



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Baroness Taylor of Stevenage

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing
and Local Government*

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2024/28222

Cllr David Rouane
Leader
South Oxfordshire District Council
Abbey House, Abbey Close
Abingdon-on-Thames
Oxfordshire
OX14 3JE

16th December 2024

Dear *Clw Rouane*

Thank you for your letter of 14 November to the Deputy Prime Minister regarding pubs and the planning system. I have been asked to reply.

I am grateful to you for writing on this important matter. The Use Classes Order groups uses which have similar land use impacts into 'use classes'. Changes of use within a class do not require planning permission. For example, the commercial, business and service use class (Class E) encompasses a wide range of uses which attract people to high streets and town centres. This includes, for example, offices, shops, restaurants, cafes, gyms and other uses which are suitable in a town centre. The use class also allows for mixed uses to reflect changing retail and business models.

As pubs will often be an important community asset, they do not sit in a specific use class. This means that any proposals to change their use must always be considered by the local planning authority through the planning application process. This ensures that local consideration can be given to any such proposals, in line with the local plan for the area and in consultation with the local community.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government