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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
Public Accounts Committee Chair

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE BRITISH STEEL INTERVENTION HEARING
FOLLOW-UP**

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

I am sorry to have not followed up with the Committee after the hearing until this point. However, I am now able to provide a more substantive update.

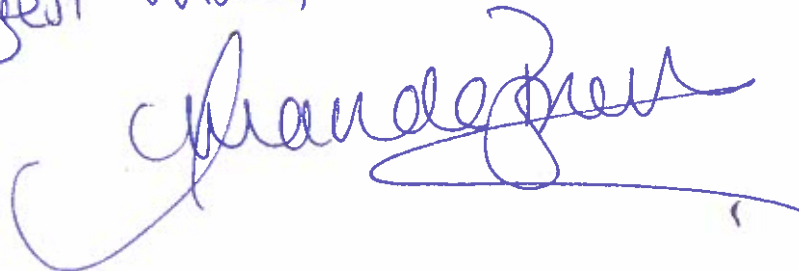
You will have seen that on 15 July, the Steel Industry (Nationalisation) Bill achieved Royal Assent, and the nationalisation of British Steel took place the following day, after ministers determined the public interest test had been met.

As highlighted at the hearing, we can now begin to support fundamental change within the company and at the Scunthorpe site. This includes appointing a new Board with the skills and experience needed to support the stabilisation and long-term future of the business. We will look to this Board to stabilise operations on site, manage health and safety effectively and develop proposals on how to make it a commercially and environmentally sustainable enterprise, working closely with management, trade unions and employees.

As I am sure you can appreciate, some of the information requested by the Committee around future costs is not yet available, particularly where decisions remain for the newly appointed Board and Ministers. I recognise this will be disappointing to the Committee. However, I would like to reiterate my commitment to keeping the Committee informed of significant decisions relating to wider steel interventions and in particular British Steel, including the associated costs and progress towards determining a sustainable long-term future for the business.

The Steel Industry (Nationalisation) Act requires that where the powers in the Act are used to nationalise a company, the Government will produce an annual report on financial assistance provided. As well as this, during passage of the Act, the Government made a number of other commitments through passage, including publishing of a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) at the point the transfer powers in the Act are used (see link: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2026-07-16/hcws273>), publication of a quarterly WMS on the company for the first year of ownership, an ad-hoc parliamentary roundtable on the steel sector within 6 months of Royal Assent and a debate in both Houses on the steel strategy and impact of the Act, 12 months after Royal Assent. The Government also agreed to attend Select Committee sessions whenever required on Steel and would make sure the new Chair would also be available. We are happy to share those reports and WMSs with you on the date of each publication and I hope this will provide appropriate transparency of the work on British Steel.

I would like to thank you and the Committee for your work in this area, and for raising issues that have been raised within your constituencies. Following the meeting, Sarah Green MP was invited to a drop-in session with the Minister for Trade to discuss the concerns she raised at the hearing and I can confirm that she subsequently met with David Bickerton on 7 July on my behalf. I hope this was useful and I encourage Committee members to raise any other queries or concerns they have directly with me or the Steel Directorate, which can be contacted at Steel.Comms@businessandtrade.gov.uk.

Best wishes


AMANDA BROOKS
INTERIM PERMANENT SECRETARY