



GOVERNMENT OFFICE NETWORK

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Dear Mr Batty

Thank you for your correspondence of the 24th August to the Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP regarding the future of the Government Office North East. Your letter has been passed to me and I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The Safer Stockton Partnership rightly recognises that the Coalition announced in late July that they would, in principle, close the remaining eight Government Offices in the Government Office Network (GON). It should be noted that this decision is subject to any consequential issues raised through the Spending Review.

The announcement of the intention in principle was made to enable the Coalition to further progress their programme of reform, allow staff, Councils and other organisations to take account of this, and to make an earlier start on securing savings for the public purse through the Spending Review.

However, it is recognised that some GON functions will need to continue. The Spending Review process is being used to test which activities currently carried out by the GON should continue, and to decide the most efficient and effective manner for the Departments concerned to deliver these.

Over the coming weeks Departments will continue to work with Trade Unions and others to lead a process to agree arrangements for the potential transfer of any on-going functions and redeployment of staff, if required.

Yours sincerely

Richard Crofts
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Government Office Network Centre & Services Team