



Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
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Ministry of Housing,
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Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
*Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government*
Ministry of Housing, Communities
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2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

To all MPs in England

8 March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Successful Freeports Bids

Following the announcement in the Budget earlier this week, we are pleased to confirm that the following eight locations have been successful in our Freeports bidding competition:

- East Midlands Airport
- Felixstowe and Harwich
- Humber
- Liverpool City Region
- Plymouth
- Solent
- Thames
- Teesside

Freeports are a cornerstone of the government's plan to drive the post-Covid recovery and level up the country. They will act as national hubs for global trade, unleashing the potential of our port regions and enabling us to seize the opportunities available to us as an independent trading nation. They will create hotbeds for innovation, attracting public and private investment in research and development and providing a space to trial new ideas and technologies. Given the spread of Freeports across England, crucially, they will drive regeneration, bringing jobs, investment and prosperity to communities across the county, including in many of your constituencies. We are also constructively working with the Devolved Administrations to establish at least one Freeport in each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as soon as possible.

Our officials will now begin working with the bidding coalitions to support them through the next stages towards Freeport designation. Freeport status will, for each bid, be subject to suitable governance arrangements, a successful business case and authorisation of tax and customs sites.

Whilst we understand that it will be disappointing to those whose locations were not successful, we would like to express our gratitude for their areas' interest in this programme and for the effort put into every bid we received. MHCLG officials are in touch with unsuccessful bidders to provide feedback.

We hope that you hold the same excitement and enthusiasm as we do for the opportunities that Freeports will provide across the UK.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rishi Sunak'.

RT HON RISHI SUNAK MP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Jenrick'.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP