



**Business and Trade
Committee**

Monday, 1 June 26

Chris McDonald
Minister for Industry
Department for Business and Trade
[By email]

Dear Chris,

Thank you for giving evidence to the Committee on 20 May in relation to our inquiry into critical minerals. I write to seek information on some other points necessary for us to produce a comprehensive and accurate report.

1. The critical minerals strategy provides two figures for projected 2035 lithium demand, 399,200 tonnes and 339,200 tonnes. Which one is the accurate figure?
2. Can you provide a complete list of the UK's critical minerals memoranda of understanding, dialogues, and other bilateral agreements? Please include wider initiatives such as supply chain resilience partnerships that cover critical minerals.
3. Has the Government conducted specific assessments of the resilience of critical mineral supply for each of the IS-8 sectors? Have investment plans been developed to address any gaps?
4. You indicated that you would be willing to provide the Committee with an assessment of the UK's domestic critical mineral mining, refining and recycling opportunities (Q157). Could you set out where the UK currently has opportunities



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in each of those areas, the specific projects in each area, and the Government's plans to realise them?

5. You identified tin, tungsten, lithium, copper recycling and aluminium recycling as areas where the UK has a realistic opportunity to build scale (Q155). What specific actions is the Government taking to expand supply in each of these sectors, what outcomes does it expect to achieve over the next five years and what public money is being invested?
6. You identified increasing domestic lithium and tungsten refining capacity as priority objectives (Q176). What is the Government's delivery plan for establishing these capabilities, including key milestones, timelines, responsible agencies and any funding allocated to support implementation?
7. You indicated that part of the £50 million critical minerals funding package may be directed towards early-stage project development (Q160). How much funding will be allocated for this purpose, what criteria will be used to distribute it, and when will the Government publish further details?
8. You indicated that the UK will remain reliant on international partners for certain minerals, including graphite and gallium (Q155). Which critical minerals does the Government assess cannot be supplied domestically at scale, and what is its strategy for reducing supply chain risks and dependencies for each of them?
9. How do initiatives such as FORGE, Pax Silica and ReSourceEU fit into the Government's wider strategy for diversifying critical mineral supply chains? What



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specific supply chain vulnerabilities are these programmes intended to address,
and how will success be measured?

We would be grateful for a response by 15 June 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair of the Business and Trade Committee