



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Mr Toni Versluijs
Nexperia
Jonkerbosplein 52
6534 AB Nijmegen
The Netherlands

2nd August 2022

Dear Mr Versluijs --

Response to Malcolm Penn – Newport Wafer Fab

Thank you for your oral evidence to the BEIS Committee on 5th July 2022.

The Committee has since received a letter from Mr Malcolm Penn (Chairman and CEO of Future Horizons Ltd) about his concern that your oral evidence may have ‘mis-informed’ or ‘mis-le[d]’ the Committee. To understand whether this is the case, and for the sake of clarity, we would like to raise several points made in the letter with you.

In his letter, Mr Penn claims Nexperia refused Newport Wafer Fab ‘access to a contractually agreed working capital loan’ and ‘approval of a multi-million pound injection of capital’ These actions by Nexperia, he writes, led Newport Wafer Fab to bankruptcy. We would therefore appreciate your response to these allegations of Nexperia forcing Newport Wafer Fab towards bankruptcy, particularly as this would lead to a different conclusion over your statement that ‘Nexperia saved Newport Wafer Fab from bankruptcy’.

To your answer to Q85 in the oral evidence session, Mr Penn writes that your response that a ‘compound semiconductor open access fab ... did not exist and does not exist’ at Newport is ‘simply untrue’. We would like clarification on whether he is correct in his statement. Mr Penn was a non-executive director at Newport Wafer Fab before the acquisition by Nexperia and so we believe he would understand the role and direction of the company at the time of purchase.

Your answer to Q86 alluded to the fact that there is an ‘unused building on the site of Newport Wafer Fab’ that could be dedicated to manufacturing compound semiconductors. Mr Penn claims that there is an ‘unreasonably large cost to move [Nexperia’s] existing operations out of that building ... render[ing] any business plan unviable.’ Would you be able to provide details to the Committee on the scale of the costs that Mr Penn is referring to? Furthermore, could a business be viable in the unused building without Nexperia’s control over ancillary services? This is important for determining the practicality and ability to develop an open access compound semiconductor fab at the site, which is what we hoped to determine in the oral evidence session.

Many thanks for your time clarifying your position regarding these statements from Mr Penn. I should be grateful for a response to this letter by 19th August.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darren Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and 'J'.

DARREN JONES MP

Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee