



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Lee Rowley MP**

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local  
Government and Building Safety*

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and  
Communities**

2 Marsham Street  
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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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*Dear Sir George*

Thank you for your email of 18 October to the Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP on behalf of your constituents about Investment Zones. I have been asked to reply as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I am grateful to you for getting in touch and please thank your constituents for sharing their concerns. The Investment Zones programme had aims of accelerating housing and commercial development the UK needs to drive economic growth.

Following the appointment of the new Prime Minister, the Secretary of State and the Chancellor have reviewed the programme and can now confirm that Investment Zone policy is going to be refocused on productivity, improving growth and job creation. The previous Expressions of Interest process will not be taken forwards as a result.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will work closely with mayors, devolved administrations, local authorities, businesses and other local partners to consider how best to identify and support these clusters. Further details on the programme will be announced shortly.

Whilst we are still considering next steps, the Government has been very clear that we will not weaken environmental protections.

Thank you again for your email.

Yours ever,

**LEE ROWLEY MP**