



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero



Department for
Business & Trade

Sarah Jones MP

Minister of State for Industry
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero and
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The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair, Business and Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
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9 June 2025

Dear Liam,

Following on from the Secretary of State's letter of the 30th May responding to the questions from the Business and Trade Committee about the enactment of the Steel Special Measures Act, I would like to provide you with an update on how these recent developments impact the publication of the Steel Strategy.

As you are aware steel remains a top priority for this government. It is an essential sector for our modern economy, in supporting jobs and upholding living standards in the UK's industrial heartlands. We are continuing to collaborate with businesses and trade unions to revitalise our steel sector in a way that supports both the workforce and economic growth.

It is with great pride that we announce that we have now concluded a landmark economic deal with the United States, securing a commitment to remove the 25% Section 232 tariffs that are currently faced by UK steel exporters, by applying a quota system, and we are pleased to see this being welcomed by the steel industry. As we develop our Steel Strategy, we are keeping all options to protect the steel industry under review, including trade measures, taking into account our own national interests and international obligations.

We have also received a commitment from the EU to safeguard historic tariff-free trade for category 17 steel to the EU, which will allow UK industry to double the amount of tariff-free steel sections they can export to the EU

Our intervention in British Steel under the Special Measures Act has enabled us to secure the raw materials required to maintain a two-blast furnace operation in Scunthorpe for the coming months. The redundancy consultation initiated by British Steel's owners, Jingye, has also been cancelled, removing the immediate risk to 2,700 jobs.

Having taken the decisive action, it is now vital for us to understand how the future of British Steel fits within this framework. While achieving this will likely take some time, steel producers simply cannot afford to wait any longer for action.

As the sector is at a critical junction, we are committed to building upon our previous successes, and we are now looking at what further actions we could take under the steel strategy. The full strategy, which will set out a long-term vision for a revitalised and sustainable industry, will be published later this year.

We sought views on the issues which we know are important to the sector in the green paper we published on 16 February, such as electricity prices. We are looking at ways to increase demand for domestic steel (including through public procurement), the best ways to defend the sector from challenging global market conditions and unfair trading practises, and how to support the sector through the transition to greener steelmaking to deliver economic growth.

This work is currently being refined, and I am unable to share specific details at this moment. However, I look forward to updating you with comprehensive information and timelines as soon as I am able. We are confident that steel has a bright future in the UK and the full strategy will be published later this year. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SARAH JONES MP

Minister of State for Industry
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