



31 August 2004

Mr Neil Cocks
Director
Building Professionals' Branch
DIPNR

Dear Neil

Here is our response to your Discussion paper on "accreditation of council certifiers" (sic). We would be happy to discuss it with you.

You will note that we oppose accreditation of council staff involved in the certification process because:

1. There is sufficient supervision and control already.
2. No-one needs parallel accountability.
3. The costs are prohibitive.
4. It would distract BPB from the real job.
5. A central point of complaint is contrary to a council's role in managing their staff.

Please note that we also hate:

- The fantasy that there can ever be a "level playing field",
- The idea that "certification" began as a process in 1998. Councils have been doing it for almost 100 years, and
- The expression "council certifier". No-one but DIPNR and the private certifier lobby use this expression. It is foreign to councils and does not describe anyone's job.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Ian Robertson
Secretary