



Ministry of Housing,
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Dear Brian,

Thank you for your letter of 4 April to the Prime Minister and The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP about the creation of a Minister for Borderlands. As the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, I have responsibility for driving growth across all parts of the UK, including in all of the border regions, so this ministerial role falls within my own portfolio.

The border regions of the UK are vitally important for our economic growth and prosperity. Government understands that business does not stop at national boundaries and we continue to support cross-border investment that enables regional economies to thrive across the Union. The Chancellor's announcement of up to £260 million UK Government funding for the Borderlands Growth Deal at Spring Statement demonstrates our commitment to driving productivity across the region. This, on top of Government's recent £102 million investment in Carlisle from the Housing Infrastructure Fund, will help make the deal an exemplar for collaborative working across local authorities and the border.

My role also includes working closely with the Welsh Secretary to negotiate and progress further city and growth deals with North Wales and Mid Wales. As you will know, these deals provide an excellent opportunity to drive further cross border work and strengthen existing relationships. The Mid Wales deal, for example, will build on the existing relationships between the Growing Mid Wales partnership and the Marches LEP, in your area, which maximises opportunities related to skills, manufacturing and the food and drinks sector.

Given this focus within my portfolio, there are currently no plans to appoint an additional Minister for the Borderlands. I look forward to working with you, along with other local authorities and communities, to drive growth and prosperity across our border regions.

JAKE BERRY MP