Written Answers

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will produce further planning guidance on protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land from development.

Nicholas Boles (Grantham and Stamford, Conservative)

The Government's policy on protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land is laid out in the National Planning Policy Framework. Additionally, the framework underlines that planning decisions should recognise the character and beauty of the countryside.

We have been clear that councils should use their Local Plans to help shape where development should and should not take place and to help prevent unsustainable development. In this context, it is for local planning authorities to take the lead, rather than waiting for further Whitehall guidance.

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