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for Business
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Chuka Umunna MP
Shadow Business Secretary
House of Commons
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Dear Chuka,

REGIONAL GROWTH FUND ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2013/14

I am writing to inform you that I will today be publishing the Annual Monitoring Report for the Regional Growth Fund (RGF). It will be placed in the House libraries and I am also writing to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), as well as the Shadow Business Secretary and Shadow Spokesperson for BIS in the Lords.

You may recall my department gave a commitment in its 2012 response to the PAC to give annual updates on how the fund is progressing and this is the second such report. The report covers delivery in Rounds 1, 2 and 3. Round 4 is out of scope as offers were finalised in Q4 2013-14 and only a very small number of first payments were made to Round 4 recipients before the 31st of March. Round 5 is also out of scope as successful bidders were only selected in April 2014.

The main progress is summarised below:

- RGF payments are up to £1.15 billion - an 83% increase on this time last year;
- Monitored job numbers are up 116% to 69,000;
- Private sector leverage has increased 117% to £2 billion; and
- The number of SMEs supported through RGF programmes has increased 200% (to 5,100).

The report covers delivery in Rounds 1 and 2 (for which 2013-14 was the second full operational year of ten) and Round 3 (for which it was the first year of ten).

You will find the report on our website: www.bis.gov.uk/rgf as well as in the House libraries. I will also send you a hard copy.

VINCE CABLE
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills