

HOLLY MUMBY-CROFT MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

5 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to follow-up after my question during PMQs earlier this week.

The success of our steel industry is something close to my heart. As a child, I used to tour our steelworks with my grandad. Now as the MP for Scunthorpe, and Co-Chair of the APPG for Steel I see it as my responsibility to raise vital opportunities for the industry.

One of my primary considerations when backing HS2 was my understanding that it would require 1.3 million tonnes of steel for Phase 1. If this steel were to be supplied by UK producers it would generate £1 billion in additional value, and help provide 2,600 high skilled, well-paid jobs in steelmaking areas such as Scunthorpe. The ensuing projects, namely Phase 2 and HS North will be crucial in levelling up the North, and would no doubt provide further opportunities for UK Steelmaking.

Under your leadership the Conservative Government stepped in to protect our steelworks when it was on the brink last year - this is something my constituents will not forget. Now I want us to work together to make our steel industry greater than ever before. The premise set by the Trade Secretary during her statement last month heralds a new era of UK steel exports and there is no better place to kickstart this new era than from Scunthorpe. Now that we have delivered Brexit we could see HS2 being a success story of our domestic steel manufacturing capability as we move to cement trade deals across the world.

Whilst I am pleased to hear that you will make sure that HS2 maximises its use of UK steel, our steel industry will need further reassurances, given the uncertainty of the current climate. A sure-fire way to do this is by pressing infrastructure projects, such as HS2 to sign the UK Steel Charter. I am increasingly concerned that our steel industry may lose out without such commitments from HS2.

The UK Steel Charter builds on pre-existing government policy to maximise opportunities for our UK steel industry, and includes signatories such as the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK Onshore Oil and Gas, Highways England, the Welsh and Scottish Governments, North Lincolnshire Council, and many others. I believe that the Department for Transport and indeed the UK Government's commitment to the UK Steel Charter would send

a clear signal to UK steel manufacturers and local communities that this government stands fully behind them.

As we work to level-up the North and rebuild the UK economy we will require a resilient, stable and sustainable domestic supply of high-quality steel. Many of my constituents and I would very much like to see our world-class steel in the heart of key infrastructure projects that will level-up our country.

It would be fantastic to welcome you to Scunthorpe in the future to see some steel being made for HS2.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Mumby-Croft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Mumby-Croft
Member of Parliament for Scunthorpe