

# GMB comment on Liberty Steel talks



**Commenting on today's meeting with the National Trade union steel co-ordinating committee and Liberty Steel/GFG Group, Ross Murdoch GMB National Officer for Steel said:**

"In response to extensive media speculation about the future of Liberty Steel/GFG Group, GMB and its sister steel trade unions met with the Company owner Sanjeev Gupta and his senior Global and UK leadership team on 9 March 2021 to discuss this extremely worrying situation."

"After this meeting the three steel trade unions put together a joint statement via the National UK Steel Coordinating Committee, which is below."



"There are likely to be further communications after a meeting with Lay Representatives across the business on 10 March 2021."

### **Statement from the National Trade Union Steel Coordinating Committee**

*Meeting with Sanjeev Gupta 9th March*

*The news that Greensill has filed for administration, and the speculation about what this means for Liberty Steel, is extremely concerning to the unions and the workforce.*

*This morning the steel unions – Community, Unite and GMB – met with Sanjeev Gupta to seek assurances on behalf of our members, and to request full transparency on the challenges facing Liberty Steel.*

*The meeting was positive and constructive, and it is clear Mr Gupta intends to secure a refinancing of the debt to provide the business with the necessary liquidity going forward.*

*We recognise Mr Gupta's desire to see Liberty Steel succeed, and recognise also his personal contribution in giving distressed UK steel assets a new lease of life.*

*The unions have told Mr Gupta our priority is to secure the future of all Liberty Steel's UK assets, and to this end all options should be considered.*

*Liberty Steel is a strategic business for the UK, producing high-quality steels for sectors of the economy including defence, energy, aerospace and engineering.*

*Liberty Steel is also a low-carbon steelmaker, and the assets must be central to any strategy to decarbonise our steel industry.*

*Last week the Business Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, convened a meeting of the Steel Council to bring new focus on supporting our sector to decarbonise.*

*We have been encouraged by government's commitment to taking on this challenge, and the growing consensus that to build back better and greener we need a strong and sustainable steel industry.*

*No other UK company can produce the specialist steels made by Liberty's UK operations, and so a future must be found to prevent us having to rely on high-carbon imports from countries that don't play by the same rules.*

*Given the strategic importance of Liberty's steel operations, and their fundamental importance to delivering the UK's climate objectives, we believe government must take an active role to facilitate a comprehensive solution that safeguards the future and protect jobs.*



*Following today's meeting we will meet with our senior representatives from across Liberty Steel UK, and therefore at this stage will be making no further comment."*

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