

Carwyn Jones

15 April 2024

Annwyl Carwyn

The Future of Welsh Steel – Committee scrutiny

Thank you for your response and offer to answer specific questions or to attend Committee. As you will appreciate, the Committee is currently working to tight timescales on this issue, so I would be grateful if you could assist us in our work by providing a written response to the questions below.

Were there any approaches you found particularly effective when leading Welsh Government's engagement with Tata during your time as First Minister, particularly in the 2016 crisis?

Members noted that during the last crisis you prioritised visiting Tata's HQ in Mumbai. What impact do you feel this had on Tata's own approach and their decision-making? Is there anything from your approach that the Welsh Government could apply to the current situation, including any ways it could make the most of opportunities arising from the Wales in India year? .

Are there any lessons that could be learned from the approaches of the UK and Welsh Governments to joint working in the 2016 crisis that could be applied to the current situation?

I am mindful that this is the second serious financial crisis that Tata's Port Talbot plant, and the downstream plants, have faced in a decade. Bearing in mind your experience in 2016 do you believe the current proposals are suitably future proofed or do you foresee Tata requiring further substantial support from the public purse for its operations in South Wales?

As you will be aware, a Transition Board has been established to support the people, businesses and communities affected by Tata's proposals. Do you have any views on what actions the Board should prioritise and how a fair transition can be achieved?



I would also be very interested in any other lessons learnt from handling of the situation in 2016 that you think may be relevant today, or any other views you have on the future of Welsh Steel and the transition.

Thank you again for your offer to help with this inquiry. To support the Committee reporting on this urgent matter as soon as possible, would you be able to respond by 1 May? This will also allow us to publish your response in papers for our planned meeting on 9 May.

Cofion cynnes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English