



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Darren Jones MP
Chair of Committee
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E truss.correspondence@trade.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk/dit

11 June 2021

Dear Darren,

Thank you for your letter of 25th May on behalf of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee to me and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, seeking clarifications on the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID)'s Statement of Intended Preliminary Decision (SIPD) as part of its review of the UK steel safeguard measure.

Firstly, it is important to state that we fully understand the importance of appropriate and justified steel safeguards to our British steel industry, particularly given the challenges and uncertainties that the industry is currently facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Government, we have taken wide-ranging action to support the steel industry, including an unprecedented package of support measures to help businesses through the pandemic. We have provided more than £500m in compensation to the steel sector since 2013 and announced a number of funds to help steel companies transition to a lower carbon future, including an Industrial Energy Transformation Fund backed by up to £315m of investment and a £250m Clean Steel Fund.

As you will be aware, the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) has now announced its final recommendation:

www.gov.uk/government/news/tra-publishes-final-recommendation-on-steel-safeguard-measures.

My powers, as established in 2018 under the Taxation (Cross-border Trade) Act, are limited. As the Trade Secretary, I can only accept or reject the TRA recommendation as a whole, but I cannot modify or partially accept it. I cannot extend this or any measure if the TRA does not recommend it. This is currently a matter for the TRA.

However, the world has changed since 2018 when these powers were put in place. We will not hesitate to defend UK industry from unfair trading practices. As previously stated, we are exploring what else we might need in our toolkit to defend British industry from unfair trading practices, dumping, subsidies and unforeseen surges in imports as well as market distortions while continuing to champion free and fair trade in line with our international obligations.

We will be working across Government to ensure that the UK can defend its vital industries and will provide a further update in due course.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Truss', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kwasi Kwarteng', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy