



Department for
Business & Trade

The Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for Business &
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President of the Board of Trade
Department for Business and Trade
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Gareth Davies
Permanent Secretary, Department for Business & Trade
Old Admiralty Building
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12 April 2025

Dear Gareth,

MAINTAINING OPERATION OF BRITISH STEEL'S BLAST FURNACES

Thank you for your letter of today.

I have decided to issue a Ministerial Direction in support of government intervention to maintain operation of British Steel's blast furnaces.

I note that we both agree that this action is in the wider public interest but I recognise that your assessment suggests there are some doubts as to whether the intended action meets certain tests described under Managing Public Money due to the current lack of information and uncertainty about the state of the Scunthorpe site. We are also agreed on the need to act at speed.

As a result, I am formally directing you as Accounting Officer to intervene urgently to maintain operation of British Steel's blast furnaces.

I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Best wishes,

THE RT HON JONATHAN REYNOLDS MP
Secretary of State for Business & Trade and President of the Board of Trade