

Baroness Wilcox

Parliamentary Secretary for Business,
Innovation & Skills

Lord Jones
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

15 June 2010

Dear Lord Jones
QUEEN'S SPEECH DEBATE

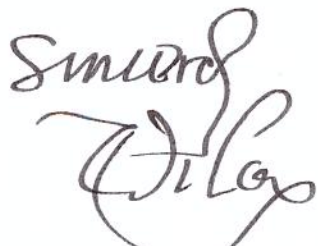
I would like to thank you for your contribution to the Queen's Speech debate (*4th day*) of Wednesday 2 June 2010 and respond to the points you raised regarding the need to widen the participation into universities and, indeed, general university links to the manufacturing sector.

The need to attract more students from disadvantaged backgrounds into Higher Education and to increase social mobility is written into the coalition agreement. The coalition agreement states that future activity in these areas needs to be judged against the findings from Lord Browne's review of student finance.

The Higher Education sector has been, and remains, highly active in engaging with the manufacturing sector. One recent example has been the introduction of the centre on Composites at Bristol. I hope these links will continue for the future as this industry sector is an important part of the UK economy.

Manufacturing is vitally important to the success of the UK economy, so I am particularly encouraged by recent figures which indicate a broad return to growth. The Government is committed to creating the conditions for business growth, recognising that it is particularly important that manufacturing continues to contribute to a balanced economy. There are significant opportunities, particularly around high value manufacturing, where it will be important to make use of our comparative advantage. Over the coming weeks we will be working to establish priorities for facilitating the continued growth of manufacturing in the UK.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House of Lords library.



BARONESS WILCOX