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I am very grateful to you and the House of Lords Public Services Committee for your written response to the announcement that we plan to publish a Levelling Up White Paper later this year.

As you are aware, Levelling Up all areas of the country is at the centre of this government's agenda. This is of greater importance than ever as we deliver a national recovery from the pandemic that makes the United Kingdom stronger, healthier and more prosperous than before.

The Levelling Up White Paper will set out bold new policy interventions to improve living standards, grow the private sector, and increase and spread opportunities across all corners of the UK. This means growing productivity in places that have seen economic decline and the loss of industry, improving people's quality of life and addressing the impact of the pandemic on public services. It also means empowering local leaders to deliver for citizens in their area.

The White Paper will build on actions the government is already taking to level up across the UK, for example, the Lifetime Skills Guarantee, Flexible Childcare Fund and independent review of Children's Social Care. However, we recognise that more needs to be done if we are to reach our ambitions. New interventions will not be designed through a one-size fits all approach, but will address local challenges and build on the different strengths of places across the country.

As we develop the White Paper we will consider the Committee's recommendations carefully.

With every good wish,

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office