



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

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Paul Scully MP

*Minister of State at the Department for Levelling
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**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
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Dear James,

Thank you for your email of 2 March, to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP about role of faith groups in levelling up. I have been asked to reply as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding.

We recognise the immense contribution our faith communities make to our society. That was never truer than during the pandemic when faith leaders and their communities were central to maintaining the health and wellbeing of so many. Our faith groups inspire their communities to dedicate themselves to public service and provide support to those in need. That is why our faith and belief communities will be a key element in the delivery of our levelling up agenda.

I am also pleased to say that the outcome of the Faith New Deal Pilot Scheme was announced on 29 July 2022; further detail can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/16-faith-groups-to-share-13-million-new-deal-fund-to-help-support-communities>. Through the Faith New Deal, we want to develop a vision of partnership between all faith groups, local government, and central Government, to help build strong communities and tackle the drivers of division.

Our Levelling Up White Paper, published on 2 February 2022, provides a clear plan to level up every corner of the UK, addressing regional disparities across the country. The White Paper set out what we want to achieve and the key levers of change. I am clear that one of the key agents of change on the ground will be our faith leaders and faith communities.

Thank you for sharing your concerns on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL SCULLY MP