



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

Dehenna Davison MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Levelling Up)
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

6 February 2023

Dear Dehenna,

When you appeared before the Committee on 23 January, a number of commitments were made to provide more detail about the logistics of the Government's levelling up policy. These are listed below:

1. You promised to provide more information on the date by which the annual report on levelling up would be published.
2. It was agreed that the Department would provide the Committee with details on the process of appointing levelling up 'directors' and information about the current reconsideration of whether the original proposals would be proceeded with, or if an alternative approach is to be proposed.
3. There was a discussion about the activities of the Levelling Up Advisory Council (LUAC). It was stated that 'work streams' had been discussed in meetings between the LUAC and ministers. It would be helpful for our inquiry to know:
 - on which dates the LUAC has met since it was established;
 - how many papers, reports or other documents (if any) the LUAC has produced and on what subjects; and
 - when the LUAC's papers and recommendations are to be published.
4. A discussion about the Spatial Data Unit explored the Unit's programme of work in producing data at a local level. The Committee's previous correspondence in relation to this matter has highlighted that there is currently a gap within government in terms of providing comprehensive, Whitehall-wide, data about levelling up funding. It would thus be helpful for the Committee to know:
 - at the local authority level, what data about levelling up funding does the Spatial Data Unit propose to publish and when?
 - at the local authority level, what data about all public expenditure relating to levelling up objectives does the Spatial Data Unit propose to publish?



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

- given that the ONS publishes Gross Value-Added data at the lower super output level, is it proposed that the Spatial Data Unit publish public expenditure data at the same (or another sub-local authority) level?
5. There was some uncertainty about whether or not a council which received a levelling up fund allocation in either round one or round two would automatically not be eligible for an allocation in round three. It would therefore be helpful for the Committee to get clarification of the following:
- can a council receive a levelling up fund allocation in more than one bidding round?
 - can you confirm that any rules imposed by the Department about eligibility for round three of the Levelling Up Fund will be made clear before the application process begins?
 - if additional rules become avoidable after submissions have been made, that these will be widely shared before the successful bids are announced?
6. The Committee also raised concerns during the evidence session on 23 January about the parameters set out by DLUHC during their consultation period. We understand these were not compatible with the 1998 Northern Ireland Act, under section 75. You promised to follow up in writing on this concern after consulting the written and oral evidence provided by officials from Northern Ireland.
- The written evidence can be found on our website [here](#)
 - The oral evidence session, which took place on the 12 December, can be found [here](#)

It would be helpful to receive a full response by 14 February.

Best wishes,

Mr Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee