



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Simon Hoare MP
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Bob Seely MP
House of Commons
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05 February 2024

Dear Bob,

Isle of Wight - final local government finance settlement 2024-25

I am pleased to inform you that following the provisional local government finance consultation period, I am announcing an additional £3 million in funding for the Isle of Wight. This will be in addition to the £1 million grant the Isle of Wight has received since the 2022-23 Local Government Finance Settlement.

You have been an active and engaged campaigner on this issue for many years, and I would like to thank you for the helpful conversations we have had in recent weeks, which have enabled me to further reflect on the position of our islands within the local government finance system. Thank you also for your recent correspondence. I promised to write to you in correspondence dated 12 January outlining the position for the Isle of Wight at the final local government settlement.

The Government stands by its Island communities, and has provided additional funding for the Isle of Wight specifically due to their Island status since 2022-23. We are increasing this bespoke funding by an additional £3 million. Alongside this, the Isle of Wight will benefit from the increased funding we have announced for social care.

This will represent a substantial increase in the Isle of Wight's Core Spending Power, and I hope this represents a more than satisfactory conclusion to the joint efforts between my Department and you on the case for islands funding.

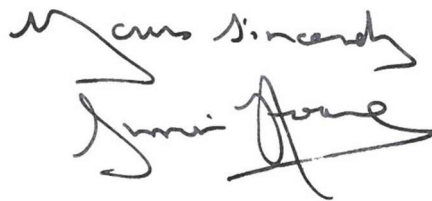
Full details of the Isle of Wight's allocation will be announced at the Final Local Government Finance Settlement today, Monday 5 February.

We are committed to improving the local government finance system beyond this settlement in the next Parliament. I can assure you that any reform will take due regard of the exceptional circumstances faced by our Islands, and the rich evidence-base we have produced in recent years in collaboration with you and your Council.

As you know, the Government is also investing in key capital projects across the Island. The Isle of Wight has benefitted from recent funding announcements including:

- £20 million for the Towns partnerships endowment, which will support the town of Ryde in the development of a new long term plan; and
- £13.6 million from the Levelling Up Fund, to deliver the Island Green Link, providing cycle and walking infrastructure extending from Ryde in the East to Yarmouth in the west of the island.

I would like to commend you again for your efforts on behalf of your constituents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Hoare', with a flourish at the end.

SIMON HOARE MP
Minister for Local Government