



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

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Lisa Nandy MP
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House of Commons
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24 May 2023

Dear Lisa,

Thank you for your letter of 17 May.

I note that you did not repeat in your letter the claims made in Parliament by Andy McDonald MP of 'dubious dealings' and 'industrial-scale corruption'.

Despite your demands for 'answers', I note that when asked on 17 May by the BBC's Newsnight programme about allegations against the Mayor of Tees Valley, the South Tees Development Corporation (STDC) and Teesworks Ltd, you said 'I haven't made a single allegation against him or any of those bodies.' You then went on to say that Andy McDonald had been 'on the case for quite some time and has made several assertions'.

The Mayor of Tees Valley is understandably particularly concerned about the damaging effects that these allegations (or as you put it 'assertions') of corruption, wrongdoing and illegality could have on investment and job creation across Teesside.

I have written today to the Mayor, responding to his letter of 16 May. A copy of my reply to him is attached and has been placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

With every good wish,

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

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