

Rt Hon Jo Stevens

Secretary of State for Wales

15 January 2026

Dear Jo

Steel inquiry

I am extremely disappointed that the UK Government has not been able to put forward a Minister to give evidence to the Committee as part of our Future of Welsh Steel Inquiry. I acknowledge, and would like to thank you for attending our session in November 2024. However there have been significant developments since that meeting, and it is vital that we hear the UK Government's perspective on progress.

The clerking team has been in contact with both your office and that of the Secretary of State for Business and Trade to try and arrange a suitable time for you to attend. The Committee has been as flexible as possible with dates. It is deeply frustrating that we have not heard anything from the Department for Business and Trade.

Although I appreciate your wish to wait for the Steel Strategy to be published before giving evidence to the Committee, the wide-ranging nature of our inquiry means that your input is important for many matters beyond just those covered by the Strategy. It encompasses the impact of blast furnace closures at Port Talbot on both the local and wider Welsh and UK economies, the support available for those made redundant, and how recent developments at Tata align with broader government initiatives such as the Celtic Freeport. Therefore, UK Government engagement is crucial for the Committee to develop a well-rounded view and to ensure our recommendations are as robust and informed as possible.



With limited time remaining before dissolution, I urge you, or another UK Minister, to reconsider and attend a Committee session at the earliest opportunity. Your contribution would be invaluable to our work and to the future of the Welsh steel industry.

I look forward to your response.

I have copied this letter to The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP Secretary of State for Business and Trade.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew RT Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

CC: The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP, Secretary of State for Business and Trade