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Dear Rob,

Thank you and your parliamentary colleagues for your letter of 13 March to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, concerning Berkshire unitary authorities participating in a 100% business rates retention pilot. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

I note your support for a 100% pilot in Berkshire.

We will shortly be issuing a prospectus to all local authorities in England to invite them to apply for pilot status, beginning April 2018. This prospectus will set out the basis upon which we will consider bids from all authorities wishing to become pilots next year.

The Berkshire authorities will need to formally respond to this invitation within the application period, setting out how a Berkshire pilot would meet the criteria in the prospectus.

We hope to make a decision on the successful 2018 pilots in the summer of this year.

Yours,

Marcus

MARCUS JONES MP