



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Ernest Gibson
LGA Coastal Special Interest Group

Samantha Richardson
National Coast Tourism Academy

Nicola Radford
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Dear Councillor Gibson, Ms Richardson and Ms Radford,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 August regarding the appointment of a Minister for Coastal Communities. I appreciate how important this matter is to you and I am grateful to you for contacting the Prime Minister with your concerns. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

I recognise your concerns around the challenges that coastal communities face in recovering from the impact of Covid-19.

I am aware that the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Hospitality and Tourism recently wrote to the Prime Minister regarding the Group's Coasts and Waters inquiry and I am looking forward to seeing a copy of the APPG's Coasts and Waters report.

The Government is already taking action to address the challenges which places across the country are facing as a result of Covid-19. For example, The Secretary of State has provided £500 million of additional support for Covid-19 related spending pressures.

As the Covid-19 restrictions ease, increasing numbers of people are visiting the countryside and coastal areas. In order to address the challenges this creates for places, on 10 July, the Government published the [Covid-19: Guidance for managing beaches, the countryside and coastal areas](#). This toolkit brings together relevant existing guidance, policy and other materials to help owners and operators welcome visitors in a safe and responsible way.

Local authorities have been allocated money as part of the Reopening High Streets Fund. Furthermore, the [High Streets Task Force website](#) hosts a range of support to local leaders in town centres and high streets in England. This includes a wide range of training, learning and data insights, including the Covid-19 Recovery Framework to help places identify what they need to do now, as well as how to plan and build capacity for recovery.

The Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) supports projects in the UK, delivering sustainable growth and jobs in coastal areas. The Government is continuing to support 178 projects throughout England through £182.9 million of Coastal Communities funding.

In addition, I would like to draw your attention to the 100 places that are currently developing proposals for Town Deals worth up to £25 million as part of the £3.6 billion Towns Fund. These include 23 coastal towns.

The Future High Streets Fund has 17 coastal places among its shortlist. The Fund could contribute up to a maximum of £25 million capital funding to each successful place and these will be announced in autumn this year.

We have also just finished consulting on an ambitious Freeport model to generate trade, innovation and commerce in communities across the UK.

I agree that the Great British coast has enormous potential and the Government is determined to see it thrive all year round. We are committed to supporting coastal communities to unlock barriers to their development and growth, and to strengthen their appeal as places to live, work and visit.

As the relevant minister for local growth, which includes coastal areas, I am taking forward the Government's work to level up communities and help stimulate economic growth across the country.

We are committed to levelling up towns and regions across the country and the initiatives I have outlined form a significant part of that undertaking.

Once again, I appreciate how important this matter is to you and I am grateful to you for writing in with your concerns.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Hall', written in a cursive style.

LUKE HALL MP