Dr Sarah Wollaston (Totnes) (Con): Click here to watch Sarah spaek

To return to flooding, can the Minister confirm whether he will be making an application to the solidarity fund? I know that the threshold is high, but if it is taken on a regional basis that would be a really helpful source of additional funding for the south-west.

Brandon Lewis:

My hon. Friend tempts me away from the local government finance settlement. The Government look at such things, but the fund currently has a threshold of about Â£3.7 billion, and the Government would have to pay back the majority of what we got because of the way the mechanism works.

Hansard