



## Industrial Communities Alliance

The all-party association campaigning on behalf of local authorities in the industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales

National Secretariat, 1 Regent Street, Barnsley S70 2EG

Tel: 01226 200768 [www.industrialcommunitiesalliance.org.uk](http://www.industrialcommunitiesalliance.org.uk) Email: [natsec@ccc-alliance.org.uk](mailto:natsec@ccc-alliance.org.uk)

Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Business and Trade

Email to: [dbtcorrespondence@businessandtrade.gov.uk](mailto:dbtcorrespondence@businessandtrade.gov.uk)

25 July 2024

Dear Jonathan,

### **Port Talbot steelworks**

Could I begin by congratulating you on your appointment as Secretary of State.

I chair the Industrial Communities Alliance – the all-party association of local authorities in the older industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales. Our members have a deep interest in the future of the steel industry, as you might expect.

Our national meeting last week asked me to write to you to underline the importance of safeguarding production and jobs at Port Talbot. We have no confidence in the plan being put forward by Tata, which is damaging to the UK's sovereign capabilities and would cause huge damage in what is already one of the county's least prosperous local economies. We've followed your contribution closely, and we know you share these views.

The new Labour government is the last hope for a successful resolution. However, our members' view is that the government should not rule out public ownership – all be it as a short-term measure – if Tata refuse to play ball.

We've been talking regularly to Stephen Kinnock and to Cllr Steve Hunt, Leader of Neath Port Talbot, about the future of the plant, so I'm copying them in on this letter.

With warm regards. We trust you will not let us down.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Keith Cunliffe  
National Chair