

To: Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds, Rt Hon Angela Rayner and Baroness Morgan of Ely

**Reply to:** Western Gateway Secretariat  
**E-mail:** [secretariat@western-gateway.co.uk](mailto:secretariat@western-gateway.co.uk)  
**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Secretaries of State and First Minister,

**Open letter from Business to secure growth in partnership with private industry, devolved nations and regions.**

We are writing to you as leaders of industry, academia and business with an offer: to take the brakes off Britain and let us do our part to drive UK growth.

Reaching from Swindon to St David's in Pembrokeshire, the Western Gateway is home to 4.8 million people, across two countries with a £129 billion economy, and 2.6 million jobs. We are a dynamic area with leading industries in green energy, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, fintech, and creative industries. Our area's potential for growth is unmatched and we are forecast to **grow faster than any UK region** outside London and strengthen the Union.

We're already a self-starting success but we want to, and can, do more.

That's why the Western Gateway Partnership convened and led a collaboration of business, industry, academics and local authorities to create an evidence-based **Plan for Sustainable Growth**. With this plan, we will build on our strengths and success to add a minimum of £11bn of GVA per annum to the UK economy.

This plan includes 13 asks from you, as Governments, to partner with our area to deliver on your mission to spark growth. Most of these are not asking for money. Instead, they are a set of policy and process asks to support and unleash our area; clearing the route for us to drive sustainable growth here and in the wider UK.

The Western Gateway's **Plan for Sustainable Growth and Economic Narrative** (which outlines our key strengths) serve as a robust framework to ensure long-term, sustainable economic prosperity for the area, and a massive contributing element to the UK's industrial strategy and Growth plan. At little to no additional cost to the Exchequer, the asks in our Plan for Sustainable Growth, represent a genuine win-win for this area and the wider economy.

We call on you as Government's in England and Wales to commit to working with the Western Gateway Partnership, over the next five years, to deliver on the asks in the attached Plan for Sustainable Growth and unleash our area's potential to drive economic success across the UK.

Sincerely

List of signatories here.

cc. Darren Jones MP, Tulip Sadiq MP, Alex Norris MP, Dame Nia Griffith MP