haven't had the decency to reply. [REDACTED]

'Just an excuse to make the council money, typical of a labour run council'

'Since this ban has come into place, we do not know which property is up for let and which isn't, prior to this ban at least you would know what house is up for let and what isn't. Not allowing this we can't see if we have new neighbours or not.'

'Are then going to penalize the private buyers as well.'

By E-mail

'Not surprisingly, I very much welcome the renewal of this direction. Thank you for letting me know.'

'Thanks for your email, but neither of our properties (Both on [REDACTED]) are located in the areas you have listed so this does not apply to us.'

'Wonderful thanks for letting me know.'

Leicester Mercury Website

'Does the ban also apply to "Office space to let" signs plastered all over the town centre?'

'KEEP THE BAN, some areas were looking like Cannery Row'

'A money making scheme mayor needing more money and who does he think will be paying not the landlord, the tenant!'

'some of the boards in Highfields and Evington are there for a long long time'

T	w	е	e	ts
	W	ᆫ	u	เอ

None.

Appendix G - late response

Jackie Skinner

From: Rose Forman <roseforman@propertymark.co.uk>

 Sent:
 06 April 2023 16:28

 To:
 planning.enforcement

Subject: Regulation 7 Public Consultation (To Let Boards)

Attachments: LCC Consultation Response from Propertymark (April 2023).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon,

Please find attached response to the consultation: Regulation 7 Public Consultation (To Let Boards).

Propertymark is the UK's leading professional body of property agents, with over 17,000 members. We represent the voice of the private property sector across the UK. We have members in Leicester City, some of whom I spoke to in order to formulate this response.

I have outlined our objections to the proposed direction and made suggestions of alternative courses of action, where appropriate.

Please let me know if you have any queries or need anything clarifying,

Best wishes

Rose

Rose Forman
Policy and Campaigns Officer
01926 496 800
roseforman@propertymark.co.uk

arla naea nava propertymark

01926 496800 propertymark.co.uk



Propertymark Ltd trading as Propertymark Registered in England and Wales No. 897907 Registered office: Arbon House, 6 Tournament Court, Edgehill Drive, Warwick, CV34 6LG

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propertymark

Leicester City Council: Regulation 7 Public Consultation (To Let Boards) Consultation response from Propertymark April 2023

Background

Propertymark is the UK's leading professional body of property agents, with over 17,000
members. We are member-led with a Board which is made up of practicing agents and we
work closely with our members to set professional standards through regulation, accredited
and recognised qualifications, an industry leading training programme and mandatory
Continuing Professional Development.

Overview

- Leicester City Council is looking to extend the Direction under Regulations 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 to remove 'deemed consent' for to let boards in certain areas of the city. The city originally implemented restrictions in July 2018 which were in place for five years and are now due for renewal.
- 3. Under the Town and Country Planning Regulations, property agents' boards are categorised as requiring 'deemed consent'. This means that explicit planning permissions is not required as long as the criteria and conditions outlined in the regulations are met. However, the Regulations give local authorities planning enforcement powers to restrict the use of deemed consent where it feels appropriate and necessary. Usually these necessities are for public safety concerns. Public safety can also factor in the likelihood of an advertisement board obscuring or hindering the visibility of traffic signs or other navigation aids, or if the advertisement will hinder the operation of any security or surveillance device or device for measuring vehicle speed.
- The Town and Country Planning Regulations standards conditions include that an advertisement board should be kept clean and tidy and should be in a condition which does not endanger the public.
- 5. The concerns outlined by Leicester City Council, and the reasoning for implementing the Regulation 7 Direction, are the negative impact on the visual aspects of neighbourhoods and the local environment due to a high number of to let boards in the areas specified. The council states that it attempted to implement a voluntary Code of Practice in order to tackle the issue, but this was unsuccessful in reducing the number of boards on display.

Response

Do you support the renewal of the Direction Regulation 7 (To Let Boards)?

6. Propertymark does not agree that a renewal of the Direction Regulation 7 is required. This is for three reasons, firstly the parameters of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 should be sufficient to control advertising boards in the area. Secondly, the direction is no longer necessary or appropriate. The lettings market has changed significantly since the direction was first implemented and therefore it is no longer relevant. Thirdly, the direction could negatively impact the promotion and awareness of local (law-abiding) letting agencies in the area, thus affecting their business unfairly.

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¹ To Let boards control (leicester.gov.uk)



publicised Code of Practice and adequate enforcement could be used to regulate the improper use of advertising boards.

Impact on lettings business

- 13. When asked, our agents said that the enforcement of the direction had a negative impact on their business. Advertisement boards are used to locate what properties are available in an area, show the local lettings businesses and to make the public aware of their brand. Visibility is key to any brand's success and by inhibiting the use of advertising boards this can impact on the local agents. One agency that we spoke to said that their office is based in one of the areas of restriction and not being able to advertise around this area affected their business because it inevitably drew in less customers.
- 14. Letting agents, like any other business, want to maintain a respectable reputation. This can be achieved by using advertising boards effectively, showing their prominence in an area and thus giving the public (and any potential customers) confidence that they are a well-used and trusted organisation. It would not be in the best interest of a reputable lettings agency to leave boards up looking tatty and unsightly. Agents who are members of organisations such as Propertymark are regulated under our internal principles, they are therefore kept informed of their obligations and legal requirements such as those under the Town and Country Planning Regulations. Agents who are not aware or not a member of a professional body should be educated rather than chastised.

Conclusion

15. Propertymark agrees that excessive use of advertising boards can be labelled an 'eyesore'. But we believe that restrictions on their use, over and above the current legislation, is unnecessary and a hinderance to local businesses. The solution would be for the planning authority to use enforcement powers already within its remit to ensure that boards adhere to the standard conditions. The direction may have been required when it was first proposed in 2015, but the lettings market has changed dramatically since then as demand outstrips supply. This suggests that letting agents' attitudes to advertising boards will have changed and there is no longer an issue which needs to be controlled.



PLANNING APPLICATION: DELEGATED POWERS DECISION

Approval to Make Submission to Secretary of State for
PROPOSAL: Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for Renewal of
Regulation 7 Direction to Control Display of Letting Boards
LOCATION: See Attached Report

DATE:	22/06/2023
RECOMMENDATION:	See Attached Report

+	RECOMMENDATION:	See Attached Report	
1,1,	Officer	Signature	Date
	Head of Planning – Grant Butterworth	A-	22 nd June 2023
		Director of Planning, Developmen	
	Approved under Delegated Powers		
	Date22/06/23		22/06/23

Planning, Development and Transportation