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Dear Secretary of State,

Britain's departure from the EU will change the way Black Country businesses trade, recruit and are funded for years to come. Showing our commitment to create an environment for a successful Brexit locally, Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) have engaged with key local businesses in recent months. This has allowed us to listen to the thoughts, concerns and needs of businesses in key sectors regarding Brexit.

**Please find enclosed a document outlining a set of eight key asks of government on Brexit, developed from our direct engagement with local businesses, and endorsed by our partners at the Black Country Chamber of Commerce.**

An initial 'Brexit Roundtable' with local business individuals has evolved into the Black Country LEP Brexit group, of whom have formed the content of our eight key asks. These evidence-led suggestions have not been decided by one person or one institution, but through formal discussions with local businesses; those on the ground driving the Black Country economy. Our local partners at the Black Country Chamber of Commerce have played a key role in developing the attached publication, contributing to the production of a single, strong Black Country business voice on Brexit.

The voice of regions like the Black Country, especially given the current era of manufacturing resurgence and our heritage in this sector, must not be forgotten in Britain's departure negotiations, particularly that of local business. A set of genuine business asks for the Black Country was the intention, and we feel this has been reached.

Black Country LEP is committed to driving business-led growth locally. Action on the enclosed asks will give us a stronger chance of achieving faster growth, higher productivity and more quality jobs in the Black Country, embracing the opportunities of industrial strategy - an agenda we wholeheartedly support. This will partly be through government ensuring a flexible and strong labour market, world-class international trade provision and accessible funding infrastructure.

We'd be very grateful if you could acknowledge and consider these important asks, ensuring the voice of Black Country business is fully heard on Brexit.

Yours Sincerely,



Tom Westley  
Black Country LEP Board

