



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Dear ,

I'm writing on behalf of the House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee. On the 3rd of June, the Committee launched its Post-Pandemic Economic Growth super-inquiry, which will look at the options available to Government to secure our economic recovery from the impact of Covid-19. You can read the full terms of reference below.

I want to ensure that my Committee and I fully understand the constraints on growth that we're trying to solve before we draw conclusions and propose policy solutions to Government. This is important because your problems are our problems. I want my Committee, and this inquiry, to become an important evidenced-based channel for proposing policy solutions to Government that are based on a credible diagnosis of the problems we face in the British economy.

On that basis, I hope that you will be able to answer the questions that I've put to you in an annex to this letter. Where your answers are commercially sensitive, or you wish them to be kept private for other reasons, please indicate this in your response.

My Committee may also wish to invite you to a growth roundtable in the Autumn to discuss the themes which come out of your answers. Please do let me know if you'd be willing to take part.

If you have any questions, be they about this letter or the Post-Pandemic Economic Growth Inquiry more generally, please contact the Committee at: beiscom@parliament.uk.

DARREN JONES MP
CHAIR OF THE BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE

ANNEX ONE: GROWTH DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS

Please submit your answers via our Inquiry Portal here:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/submission/#/evidence/160/preamble>

Note: In answering these questions, please be as specific as possible (perhaps, for example, taking the six-step 'why?' approach to your answers to ensure we understand your constraints on growth as much as possible).

- (1) Before the pandemic, what were the constraints on growth that affected your business?
- (2) Thinking more specifically, what restraints prevented your business from increasing:
 - a. Investment in the net zero transition;
 - b. Investment in digitisation and technology to improve productivity;
 - c. Investment in other regions of the United Kingdom;
 - d. Sales and, where applicable, exports;
 - e. Investment in the production of new goods/service lines here in the United Kingdom
- (3) What Government policies and/or institutional support has worked well for your business and what would you like to be retained?
- (4) How has the pandemic changed these constraints on growth and have you identified any particular opportunities from the Government's response to the pandemic which might support your business to grow?
- (5) Thinking about the Government's 2018 Industrial Strategy please can you confirm whether:
 - a. The strategy had any direct relevance to your business and, if so, what?
 - b. It's relationship with local industrial strategies and their respective owners (such as Local Enterprise Partnerships and Growth Hubs) ultimately persuaded your business to take any specific decisions that it might not have done, but for the Industrial Strategy/Local Industrial Strategy
 - c. You consider the Industrial Strategy, as defined, to be fit for the new future we now face?
- (6) Turning to think about your people, in-work training and the skills agenda:
 - a. Is your workforce equipped with the skills your business needs for the future?
 - b. For instance, do your managers have the necessary managerial skills and your workers the required levels of digital literacy?
 - c. If not, how do you invest in their training in-work? How could this be improved?
 - d. Have you accessed Government funding or support to help train your staff and, if so, how effective has this been?
 - e. Have you used local business networks or partnerships with local education institutions to train your staff.? Has this been useful and could it be improved?
 - f. Are you able to effectively use your Apprenticeship Levy (if applicable)? If not, why not? What would you like to use it for?
 - g. Do you have concerns about the skills capacity of your supply chain? Is there anything your business could do to help?
- (7) How do you envisage improving the productivity of your business and your people in the coming years? What has stopped you from doing this in the past?
- (8) How are you measuring your productivity and are you aware of help available to do this and to plan improvements?