

17 February 2017

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mr Stafford

Thank you and your co-signatories for your correspondence of 12 January.

I strongly agree that the business sector, as well as civil society and the public, all have an important role to play in delivering the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

The UK Government was at the forefront of negotiating the SDGs and we will be at the forefront of delivering them in the UK and around the world. It is my firm belief that we, as governments, international institutions, businesses and individuals, need to do more to respond to the concerns of those who feel that the modern world has left them behind.

I agree that it is important for all Government departments to engage with businesses and stakeholders to deliver the SDGs. Each Government department is responsible for the delivery of its own commitments related to the Goals, and will work closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure this happens.

I also agree that we need a transparent reporting framework. That is why the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will be reporting UK progress, including the contribution of businesses and other stakeholders, towards the SDGs in line with the UN process. ONS is planning to launch a consultation this year and I encourage businesses to engage with this project.

As you will be aware, the Government has published its Green Paper on an Industrial Strategy ('Building our Industrial Strategy'). This work will have a significant positive impact across many of the SDGs, in particular Goal 8, on guaranteeing decent work and economic growth. Through this strategy, I want to build on our strengths to enable all parts of the country to succeed: helping to deliver a high-skilled, competitive economy that benefits people throughout the UK.

If we are to realise the aims envisaged by the SDGs, and to forge a more prosperous and secure future for all the world's people, it is vital that business and Government continue to work together. In light of this, I would like to thank you for your continued contribution to this important agenda.

Yours sincerely
R. D.