



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Eddie Hughes MP**

*Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing*

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25 April 2022

**Gail Siddal**

**HMO Enforcement Team Manager**

**Oxford City Council**

**109 St Aldate's**

**Oxford OX1 1DS**

Dear Gail,

Thank you for your email enclosing **Oxford** City Council's (the Council's) application seeking the Department's confirmation of its decision to designate parts of the borough as subject to selective licensing under section 80(1) of the Housing Act 2004.

The Council has applied to the department for confirmation of its application made in respect of the proposed area. In its application, The Council considers the general conditions specified under Part 3 of the Housing Act 2004 and Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (England) Order 2015 are satisfied in relation to the designation, namely that private rented housing in the designated area is experiencing poor housing conditions.

### **Poor Housing Conditions**

**I have determined that the Council's application successfully demonstrates evidence to meet the statutory criteria of poor housing conditions.** The application satisfies Articles 3 and 4 of the Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (England) Order 2015 and, in respect of poor housing conditions, satisfies the additional legal requirements of Part 3 of the Housing Act 2004. I am satisfied on the evidence presented that the making of the designation will, when combined with other measures, contribute to an improvement in general housing conditions in the area.

**The two designations are therefore approved on poor housing conditions.**

I would also like to remind you that under Section 83 of the Act local housing authorities are required to publish a notice of the designation once it has been confirmed.

**I therefore confirm the Council's two proposed designations are subject to selective licensing from 1 September 2022.**

I would ask the Council to keep me informed of progress in these areas annually by undertaking a review of the effectiveness of licensing in tackling the issues. This information will provide greater understanding on the practical application of selective licensing schemes and inform the development of future policy.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping tail.

**EDDIE HUGHES MP**