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Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release
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Sarah Champion MP welcomes news of deal for Rotherham-based steel firm MTL Group

Sarah Champion, Member of Parliament for Rotherham, has written to WEC Group to congratulate them on their deal for Rotherham-based MTL Group.

It was announced this week that WEC Group have funded a partnership deal to acquire the business and certain assets from MTL Group. The move means that the jobs of 135 local employees have been secured and their futures safeguarded.

Earlier this month MTL, based in Brinsworth, went into administration after what has been revealed as the loss of a large overseas defence contract. Sarah immediately wrote to Business Secretary Vince Cable to see what could be done to help the firm, their employees and their families.

She has now written to Mr Cable again, this time about the vulnerability of British firms when an overseas contract is not fulfilled and what the Government can do to protect and support business in this country.

Discussing the deal, Sarah said:

"I am relieved and delighted that MTL has been saved and no jobs will be lost. Rotherham has the 35th highest level of unemployment in the country so this news is extremely welcome. I am especially pleased for the employees and their families, who no longer have the devastation of redundancy hanging over them.

"However, I am still concerned that there is a vulnerability with our businesses when an overseas order does not get paid. I will raise this with Vince Cable as it is clearly a weakness we as a country need to address.

"It is important that all firms meet their obligations. This is especially necessary in cases such as the MTL Group, where the inability to fulfil a contract had such a devastating effect. The fact that a buyer was found relatively quickly show it was always a viable business. It is vital that the Government does all it can to protect British jobs."

ENDS

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