



10 DOWNING STREET
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20 December 2023

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Sally,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October requesting a dedicated Minister for the Coast. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

As we set out in the Levelling Up White Paper, the Government is committed to levelling up the whole of the UK, in order to raise living standards and spread prosperity across the country in all kinds of communities.

As detailed in the response to the follow-up report of the Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities published on 21 July, the Government believes that levelling up requires a broad, holistic approach which allows interventions to be efficiently and effectively targeted at the places with greatest need, regardless of where they are.

We have robust, cross-departmental governance of our levelling up agenda. This includes levelling up different places and types of places right across the country. We have also established a delivery framework providing clear lines of accountability and facilitating interdepartmental cooperation. This will be further solidified by the passage of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

The Government does not believe establishing a separate and specific structure focusing solely on coastal communities would represent an effective use of resources or be the best approach to improving those communities. However, the broader focus of levelling up policy does recognise the particular challenges facing certain types of community, such as coastal or seaside towns. This is why 'coastal communities' tops the list of responsibilities held by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Levelling Up.

Thank you, once again, for writing to me. I would be grateful if you could forward this response to your Parliamentary co-signatories.

Yours sincerely,
Rishi Sunak

Ms Sally-Ann Hart MP