



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queens walk
London
SE1 2AA

Branwen Evans
Planning Economy and Society
**Department for Communities and Local
Government**
3rd Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3430 43520
E-Mail: Branwen.evans@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg
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Right to Build Vanguard: GLA Expression of Interest

Thank you for your revised proposal to prepare a pan-London register following your expression of interest to become a Right to Build vanguard.

We will hopefully be announcing the successful vanguards this weekend. However, our emphasis in this announcement will not just be on preparing the register but also bringing actual land forward for custom build. So we think it would be better if London was considered separately from the vanguards given the challenge of making sufficient land available for the latent demand for custom build in the capital.

Instead, we are minded to offer the GLA £60,000 – to be spent in the financial year 2014-15 – to support the establishment, maintenance and promotion of a pan-London register. This will particularly help to test whether a pan-London approach to the Right to Build register in the capital would be more appropriate than individual borough registers – in terms of both the perspective of the individual custom builder and administrative efficiency – as we continue to develop the Right to Build policy.

We would expect the pan-London register to run in parallel with the vanguards and for you to participate in our collective discussions with the vanguards, however as the GLA would be running a separate project to the vanguards we would not expect the same key milestones to be met as set out in the invitation to become a vanguard (although we want the pan-London register to be open by November).

Publicly separating the establishment of a pan-London register from the vanguards also gives the opportunity for the Mayor, if he wishes, to take a strong lead announcing the establishment of the register at an appropriate time alongside our Ministers.

We will be in touch shortly to discuss our offer further. I have copied in colleagues Andrew Short and Hannah Scott.

Kind regards,
Branwen Evans