



Industrial Communities Alliance

The all-party association campaigning on behalf of local authorities
in the industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales

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Chris McDonald MP
Minister for Industry
Department for Business and Trade

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Dear Chris,

I wanted to say thanks for meeting myself and colleagues from the Alliance earlier this week. It's clear that you have the best interests of our areas at heart.

There were a couple of points that came up in discussion that I'd like to underline.

First, it's unquestionably DBT that has lead responsibility for aid to businesses in the regions. This includes the Subsidy Control regime introduced by the previous government, which replaced the EU State Aid rules and Assisted Area maps. MHCLG's activities overlap in so far as funding to local authorities is used to provide business advice etc. to SMEs. I'm sure your officials will confirm this.

Second, we logged your interest in the disappearance of the Assisted Area map and its role in promoting investment in less prosperous parts of the country. We were keen to see this gap plugged and you indicated that you'd inquire into this with officials. We have a lot of expertise on this issue and we'd be very pleased to open up an exploratory dialogue with your staff.

I look forward to hearing from you, and many thanks once again.

Yours,

Cllr Keith Cunliffe
National Chair