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The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0PW

Sent by email only

6 September 2023

Dear Ms Rayner

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The work of the Department you shadow is crucial in helping to make life better for people across the country. We wish you every success in the role.

As you may know, the Catholic Union works to represent the views and interests of the 4.5 million Catholics in Britain and advance the common good. We bring the experience and expertise of Catholic laity from all walks of life and every part of the United Kingdom into the public sphere.

There are many areas of your new brief of interest to Catholics – including delivering the Government's commitment to end rough sleeping by 2025, putting levelling up into practice, and helping local councils support vulnerable households.

The faith engagement part of your brief is of particular importance. We hope you will make this a priority in your work shadowing the Department, including having a Shadow Minister for Faith as part of your team.

One area of pressing concern is the need for the Government to respond to the Independent Faith Engagement Review, which was published back in April this year. Anything that you or your team could do to ensure the Government provides a prompt and comprehensive response would be very much appreciated.

We would welcome an early opportunity to meet you or your Policy Advisers to discuss mutual areas of interest, and how we might be able to work together. If you are agreeable, we would be delighted to hear from your office with some suitable dates and times for a meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Nigel Parker
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