

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Senedd Cymru,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff
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SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

4 November 2025

Dear Andrew,

I write to assure the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee that I share the same concerns it has raised on the future of the Welsh and wider UK steel industry.

The Welsh steel industry is one of our most economically important and strategic sectors, that supports not only the economy of Wales, but the whole UK economy.

As our closest and strongest trading partner, the proposal by the EU to both raise tariffs and reduce Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) available on the trade in steel will have a significant impact for our steel producers, as well as the wider economy. This announcement comes further to other challenges already felt by the sector, such as the steel tariffs imposed by the United States, the continued global overcapacity of steel, and the transition to net zero.

Please be assured that I have used all available opportunities to press the UK Government to announce measures to replace the UK Steel Safeguards that are expiring in June 2026. The EU proposal has further increased the critical importance of having strong trade defences in place to protect our domestic steel industry once the UK Steel Safeguards comes to an end. These replacement measures must be available and ready to come into force at the same time or before the EU measures to provide clarity, added protection, and remove the risk of dumping of cheap steel diverted from the EU into the UK.

During the UK Government's consultation on the future of steel trade remedies, I wrote to the then Minister of State for Trade Policy and Economic Security on 22 July, to stress the importance of new domestic measures to protect our steel industry from surges of foreign imports.

More recently, I met with the Minister for the Cabinet Office and European Union Relations on 23 October 2025 to discuss specifically the issue of the EU steel measures. I stressed that we want to see a preservation of existing trading arrangements with the EU on steel or,

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

failing that, UK country specific quotas that provide both protection and room for growth for our steel producers. I also restated our position of wanting to see an immediate announcement to be made on replacement UK steel measures.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to provide any updates on live negotiations to the Committee beyond general headlines, since these are active negotiations. However, I will provide an update to the Committee on the outcomes and any significant milestones once I am able to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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