



Department for International Trade

Holly Mumby-Croft MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

By email: holly.mumbycroft.mp@parliament.uk

11th March 2021

Dear Holly,

Thank you for your letter of 19th February, where you set out the importance of Britain's steel sector and your support for extending our transitioned steel safeguard measures. I have been asked to reply, as this matter falls within my brief.

I understand the importance of steel safeguards to British industry, particularly given the challenges and uncertainties the industry is currently facing. HM Government's objective has been to support a sustainable and competitive steel sector and to develop a long-term viable solution for the industry. We have done this by providing more than £500 million in compensation to the steel sector since 2013 and we have announced a number of funds to help steel companies transition to a lower carbon future, including an Industrial Energy Transformation Fund backed by up to £315 million of investment and a £250 million Clean Steel Fund. In addition, we publish the annual Steel Pipeline of upcoming national infrastructure projects to help steel businesses to plan for future demand. Working with the sector, we introduced specific steel procurement guidelines too, to make sure that HM Government and the wider public sector take into account wider social and environmental benefits when procuring and designing their major projects.

From 1st January 2021, the United Kingdom has been operating her own independent trade remedies system, built on international best practice. Safeguard measures, such as steel safeguards, provide a safety net for our producers against unforeseen surges in imports causing serious injury and allow them to compete on a level playing field.

I am pleased to confirm that the Trade Remedies Investigation Directorate (part of my Department) has initiated a transition review for steel safeguards and would encourage your constituents working in the steel industry to contribute their views. Further guidance on the ongoing transition review can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

We expect the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) to take over the review and for it to conclude by the end of June, when the measure is due to expire. If the TRA concludes that the measures should be extended or varied, then it will provide an impartial and evidence-based recommendation to the Secretary of State.

Our legislation is clear that the Secretary of State may only reject a recommendation to impose a measure if she considers that it is not in the public interest or that the economic interest test has not been met. Therefore, we only expect this to happen in exceptional cases. If this happens, the Secretary of State must lay down her reasons to Parliament.

At this stage of the review we cannot anticipate what the outcome and recommendations could include. This is rightly a matter for the TRA. However, I can assure you that we will consider all the evidence available.

I hope that this response addresses your concerns.

With best wishes.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ranil', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

RANIL JAYAWARDENA MP
Minister for International Trade