



**Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy**

The Lord Bridges of Headley MBE
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee
House of Lords
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Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
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Dear Lord Bridges,

Critical Minerals

Thank you for your inquiry about our international cooperation on critical minerals at the Economic Affairs Committee. I am responding as the relevant Minister on this subject.

HM Government has committed to publishing a UK Critical Minerals Strategy this year which will, amongst other things, set out the UK's international engagement approach to building supply chain resilience and ensuring it supports our development priorities and strengthens a circular economy.

Securing international collaboration and agreements will be an important part of the UK's future energy security, given the UK's limited domestic sources of critical minerals. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy will work closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Department for International Trade, Ministry of Defence and others to develop and deliver an extensive international engagement plan beyond the existing work that is taking place already.

HM Government is already engaging internationally both on critical minerals, with some examples of our existing engagements listed below:

- Working with International Energy Agency (IEA) partners through the newly established IEA Critical Mineral Working Group to explore the different methods of ensuring security of supply and responsible sourcing of energy-specific critical minerals and materials.
- Working with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) partners through the newly established IRENA Collaborative Framework on critical minerals. This provides an opportunity to share UK thinking with others and is a forum to discuss a broad range of strategic materials, including rare earth elements and other critical minerals and their supply chains.
- Working as part of the newly established Minerals Security Partnership, designed to catalyse investments among likeminded countries to diversify and secure critical mineral supply chains that adhere to the highest environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

- Working through the G7 to coordinate investment in transparent, sustainable critical mineral supply chains.
- Engaging bilaterally with key international partners.

I would be happy to discuss further with the committee, should that be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kwasi Kwarteng', written in a cursive style.

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy