

The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair, Business and Trade Committee
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Dear Liam,

Thank you for your letter to me and the Secretary of State for Transport dated 24 June regarding the UK's bioethanol industry. The Government recognises the positive contribution bioethanol has made in successful efforts to decarbonise road transport.

I understand that the bioethanol sector has been facing significant challenges for some time. I, the Secretary of State for Business and Trade and senior officials from my department and the Department for Transport have been in active dialogue with Ensus and Vivergo. I have now moved forward to more formally consider the requests for support from both companies. As a responsible Government, there is a series of strict criteria we must follow and well-established processes to consider such requests. I therefore ask for your patience whilst this process concludes. My department continues to work closely with the Department for Transport on the regulatory issues relating to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation that the companies have raised with us, and I can assure you this work is being conducted as a priority.

In your letter you reference government's clean energy ambitions and how the Humber region's capabilities align with this ambition. The release of the government's new Industrial Strategy highlights our commitment to fostering growth in all manufacturing regions and creating jobs across the entire country, including capitalising on clean growth opportunities.

Thank you once again for raising this important issue with us and please know we remain committed to working closely with the bioethanol industry to find a potential way forward over the coming weeks.

Best wishes,



THE RT HON JONATHAN REYNOLDS MP
Secretary of State for Business & Trade and President of the Board of Trade