



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Andrew Griffiths MP

Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Tom Westley
Black Country LEP Board
Black Country Consortium Ltd
The Deckhouse
Waterfront West
Dudley Road
Brierley Hill
DY5 1LW

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

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Dear Mr Westley,

Thank you for your letter received 19 January 2018 on behalf of Black Country LEP, to the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, providing feedback from Black Country businesses regarding Britain's withdrawal from the European Union. As Ministerial Local Growth Champion for the Black Country LEP, I am replying as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

I would like to acknowledge and welcome Black Country LEP's efforts to engage with businesses in the area, to address the issues facing businesses as a result of EU withdrawal, and to maximise the opportunities for business growth that will arise. In particular, I welcome the LEP's close working with Black Country Chamber of Commerce that provides a single voice for businesses in the Black Country. The Government shares the LEP's ambition to support economic growth in the Black Country, boost productivity and create better quality jobs. We are keen to support that growth through our Industrial Strategy, and in particular through developing a Local Industrial Strategy with the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The clear 'asks' of Government on EU exit set out in your report, based upon the comments and concerns of local businesses, are an invaluable part of the evidence base for our work on EU exit. I am happy to share those asks within Government and would welcome further feedback as the Black Country LEP and Chamber continue their engagement with businesses on this key issue.

Yours sincerely

ANDREW GRIFFITHS MP
Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Corporate Responsibility