

# Building Control Guidance Note

## Regularisation Applications

### Introduction

It is not uncommon for building work to be undertaken without the council being notified, and without the relevant Building Regulation application having been deposited. This is usually discovered when the property is being sold.

**Works completed without an application are termed unauthorised works.**

This leaflet provides guidance on how to apply for retrospective building consent via the Regularisation procedure and what to do subsequently to resolve any difficulties.

You may also need to seek Planning Permission. This is dealt with under separate legislation and **is not covered in this leaflet**. Please contact our Development Control Section on 0208 424 1441 if you are in any doubt.

### Purpose

The Regularisation procedure allows the Local Authority to assess any building works that have been carried out and completed without the submission of plans, or giving of statutory notice of inspections.

Once the works have been assessed and any necessary remedial works carried out, a certificate is issued.

This power does not replace the enforcement powers already available to the local authority and does not provide a short cut for those who fail to follow correct procedures.

### Application required?

In general, building works that are controlled under the Building Regulations are:

- Erection of a building;
- Extension of a building;
- Structurally altering a building;
- Materially altering a building;
- Carrying out a "Change of Use" of certain buildings;
- Altering or extending a controlled service or fitting;
- Some electrical work to domestic dwellings.

### Regularisation procedure

It is important to note that an owner is under no obligation to make an application for a Regularisation Certificate, although in order to sell a property, it is often necessary.

An application for a Regularisation can be made for all types of controllable building works that are complete, where:

- The work commenced after 11 November 1985 and;



- The work fell within the scope of Regulations and;  
A Building Regulation application was not submitted at the time.

**You must submit the following with your application:**

- **Completed Regularisation application form.**
- **Appropriate fee.**
- **Plans of the unauthorised work** to a recognised scale, unless the works are of a minor nature.
- **Plans showing any additional work required**, in order to show that the unauthorised work complies with the Building Regulations in place at the time of construction, unless the works are of a minor nature.
- **Additional details may be requested** such as calculations to justify structural members, thermal performance of the building or other requirements of the regulations.

Once your application has been received, it is registered and an acknowledgement letter sent to the applicant and/or agent. If detailed plans are submitted, they will be checked for compliance with the relevant Building Regulations. If there are any defects you or your agent will be notified.

In order to assess whether compliance with Building Regulations has been achieved, the Council can ask the applicant to 'open up' work and therefore this will require a reasonable level of co-operation between the applicant and the Council. If work is not opened up when requested, a certificate will not be issued.

**Issue of certificate**

Before a certificate can be issued the Council must be reasonably satisfied that the works conform to the Building Regulations in force at the time when the original building works were carried out.

If the Council finds upon exposure of the works that they are not satisfactory, advice will be given on the additional work required to meet Building Regulation standards.

Upon satisfactory completion of the works the council will issue a Certificate indicating that, so far as can be ascertained, the unauthorised works are in compliance with Building Regulation standards.

For advice on obtaining a Regularisation Certificate please consult the Building Control section. Contact details below. Regularisation application forms can be downloaded from the Council's web site <http://www.harrow.gov.uk/buildingcontrol> (see "related downloads" under Building Control).