



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Baroness Taylor of Bolton
Chair, Select Committee on the Constitution
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Neil O'Brien MP

*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
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Dear Baroness Taylor,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 November inviting me to provide evidence on the Government's position on English devolution and the Shared Prosperity Fund.

As you will be aware, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is worth over £2.6 billion and will allocate funding to local areas to help people get better skills and to get on in life, support the most vulnerable into work, and create vibrant communities. In response to your comment, we have committed that the devolved governments will be represented on the governance structures for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Our officials have, and will, continue to meet with devolved governments officials to discuss the UKSPF on a regular basis. We are planning to provide further details on the UKSPF in due course. As noted in your letter, the Levelling Up White Paper will also be published shortly.

Whilst I recognise the importance of an oral evidence session, given that policy development for the UKSPF and wider work on the Levelling Up White Paper is ongoing, I feel it would be more suitable to submit written evidence on these matters, which I am happy to provide prior to the publication of your report.

Provided you are content, I will ask my officials to liaise with the committee on timings for providing written evidence. Thank you again for your letter.

NEIL O'BRIEN MP