11 January 2021

To everyone working in the UK's manufacturing sectors

On 4 January, the Prime Minister announced new national lockdown restrictions across the country to help us control and push back against the spread of a new variant of Covid-19. This brings new restrictions, including asking people to stay at home apart from essential travel.

As the new Business Secretary, I would like to take this opportunity to restate the Government position, which is that firms and tradespeople in manufacturing, including supply chains, should continue to operate during this national lockdown. I would also like to make it clear that where it is essential to travel or to stay in accommodation, whether to get to your work or for the purposes of carrying out your work, those in the industry are able to do so.

It is vital that manufacturing continues and I want to reassure you that the Government values the contribution your sector is making. Your work in areas such as aerospace, chemicals, automotive, rail, metals and steel, defence, shipbuilding and repair, pharmaceuticals, plastics, and many other manufacturing sectors as well as in delivering vital services, products or materials are critical elements of the economic recovery we are building and the fight against Covid-19.

To help ensure that it is safe for you to operate whilst carrying out your work, the Government and devolved administrations continue to update their safer working guidance which can be found on GOV.UK.

My Ministerial team and I are in regular contact with industry leaders about the risks, issues and challenges you face.

Thank you again to everyone operating in manufacturing across the UK.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy