

England: The future of allotments secure

Following the request for all members and non-members to voice their opinions on the recent statutory review, the following information is from the DCLG website:

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The Department responds to the claim in the *Independent on Sunday* that the review of local government's statutory duties could threaten the future of allotments.

A spokesperson for the Department for Communities and Local Government said:

"This is simply untrue we will not remove statutory protections for allotments or any frontline services. However the Government is reviewing old and unnecessary duties imposed on councils in order to free them up from Whitehall red tape and as part of this we have published the full list of duties which includes allotments."

In Prime Minister's Question Time on 4th May 2011:

Mike Gapes (Ilford South) (Lab/Co-op): More than 100 years ago, Parliament legislated to make sure that local authorities provided allotments. Healthy local food is a very good part of good British values. Why therefore are the Prime Minister's Government scrapping the obligation on local authorities to provide allotments?

The Prime Minister: I was as concerned as the hon. Gentleman when I read that report. I immediately checked, and found that that is not the case. It is extremely important that allotments are made available. Many Members will find that when they ask about that in their constituencies there are massive queues for allotments, as many people want to grow their own vegetables and food and understand more about where food comes from. It is a great movement, and it has my full support.

Our hard work and dedication has been successful and we would like to thank everyone who responded to our letters, emails calling all our members to respond to the review of statutory duties.

We will be vigilant and continue to communicate with the Department for Communities and Local Government and other organisations to safeguard the allotment legislation.

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