



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Kwasi,

**Re: Stocksbridge Speciality Steels**

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me again last week to discuss Stocksbridge Speciality Steels in my constituency, which is facing an uncertain future due to the funding challenges surrounding the Liberty Group and GFG Alliance.

As you know, the steel industry has provided well-paid work in the area for generations, and as a local community we are anxious about the future of these jobs; jobs that we cannot afford to lose. Stocksbridge Speciality Steels is also a unique asset of strategic national importance, producing high value materials for a range of sectors including aerospace and defence. This is a capability that the UK must retain.

I know that efforts are being made by the owners to refinance the Liberty Group. I support the Government's decision not to bailout the GFG Alliance; there are absolutely no guarantees that any taxpayer funds would remain in the UK or save a single job in Stocksbridge. However, given the well-publicised difficulties of the GFG Alliance, there is of course a chance that refinancing is not successful and Liberty Group enters administration.

Should this situation arise, I would ask the Government to step in rapidly to indemnify the official receiver, so that the Stocksbridge plant can continue to operate, produce steel and pay wages until an appropriate buyer can be found. This approach was highly successful in saving British Steel in Scunthorpe, and the Government's intervention has been widely credited with keeping the plant operational, saving jobs and securing a promising future for the site.

There is no reason why Stocksbridge Speciality Steels cannot be a similar success story. Steel is vital to the future of the UK; we won't meet our Net Zero targets or infrastructure ambitions without steel. It is essential for our security, our economy, and our environment that we retain a strong domestic steel industry, and I believe that Stocksbridge Speciality Steels is well-placed to play an important role in this.

I am grateful to you and to the Prime Minister for your firm commitments to the future of the UK steel industry, and for your continued close engagement with management, unions, and myself on this issue.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miriam".

**Miriam Cates MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Penistone and Stocksbridge**