

Rt Hon Jo Stevens MP

Secretary of State for Wales

13 December 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

The future of Welsh steel

Thank you for attending the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee's recent evidence session on the future of Welsh steel. Following the session, Members agreed that I would write to you to seek further information on points raised during the session, in addition to addressing some questions we did not have time to reach.

I would therefore be grateful if you could respond to the following points:

- Could you set out what preparations are in place to respond to a potential increase in demand for the support initiatives available for workers, business and the supply chain over the coming months
- Could you set out what data is currently being collected, and what further data is planned to be collected, in relation to access to the support available?

Future investment in Port Talbot and the surrounding areas

- How are you working alongside the Welsh Government and business to secure opportunities for Welsh steel to be used in the floating offshore wind turbines that will be needed in the Celtic Sea over the coming years?



- We note that the tax sites for the Celtic Freeport have recently been designated, and that the UK and Welsh governments have approved the Outline Business Case. Could you set out the likely timescales for completing the remaining stages before the freeport becomes fully operational, and confirm what discussions you have had about investment in the freeport sites?
- The Celtic Freeport and floating offshore wind are anticipated to deliver benefits over the longer-term. Could you set out how the UK and Welsh governments are working together to bring investment and sustainable, well-paid jobs to Port Talbot and the surrounding areas over the interim period?

I will be writing along similar lines to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

