



Rt Hon Jacob Young MP
Minister for Levelling Up

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

PSJacobYoung@levellingup.gov.uk

22 December 2023

Dear Jacob

I am writing in response to your letter of 27 November 2023.

We remain of the view that the ground covered by 'levelling-up' is substantially devolved and actions by the UK Government to deliver on these missions creates confusion and inefficiency. In Wales we already have a comprehensive legislative framework for long-term systemic policy making through the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. We have a set of seven long-term wellbeing goals that provide a legally binding common purpose not just for Government but 47 other public bodies serving communities across Wales. The Welsh Government has set out its detailed objectives for improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in our Programme for Government.

We continue to believe that the UK Government should pass on to the Welsh Government resources available for devolved responsibilities which you have aimed to deliver through the Shared Prosperity, Levelling Up funds and smaller schemes like the Long term Plan for Towns. Your refusal to do so has led, we believe, to an ineffective and wasteful approach.

It is unfortunate that the UK Government persists in using the UK Internal Market Act to bypass devolved governments and the scrutiny of our legislatures to spend directly in devolved areas of responsibility. This has created duplication, poor value for money and a confused funding landscape which fails to meet the distinct needs of Welsh communities.

I would draw your attention to the reports of the relevant Senedd Committee's on the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill, in particular the report of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and their recommendations on Part 1 Levelling-up Missions. I have copied this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee given their continued interest in the implementation of Part 1 and its affect on Wales.

Yours sincerely

MARK DRAKEFORD

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.