The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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Sent by email

21 July 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Institute of Directors (IoD), I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Prime Minister.

The IoD is a Royal Charter body that exists to promote enterprise, good governance and integrity amongst business leaders. We look forward to working constructively with you and your government to support economic growth, strengthen the UK's competitiveness and help create prosperity in every part of the country.

We welcome your focus on spreading opportunity and growth more evenly across the UK. The ambition to build a more resilient and prosperous economy is one that the IoD strongly shares. Achieving that ambition, however, will depend on creating the conditions that enable businesses to invest, innovate and grow with confidence. In particular, maintaining a competitive, stable and predictable tax environment will be essential if the UK is to continue attracting the investment needed to deliver sustainable long-term growth.

We are encouraged by your willingness to consider how public spending can be better targeted to achieve stronger outcomes and welcome your emphasis on accountability in essential services. At a time of considerable pressure on the public finances, a relentless focus on value for money, efficiency and effectiveness will be vital. As reforms are considered, it will be important to ensure that governance and investment frameworks encourage resilience, efficiency and long-term value for consumers and taxpayers alike. The private sector stands ready to work alongside government to identify more efficient and innovative approaches to delivering infrastructure, public services and economic development.

As a proud Northerner myself, I also welcome your commitment to devolution. Local leaders are often best placed to identify barriers to growth and unlock economic potential within their communities. To succeed, however, devolution must be accompanied by clear accountability, transparent governance and effective scrutiny, ensuring that devolved institutions are empowered to deliver measurable improvements in economic performance and public services.

Your commitment to strengthening Britain's industrial base is particularly welcome. A clear and focused industrial strategy can provide investors with long-term certainty, support innovation and skills development, and strengthen the UK's ability to compete internationally. Strategic public procurement can play an important role in developing domestic capabilities, reinforcing supply chains and encouraging investment in the industries that will drive future growth. We look forward to engaging with your government as this agenda develops.

We recognise the importance of economic sovereignty in an increasingly uncertain global environment and support efforts to strengthen the UK's resilience, protect critical infrastructure and develop strategically important industries. At the same time, the UK's success has long been built on its openness to international trade, investment, talent and competition. As your government advances this agenda, it will be important to ensure that greater resilience and security are pursued in a way that reinforces, rather than diminishes, the UK's attractiveness as a destination for business and investment. Getting this balance right will be essential to sustaining growth and prosperity in the years ahead.

We share your concern about the cost-of-living pressures facing households across the country. At the same time, it is important to recognise the close relationship between the cost of living and the cost of doing business. Rising energy costs, employment costs, taxation and regulatory burdens ultimately affect investment decisions, wage growth and prices. Sustainable improvements in living standards will therefore require a policy environment that supports business competitiveness and enables firms to create jobs, raise productivity and wages, and invest for the future.

As your government develops its proposed ten-year plan for Britain, business leaders will be looking for a clear and enduring partnership with policymakers based on stability, predictability and a shared commitment to growth. The UK faces significant challenges, but it also possesses considerable strengths. With the right policy environment in place, businesses can play a central role in delivering the investment, innovation and prosperity that communities across the country need.

The Institute of Directors and its members look forward to supporting your government in achieving these objectives, and working with you in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Geldart
Director General, Institute of Directors

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