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for Transport

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Our Ref: MC/380340

18 November 2021

Dear Tony,

Thank you for your letter of 25 October to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, about the levelling up bid for new ferry services to the Isles of Scilly. Your letter has been passed to this Department and I am replying as the Minister responsible for this issue.

The Government was pleased to announce the winners of the first funding round of the £4.8bn Levelling Up Fund at the autumn Budget on 27 October 2021. This will see £1.7bn of projects funded and getting underway from early 2022, including around £420m of transport investment. As I expect you will be aware, the bid submitted by the Council of the Isles of Scilly (COIS) was approved for funding as part of those announcements.

Alongside the announcement we published an Explanatory Note detailing the Levelling Up Fund assessment, shortlisting and decision-making processes. Bids were assessed impartially by officials against four critical components: characteristics of place; strategic fit; deliverability; and value for money. Officials presented a shortlist of the highest-scoring bids to the three decision making ministers from Her Majesty's Treasury, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Department for Transport, and selected to fund a diverse selection of high-quality bids.

My officials will be writing to the COIS in due course to discuss the further business case requirements. I would strongly urge all interested parties to fully support this once in a generation opportunity to modernise the Isles of Scilly's transport system and to provide whatever support is required to aid delivery within the timescales prescribed by the Levelling Up Fund.

*Yours,  
Charlotte*

**BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON**