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Dear Tony,

Thank you for your letter of 2 January, about the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid from the Council of the Isles of Scilly (CloS). I am grateful for your support for this project which represents a fantastic opportunity to improve the connectivity of the Isles of Scilly.

As you will know, the CloS scheme is a larger transport scheme (between £20m- £50m) and is therefore subject to further business case requirements. Officials from my Department will be providing comments to the CloS on their Outline Business Case (OBC) in order to reach agreement on the procurement and operation approach. Following this, the CloS will further develop and complete their Full Business Case (FBC).

My officials will continue to liaise with the CloS moving forward and I'm aware that further work has already commenced on the business case and that this will continue over the months to come.

It is imperative that the scheme has the appropriate level of assurance to reduce the likelihood of delays caused by potential challenges to the approach in the future. It is in everyone's interest to move forward in this way.

*Yours,
Charlotte*

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON