

**Written evidence submitted by Dr Clive Hickman, Manufacturing Technology
Centre
(CRV0068)**

I am writing to thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on December 16.

As you rightly made clear in your letter, it is vital that the West Midlands is recognised for its strengths in clean technology, energy and manufacturing and that the region attracts more Government development spending. Locating the Advanced Research and Innovation Agency in the West Midlands could be a catalyst for further Government support, whilst also helping to increase investment from the private sector creating more well-trained, high-skilled jobs.

It is essential that the Government takes on board your recommendations, especially given the impact the pandemic has had on the region and the need for 43,000 people to retrain, given the impact of net zero and climate-related targets on the automotive sector. As the region, and the UK, begins to recover from COVID-19 it will be important for the Government to re-evaluate the sustainability and resilience of key supply chains and look to onshore and reshore manufacturing wherever possible and appropriate. We welcome your recommendation for the Government to find ways to make this a reality.

As I said before, it was a pleasure to host you and your Committee at the Manufacturing Technology Centre's Ansty Park facility and I look forward to a continued relationship between the MTC and your Committee in the future.

We look forward to seeing the Secretary of State's response to your letter and in the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your colleagues on the Science and Technology Committee a Happy Christmas!

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