

Permitted Development

The government has recently announced the introduction of a permanent permitted development right for change of use from class B1(a) (offices) to class C3 (dwelling houses) from May 2016.

This will replace the existing temporary right, which applies from 30 May 2013 to 30 May 2016. Under the temporary right, almost 4,000 office to residential conversions were given the go ahead from April 2014 to June 2015.

Permanent office to residential permitted development right

The government has confirmed that:

- Those who already have prior approval or who secure permission will have three years to complete the change of use.
- The rights will, in future, allow the demolition of office buildings and new building for residential use. This will be subject to limitations and the local planning authority's (LPA) prior approval. The government will provide further details.
- New permitted development rights will enable the change of use of light industrial buildings and launderettes to residential use. This will be subject to the LPA's prior approval and the government will provide further details.

If you would like to discuss any of the matters raised in this newsletter please contact:-

Mark Austin
mda@blackgraf.com
Tel: 020 7586 1141

The information in this newsletter is not meant as a substitute for advice on particular issues and is written in general terms. You should seek specific advice before taking any action based on the information in this newsletter.

Black Graf LLP 100 Baker Street London W1U
6WG

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This newsletter outlines the law as it stands at the date of writing in February 2016.