

West Suffolk Council
Planning Services
West Suffolk House,
Western Way,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk
IP33 3YU

22nd March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Part 7, Class M of Schedule 2 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (England) (Amendment) Order 2021 – HMP Highpoint, Stradishall, Newmarket CB8 9YG ('the Site')

As you will be aware, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government made an Order in 2021, cited as the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (England) (Amendment) Order 2021; the Order was laid before Parliament on 31st March 2021 and came into force on 21st April 2021.

The provisions encompassed within the Order are in aid of supporting a number of Government objectives, including supporting public service infrastructure. As such, amendments have been made [amongst others] to existing permitted development rights to allow schools, colleges and universities, hospitals and prisons to expand and adapt their buildings as they respond to changing demands and ways of working, without the need to seek planning permission.

Although the Ministry of Justice is not required to seek prior approval for development under Class M, we write to you as the respective Local Planning Authority to inform you of our intentions in utilising the amended permitted development rights under Part 7, Class M paragraph (9) of the Order at HMP Highpoint, Newmarket.

The amended permitted development rights set out in Part 7, Class M paragraph (9) expands the rights to include prisons. Paragraph 9(4) provides that development is not permitted –

- (a) *If the cumulative footprint of any erection, extension or alteration under Class M on or after 21st April 2021 would exceed the greater of –*
- i. 25% of the cumulative footprint of the school, university, prison or hospital buildings as it was on 21st April 2021; or*
 - ii. 250 square metres*

The permitted development rights under Class M (9) also restrict the height of the proposed buildings to 5 metres if within 10 metres of a boundary of the curtilage of the premises, or 6 metres in all other cases.

For your information, HMP Highpoint is a Category C adults prison with a cumulative footprint amounting to 32,036.85 square metres on 21st April 2021.

In accordance with the requirements of the Order, the Ministry of Justice have erected single storey modular buildings 3 metres in height with a 1,303.3 square metre footprint at HMP Highpoint within the existing perimeter and rely on Part 7, Class M to erect the building.

A plan (ref: 574060-8879-SSL-000-ZZ-DR-B-0007) is enclosed with this letter for your records which identifies the position of the proposed accommodation within HMP Highpoint.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs. Cally McHale
Head of Programme Delivery
Ministry of Justice