

Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP
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Sent via email to reynolds@businessandtrade.gov.uk

25 February 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

As the leaders of the UK's largest logistics and supply chain businesses, we are writing to welcome the Industrial Strategy Green Paper, and to encourage you to recognise logistics as a foundational sector in the final strategy, and appoint Logistics UK Chief Executive David Wells OBE to the Industrial Strategy Council.

We regard the Industrial Strategy as an essential vehicle for attracting private investment into UK businesses and infrastructure, to drive growth, break down barriers to opportunity and deliver a clean energy superpower. As the Green Paper rightly identifies, securing this will take a mix of supporting the UK's growth-driving sectors, enabling the foundational sectors that underpin them, and creating an overall pro-business environment.

The case for recognising the logistics sector as foundational is undeniable. The critical supply chains delivered by the logistics sector underpin our whole economy. Our retail, manufacturing and construction sites, farms and fisheries, and hospitals, schools and homes would not function without them. Logistics provides the growth-driving sectors with specialist services that enhance the efficiency of their supply chains, boost their productivity and export their goods to the world. Advanced manufacturing, clean energy industries, defence, life sciences and the creative industries, for example, use logistics services to make their production lines more efficient, to expand into new global markets, to deliver offshore wind, and to securely handle the movement of fragile, sensitive, and critical just in time goods and equipment.

The efficiency of logistics and the growth potential of the economy are completely intertwined. If the Industrial Strategy can drive up logistics and supply chain efficiency, such as through the introduction of new technologies and modern regulations, it can boost UK productivity. Indeed, Oxford Economics has found that getting the policy and infrastructure environment right for logistics would unlock up to £8 billion a year in productivity-led growth, turning around the decline experienced under the last government, which saw the UK fall from 4th to 19th in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index. This makes the logistics sector crucial to the government's mission of kickstarting economic growth. With Logistics UK on the Industrial Strategy Council, we would be able to advance a partnership between government and business to deliver growth across the economy.

Logistics is one of the UK's largest economic sectors in its own right. It contributes £185 billion to the economy each year and is one of the UK's largest employers, providing good jobs for 8% of the UK workforce. The transportation and storage sector is also a major attractor of investment into the UK. In 2023, it attracted investment of £17.7 billion, recovering from the impact of EU Exit and the pandemic. A logistics and supply chain friendly business environment, supported by the recognition of our sector as foundational, would enable logistics hubs to thrive further, providing increasingly high quality and technology enabled jobs. This, in turn, would enable business growth in other sectors.

By giving the logistics sector its proper place in the Industrial Strategy and on the Industrial Strategy Council, you would be sending a strong signal that this government sees strengthening UK supply chains and boosting the country's productivity as essential levers for driving growth.

We would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the importance of logistics to the UK's growth-driving sectors. Please let us know if you would welcome a meeting with a small group of the signatories to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Kerry-Anne Lawlor
Vice-President
Amazon Logistics



Doug Bannister
Chief Executive
Port of Dover



Matthew Barnes
UK CEO
Tesco Stores LTD



Julian Carey
Chief Executive Officer
Indurent



Gary Cobbing
Group Chief Commercial
and Operating Officer
Uniserve Group



James Craddock
Chief Executive Officer
Segro



Ashley Fuller
Managing Director
ADM Milling (UK) Ltd



Mike Furnival
Managing Director for the
UK & Ireland
TIP-Group



Emma Gilthorpe
Chief Executive
Royal Mail



Robert Gittins
Managing Director
Palletways (UK) Limited



James Hamilton
Chief Executive Officer
Rudolph and Hellmann
Automotive Ltd



Richard Hastings
Head of Logistics
Nestlé UK



Jamie Hartles
Chief Executive Officer
Howard Tenens Limited



Neil Herron
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Mark Rosenberg
Executive Vice President -
Northern Europe
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Tim Shoveller
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Freightliner Group Ltd.



David Wells OBE
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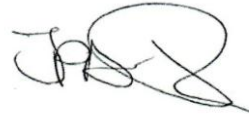
Gavin Williams
Managing Director UK and Ireland
GXO



Tom Williams
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Maritime Transport Ltd



Thomas Woldbye
Chief Executive
Heathrow Airport



James Wroath
Chief Executive Officer
Wincanton

CC:

Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP, Secretary of State for Transport
Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Sarah Jones MP, Minister of State, Minister for Industry
Sophia Kewell, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade
Sam Lister, Director General for Industrial Strategy, Department for Business and Trade
Varun Chandra, Business and Investment Adviser, 10 Downing Street
Yasmin Goldsmith, Head of Business Strategy and Engagement, HM Treasury