



Department for

Communities

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Henry Downey
Chief Executive's Department
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Dear Mr Downey

Thank you for your letter of 14 December to the Minister seeking a meeting to discuss the decision not to proceed with the Regeneration Bill and the devolution of regeneration powers to local government. The Minister has asked me to respond.

The Minister has indicated that he will not be reconsidering his position on this matter. In making his statement to the Assembly, he has however stressed that, regardless of where legislative responsibility lies, local government does and will continue to play a significant role in ensuring the successful implementation of our regeneration programmes.

He also stressed the importance of the Partnership Panel and the connection it affords between the Executive and local government and he sees this as the vehicle by which he will want to engage with councils.

Yours sincerely

PP **PAMELA BAXTER**
Private Secretary