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UK Steel: Grace Skelton 07921 971 749

Welcoming the Prime Minister's speech in Dudley today, UK Steel Director General, Gareth Stace, said:

"It is hugely encouraging to hear the Prime Minister answer industry calls for an acceleration and expansion of infrastructure projects right across the UK, setting the course for an 'infrastructure revolution'. A new deal for jobs, skills and infrastructure is just what the economy needs, and the UK steel industry is ready to support the Government's build back better strategy by supplying the world class steel that is essential for improving our road, rail, energy systems, schools and hospitals.

"We are further encouraged by the Prime Minister's comments in Parliament last week that the Government will do everything it can to ensure "UK steel manufacturers are at the front of the queue for the great projects that we are going to construct". Working with the UK steel industry as we build out of this crisis will have a hugely positive impact on industrial communities across the UK and we look forward to joining with the Government to make this a reality.

"Just as the UK steel industry forged the Industrial Revolution that changed the world, it will now play a vital role in the UK's infrastructure revolution."

ENDS.

Notes:

UK steel in numbers:

- Produces 7.3 million tonnes of steel a year, around 65% of the UK's annual requirement¹
- Employs 32,600 people directly in the UK and supports a further 41,100 in supplies chains²
- The average steel sector salary is £36,238, 18% higher than the UK national average and 36% higher than the regional average in Wales, and Yorkshire & Humberside where steel sector jobs are concentrated³
- Makes a £2.8 billion direct contribution to UK GDP and supports a further £3.6 billion⁴
- Makes a £2.5 billion direct contribution to the UK's balance of trade⁵
- For every tonne of UK steel produced, £880 is added to the UK economy. For every 1,000 tonnes produced each year 10 jobs in total are created/protected.

¹ International Steel Statistics Bureau – 2019 UK Steel raw steel production

² ONS – Business Register and Employment Survey 2019 and ONS Type 1 employment multipliers

³ ONS – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

⁴ ONS GDP Output – low level aggregates 2019 and type 1 multiplier

⁵ International Steel Statistic Bureau – UK steel exports net of import of raw materials/inputs

UK Steel Charter: Last year, the steel industry launched the UK Steel Charter in order to maximise domestic steel content in UK infrastructure projects. The Charter and accompanying guidance can be found [here](#).

UK Steel Restart and Recovery Paper: UK Steel's recommendations for stimulating the UK economy in the medium to long term, can be found [here](#).

About UK Steel: UK Steel, a division of Make UK, is the trade association for the UK steel industry. It represents all the country's steelmakers and a large number of downstream steel processors.